

Minutes of WCREA Meeting of December 7, 2004

A meeting of the WCREA was held at Flynn's Catering, Phillipsburg, NJ on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 10:45am by President Pat Kollar who led the flag salute, followed by the singing of "America the Beautiful," led by Richard Buralli.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$3518.06 and \$415 in the scholarship fund. The secretary's report was read; both reports were approved.

In the absence of Pat Kay, membership chairperson, President Kollar reported that we now have 178 members, 19 new members; 64 are present today. The following new members in attendance were introduced; each gave a short autobiography: James Brock--Flemington-Raritan (34 years); Barbara Esposito--Lopatcong Twp. (36 years); Joan Beers--Lopatcong Twp. (26 years); Pat Heller--White Twp. (32 years); Barbara Locious--White Twp (27 years); Kathryn Tierney--Phillipsburg and Shirley Wellan--Lopatcong Twp.

Under old business, President Kollar reviewed some information about the State Aetna Dental insurance. The Met Life policy ends on February 28, 2005, so anyone interested must enroll by February 1, 2005. For those currently under Met Life, it is vital to fill out Section 4 of the Aetna enrollment blank to ensure enrollment at Tier 3 instead of Tier 1. Some members expressed concerns about their applications--they had received no confirmation from Aetna. It was felt that Aetna would send confirmation receipts.

Doug Morris reported that NJEA wants to help with property tax reform in NJ. Some of their ideas are a 4% maximum tax on income (in lieu of the property tax) and the elimination of the property tax rebate. NJEA opposes the constitutional convention. Doug also noted that retirees who are mentors to new teachers may jeopardize their pensions.

Sandy Beck announced a WCREA sponsored bus trip to NY City on March 16, 2005 to see "Hairspray." She distributed flyers with all pertinent information. She also requested input from members on possible future trips.

President Kollar announced that NJREA scholarship applications are due by April 15, 2005. Students must be related to an NJREA member and be graduating from a NJ high school this year. The scholarships are \$500 for a two year school and \$1,000 for a four year school.

The next meeting of the WCREA will be April 15, 2005 at the Good Times restaurant in Oxford. The cost is \$17, one dollar of which will go to our scholarship fund.

Next, entertainment of seasonal songs was provided by the Phillipsburg High School Stateliner Singers under the direction of Ms. Kathy Hartman. Then Shirley Sloyer read a poem about sending Christmas cards. Finally a roast beef dinner was served.

Respectfully submitted
Theresa Ravenburg
Secretary, ProTem