

Minutes: April 5, 2005

A regular meeting of WCREA was held on the above date at the 'Good Times' restaurant in Oxford, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 by Pres. Pat Kollar who led the flag salute. Richard Buralli led the singing of 'America', followed by a humorous poem about 'Why'-- examples: Why are items shipped by car or truck called shipment, while things sent by ships are called cargo?. Why can we believe there are a billions stars in the sky yet can't believe a sign on a wall that says 'wet paint'?

In the absence of the treasurer, Pres. Kollar gave the following report:

There is a balance in the treasury of \$3,657.31 and in the award fund, \$415.

In the absence of the secretary, Theresa Ravenburg gave the secretary's report. Both reports were approved.

Membership chairperson Pat Kay reported that our next meeting will be June 7 at the Asbury Willows: turkey dinner will be served at a cost of \$17.00; make reservations to Pat by May, 29. She also reported that we have 184 members, 26 new for 2004-2005. The following new members in attendance were introduced: Dawn Piazza, Marcia Kline and Meg McGrath.

Under old business, Pres. Kollar made several announcements:

1. Information explaining NJEA's limited property tax plan is in the NJEA Reporter. Members are urged to call legislators to elicit support for the plan. Barbara Esposito distributed information on these, along with phone numbers to call, etc.
2. Top concerns this year for NJEA and NJREA are elections--governor and the entire legislature. It's important for members to stay active and keep informed on the positions of the legislators since our pensions and health benefits depend on them.
3. Pearl Kowalski, NJREA V. P. passed away March 26. The executive board may decide to send a memorial contribution.
4. The Warren/Hunterdon Legislative dinner will be held April 14 at Harker's Hollow G. C. See Pat Kollar today if you are planning to attend.
5. Several attended the Walter O'Brien Legislative Conference on Saturday, February, 26. Doug Morris said it was informative and worthwhile. The legislature is split along party lines concerning property tax reform. That's why they feel a Constitutional Convention is needed.
6. Frank Adler and Robert Frank, two reps. from NEA Member Care Long Term Care Insurance were in attendance with information and brochures for anyone interested.
7. April 19 is school budget/board voting. All were urged to vote.
8. Ballots for NJEA and NJREA elections will be sent out around April 20-21. All were urged to vote. Information about all candidates is contained in the NJREA March newsletter. John Colter and Peggy Ann Yataro, both candidates for NJREA 2nd V. P. were in attendance. Both Pat Kollar and Doug Morris are candidates for NEA-Retired and NEA Representative Assembly and for Ethnic Minority Concerns. They would appreciate your support.
9. The NY bus trip to see 'Hairspray' on March 16, was 'wonderful'. Perhaps Sandy Beck will schedule another for the next year.

Theresa Ravenburg reported on the Central Region Workshop (no one from WCREA attended the northern as it was scheduled the same day as our NY trip). Both sessions (lobbying and health benefits) were informative and and worthwhile.

Pat O'Neil announced the the Phillipsburg HS Student Council will be cleaning up yards on April 15. If interested in having them clean your yard (P'burg area only) let Pat know.

Pat O'Neil questioned the dental plan not covering those who taught less than 25 years. NJREA Pres. Fred Aug and Health Benefits Chairperson Roe Jankowski have been meeting with the insurance company on this issue, but it has not yet been resolved.

Next Wendall Steinhauer and Joseph Cheff, both candidates for NJEA Secretary/Treasurer spoke. Mr. Steinhauer also urged a vote for Joyce Powell for NJEA President.

Later a motion was made for WCREA to endorse Wendall Steinhauer for NJEA Sec/Treas. and was seconded. The motion passed with one abstention. A motion was made and seconded to endorse Fred Aug for NJREA Pres. The motion passed.

The meeting was then adjourned. Entertainment followed--Joseph DiLuccia of Harley's Garden at Rocking Horse Antiques demonstrated flower arranging, making a beautiful silk arrangement. Later, in a raffle to benefit the Scholarship Fund, the floral arrangement was won by Meg McGrath. Also in the drawing by Fred Adler (Long Term Care Insurance), Ruth McLaughlin won a \$30 gift certificate to 'Good Times'.

About 12:00, a chicken parmesan dinner was served.

Respectfully submitted
Theresa Ravenburg
Secretary, ProTem