

## Minutes: December 2, 2008

A regular meeting of WCREA was held on the above date at Flynn's in Phillipsburg. The meeting was called to order by President Pat Kollar at 10:30 am. She led the pledge of allegiance, which was followed by the singing of America, led by Richard Buralli. A thought for the day was read by Barbara Esposito. Pat said a volunteer is needed to fill this position on a regular basis.

Copies of the Secretary's report were distributed. The report was approved as printed. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$2,506.60 and \$2,159 in the activity account. Both were approved as read. Vicki Rhinehart reported that scholarship awards have not yet been presented, awaiting first semester grades. Corresponding Secretary Pat Gibbs had a note of thanks from NORWESCAP for our recent donations. Sandy Beck reported that the February theater trip is filled, but she will circulate a sign-up sheet to determine if there is sufficient interest to warrant seeking additional tickets and an additional bus.

Under old business, Pat reported that 85% of NJEA endorsed candidates won election on Nov. 4. She said the NJREA Convention on Nov. 5 & 6 was very successful. Doug Morris was on the Planning Committee and he worked very hard beforehand and during the convention. The WCEA Hospitality Suite at Tropicana was a success, very enjoyable. Pat reported that 12 county constitutions are not in compliance with NJREA rules, but Warren County is. She also said that the SEHBC has no changes planned for next year for out of pocket expenses or co-pay for Direct 10 or 15 plans.



An executive committee meeting was held on Nov. 25: 1) the length of the meeting was discussed. To shorten meetings, the reading of minutes will be suspended. Printed minutes will be available. 2) The cost of the lunches next year will be increased due to increased restaurant prices, 3) meetings will be cut to 4 per year - Sept, Dec., Apr. and June, eliminating Nov. There was a question about this since

our constitution specifies 5 meetings per year. The executive committee will look into this. There was also discussion suggesting changing the Sept. meeting to Oct. No action was taken on that.



Under new business: 1) President Pat thanked all for the food donations at each meeting. There was a request that some go to Catholic Charities, but we will continue to support NORWESCAP, since it serves the entire region. 2) the pension fund has lost 9% of value while the general stock market has lost 18%. We needn't worry, as there is currently enough money in the fund for at least 25 years. 3) Our prescription plan does not cover shingles vaccine. It is covered by Direct 10 but not by Medicare which considers it to be experimental. 4) With the School Employees

Health Benefits Plan, you may need to pay up front and submit an itemized bill to Horizon. There is a \$100 yearly deductible out of network you pay 70%. With any questions or concerns, call member services at 1-800-414-7427.

Candidates running for NJEA Secretary/Treasure were discussed. Doug Morris noted the following candidates:

Andrew DelCastro of Bergen County is a one issue candidate and is suing his association and the NJEA.

Marie Bliston of Gloucester County has little experience.

Jackie Gradinton of E. Orange has been out of the classroom for the past 18 years.

Ron Burd of Hunterdon County has an excellent resume; he has been County President and currently serves on the NEA Board of Directors. Pat relinquished the chair to Doug Morris so she could give her opinions which were similar to those already expressed. She felt Ron Burd is the best candidate. She was on Ron's committee and felt our votes were important for this election. Carol Mertz made a motion, seconded by Theresa Ravenburg, that WCREA endorse Ron Burd for NJEA Sec./Treas. A vote was taken and passed unanimously for endorsement.



Pat Kollar is a nominee again this year as a delegate to the annual NEA-R meeting and the NEA-RA. She asked for the support of the members.

Carol Mertz reported that those who were part of the "Committee of 1,000" before election, will each receive a \$25 Borders gift card before Christmas as well as a dinner. This may be an incentive for more to join next year.

Our next meeting on April 1, 2009 will be at the Pasta Grille in Mansfield (on the right of Rt. 57 going into Hackettstown), as the restaurant in Oxford is closed. Once this is confirmed, Doug will put it on our web site. He is also accepting any e-mail addresses.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

Entertainment, which was held during the meeting, was by a group from the Phillipsburg Middle School Choir under the direction of Linda Pettinelli.

The following 50/50 winners were drawn:

\$35--Dolly Corcoran

\$35--Louellen Hofgesang

\$70--Shirley Wellan

A roast beef dinner was served.

Respectfully submitted  
Theresa Ravenburg  
Recording Secretary, WCREA