

## Minutes: Decmeber 1, 2009

A meeting of WCREA was held on the above date at Flynn's in Phillipsburg. President Pat Kollar called the meeting to order at 10:40am. The flag was saluted and Barbara Esposito led the singing of "America". Theresa Ravenburg read a thought for the day, "The First Night of Christmas". The secretary's report was distributed to all. Treasurer Vicki Rhinehart reported a balance of \$2,843.29 and \$1418.24 in the activities account. Money will be moved into the activities account as needed. Both reports were approved. Under membership, Vicki reported that we now have 191 members. Since some people retire at the end of Dec., she asked for names and addresses of any such retirees. Under scholarship, Vicki will send letters to all county high schools after the holidays explaining the WCREA scholarships.

President Pat reported that NJREA President Roe Jankowski suffered a massive heart attack and is currently recovering. Pat Gibbs will send a get-well card from WCREA, and share Roe's address with anyone interested.



Sandy Beck distributed information on the show trip to New York on March 10, 2010 to "Billy Elliot". It is currently sold out, but she is taking names for a waiting list and will attempt to get more tickets if needed.

Under Old Business, Carol Mertz reported on election results. 96% of NJEA candidates were elected. With the election of Chris Christie, this will be a challenge to NJEA, since Christie wants to change the pension system to 401k's. There will be lobbying days, which we will be encouraged to attend. On the federal level, an urgent health care alert was distributed from NJEA. The House has passed a health care bill and it is now in the Senate. This bill includes a provision to an excise tax on many employer provided health insurance policies. NJEA strongly opposes this and asks members to call or email Senators Lautenberg and Menendez to ask them to vote "no".

President Pat thanked all who wrote post cards in September. She and Barbara Esposito went to Trenton to proof read many cards. She reported that the Hershey Park trip on Oct. 23 was wonderful. The museum and dining room were outstanding.

The luncheon at Pump House on Nov. 2 was a success. With much positive feedback, it was decided to be scheduled again with possibly 3 menu choices.

Doug Morris reported on a pension workshop he attended at NJREA Convention. The main problem is lack of funding from the state. The investment portfolio has been changed to include some municipal bonds. The pension is in good shape; there is enough in the plan for 12 years.



Carol Mertz reported that NORWESCAP can provide 14 pounds of food for each

dollar donated. A basket was circulated for donations by anyone who forgot to bring food for NORWESCAP. \$115 was collected.

Under New Business, President Pat reported that though Gov. Corzine lost the election, there were many positives from the campaign. Many new voters were registered. We must be vigilant of our pensions, health care benefits, and the future of public education in NJ. 2) NJEA is monitoring the national health care reform. 3) James Joiner was re-elected to the TPAF Board of Directors. He is very positive. 4)



The NJ budget will be formulated in Jan. & Feb. We may need to respond to problems during that time. 5) There will be a change in prescription plans, to Medco Health, effective Jan. 1. More information is available in the NJEA newsletter and review. Also, there will be an audit of dependents in the health care plan to prove eligibility. With any questions on health benefits, call NJEA at 1-609-599-4561 and

ask for the Research Division and ask for Kevin Kelleher.

The following dates were announced: Walter O'Brien Legislative Dinner--Feb. 10, 2010; Warren County Legislative Dinner--April 13, 2010; next WCREA meeting April 7, 2010 at Enzo's Pasta Grille in Mansfield Twsp.

Barbara Esposito announced that election of officers (Pres., VP, and Recording Secretary) will take place at the April meeting. Marcia Hoag and John Stana volunteered to help. Anyone interested in assuming any of the offices should contact Pat Kollar or Barbara Esposito. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30am. Entertainment was provided by the Lopatcong Middle School Choir, directed by Linda Kohl. This was followed by a roast beef family style dinner.

50/50 winners were announced as follows:

\$30--Mary Halverson

\$30--Phyllis Bush

\$60--Gena Pantuso (Gena then contributed 50% to the Scholarship Fund)



Respectfully submitted  
Theresa Ravenburg  
Recording Secretary, WCREA

