

PEF RETIREES CHAPTER 2 MEETING MINUTES

3/19/2026 11:30 – 1:30 P.M. AT THE STARLITE ROOM 3018 LAKE RD., ELMIRA NY 14903

Members Involved: Jim Carr, Mary Carr, Pam Fraboni, Gilda Murdock, Scott Wood, Ellen Wood, Paul Titus, Marge Anderson, Anita Ridgeway, Katy Baltzell, Mary Batrone, Rhonda Robinson (guest), Dorothy Kurta, Fred Daniels, Mary Daniels, Stephen Nugent, Larry Ladage, Charles Whitford, Gary Rice, Margaret Butkerei, Scott Breese, Louis Adessa, Barb Russell, Anne Habers, Joyce Carson, Susan Kelly, Norm Hultzman, Sherry Hultzman, Jane Snyder, Virginia Sue Marosek, Larry Hill (guest), Ellen Benedict, Robert Thorn, Susan Hoskins, D. Grin.

Welcome remarks from Jim Carr, Chapter 2 President. Jim led members and guests in a moment of silence remembering those we worked with, retirees and retiree losses members having health problems. Welcome to new members, guests and attendees.

Jim discussed the letters, testimonies to governing committees to support retiree issues. The legislator needs to hear from the constituents. The letters signed by the members present today will be sent to Albany.

Letters to our legislators included:

Discontinuing the IRMAA Medicare Part B reimbursement. The new IRMAA burden will cost each affected retiree several thousand dollars annually.

Pending legislation that would allow state insurance to continue secondary insurance in order to provide the same level of treatment for skilled nursing care for state retirees and dependents who are now covered by Medicare.

Pass legislation implementing a COLA for current and future state retirees. This legislation would create an annual increase in the base benefit amount of \$18,000 equal to 50% of the annual rate of inflection to protect buying power of those already retired to more accurately reflect the higher base benefits of staff retiring now or in the future.

Members are urged to check on line for the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) for the action plan for 2025-2026. Members can sign up to get the AFT communicator on the AFT website. The NYS Alliance for Retired Americans www.nysara.org – have Monday alerts that cover nationally and New York State senior issues.

Scamming discussed – to stop scamming for seniors. Meta (Face Book, Instagram) run a lot of scams and is making millions. A press conference will educate seniors on how to keep safe and protected. The scams can be AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated and are very dangerous. Don't react to scams. Check filters on phone. The scams play on emotions, fears, romance, etc. Per Scott Wood, AI has the ability to auto generate family members voices. Take the time to look into the scam – call family members to be sure the call is legitimate and really happening (example: family member in accident and needs money). Check resist and unsubscribe – [https://www.resistand unsubscribe,.com](https://www.resistandunsubscribe.com). The site has the ability to unsubscribe from all AI.

Emails are important as the quickest and most economical process to reach out to members.

All retirees are part of the union and should vote and do their homework. Know where a candidate stands on issues.

Upcoming elections include the primary election on June 23, 2026 for those registered as Democrats.

For the next meeting scheduled for June 18, 2026, at Ginny Lee Café in Lodi, New York, Attorney Alex Dell is scheduled to present. Attorney Dell will cover worker's compensation/accident prevention.

Pam Fraboni reported on Chapter 2 current finances. There is enough to cover the meetings scheduled for 2026, but cannot cover a Christmas gathering unless the gathering is pushed into 2027. We need committee members to look into ways to raise money/come up with ideas. The reimbursement received by the chapter is based on the number of members. This may result in having less meetings.

AFT president Randi Weingarten wrote a book, "Why Fascists Fear Teachers" recommended by Jim for reading. The book was purchased by PEF and will be provided by request at the next meeting if members sign up to receive the book. The book is also available on Amazon.