

PEF RETIREES CHAPTER 2 MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2026 11:30 – 1:30 P.M.

GINNY LEE CAFÉ AT WAGNER VINEYARDS. 9322 STATE ROUTE 414 LODI, NY 14860

Members Involved: Jim Carr, Mary Carr, Paul Titus, Pam Fraboni, Noah Fehl, Gilda Murdock, Scott Wood, Randy VanDerzee, Tom Mclcroy, Susan Kelly, Joyce Carson, Wyant Keefer, Susan Rocholl, Henry Rocholl, Pearl Jordan, Sheryl Robbins, Dale Smith, Gary Rice, Tom Rupp, Jane Snyder, Ron Tunison, Kathy Baltzell, Diane Marshall, Fran Cerio, Nick Iven, Louis Adesso, Robert Thorn, Terry Lewis, Anita Lewis, Sue Marosek, Mary Batrone, Peg Butkerei, Mary Evans, Ellen Benedict, Larry Hull, Susan Hoskins Mary Carr

Welcome remarks from President Jim Carr. Jim led members in a moment of silence remembering first responders, members who passed away and those killed by violence. Welcome to new members and attendees.

Pam Fraboni reported Chapter 2 current finances. No changes reported except finances have improved due to Covid money in the amount of \$1500 was received once Chapter 2 was down to the allowed amount. reviewed written report

Jim Carr reported that a meeting was held with the Comptroller's Office Executive staff concerning the lengthy waits for newly retired members. Covid set back due to everyone working from home. It took time to get abilities and needed protections to allow work from home because of security issues.

The call center is another problem due to volume and staffing due to a mass exodus during Covid, including the Comptroller's office. They are opening a second call center in Rochester to help with this with 20 staff. They are already hiring but need training time. They are working on computer issues for members to do more but security, AI and chat bots are requiring more heightened security measures to prevent fraud and stealing of information or the pension itself.

Security is a constant struggle. Information on cyber security and scams will be in

the PEF website or the Communicator. The Communicator is a good source of information and Monday Alerts are also recommended – sign up for both.

Agencies are not reporting to the Comptroller's office in a timely fashion. Two rounds of contacts for unions requiring any retiring member contracts to be recalculated in addition to others also retiring. They said they have been working on the backlog and have reduced it by 25% and down to 3 years or less and will continue to decrease it.

The Steuben Senior Services Fund, Inc (SSSF) has been around for around 20 years. Diane Marshall spoke on services provided by SSSF working with older county residents to assist in continuing to live safely in their own home. SSSF helps with meals-on-wheels, help individuals save money from nursing homes or other expensive care. Diane stated it is a great program and the SSSF was happy to get the support from retirees and the PEF active union.

Jim shared that Region contributed \$500 to the food bank and received a thank you letter from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

Jim reminded members that it is election season and it is important to get out and vote. Our union endorses candidates from both parties, endorsing the best candidate who supports unions, workers, and retirees. Everyone deserves a pension and strong union and to have our freedom and future protected.

Jim introduced speaker Timothy Perfetti, Southern Tier Regional Representative, Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Office of the State Comptroller, Binghamton NY.

Tim introduced self and will provide business cards to members. Stated he is the Southern Tier regional director of the NYS Comptroller's Office. Counties include Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Tioga and Tompkins Counties but can still contact Tom if not in those counties. Thomas DiNapoli is the State Comptroller. Tim stated he has been in the Comptroller's office for 2 years. Tim stated it is a new generation since the mass exodus during covid that does not want to work in a cubicle. Have to be on secured VPN. The Pension State Payroll are serious about security. Tim stated to use his business

card to call – you don't need to call Albany and you will not be placed on hold. "I work for you at the end of the day". Stated the State Comptroller's Office is the chief financial office and oversees spending of tax dollars. Tom DiNapoli is the trustee of the pension fund and watches it closely. Reports are available on the Office of the Comptroller website www.osc.ny.gov. Tim suggested members look into the Unclaimed Funds and you can reach out to Tim if you have trouble getting unclaimed funds back.

Jim discussed the Christmas Party and took a vote (count of hands) of those in favor of a Christmas party or a picnic when the weather is better – family style picnic – cookout. Took count of raised hands – 10 for Christmas Party and 12 for Picnic. To have Picnic in the summer.

Meeting was followed by a luncheon and social hour.