

PEF Chapter 5 Retirees May 26, 2022

The meeting was held at Nathaniel Cole Park in Harpursville, NY starting at 11 a.m. Forty-three members and five guests attended on a cool breezy day. Lunch with Pizza and Salad was provided by Nirchi's Pizza.

The meeting began with Karl Wokan, former Region 5 Retiree President, accepting nominations for the following positions:

Secretary: position is open

Treasurer: Joe Kost

Vice-President: Adam Regenbogen

President: Allan Hochberg

Acting Secretary for today: Andrea Del Nero with back up from Adam Regenbogen

All the nominated positions were approved by the PEF members in attendance.

Reports

Treasurer's report: Joe Kost, treasurer gave his report.

Bob Reynolds, former PEF Retirees Region 5 President

Volunteers are needed for committees for special events such as casino visits, shopping trips, plays, etc. We need to volunteer to help all the members. Also, he asked if people would attend a Saturday or Sunday meeting. The Johnson City Senior Center has good weekend rates.

The current NY governor, Kathy Hochul, has not suggested a budget that would hurt retirees. It is expected that PEF will be endorsing Kathy Hochul for NY Governor. PEF is urging legislation to increase COLA for pensions.

David Dubovsky, Region 5 Regional Coordinator

It is expected that PEF will be endorsing Gov Hochul. This will be good for our upcoming negotiations for the next contract. Next week, on 6/3/22, is a PEF Region 5 Group Night at the Binghamton Rumble Ponies game with a \$10 discount for members and their families. There will be a picnic buffet and fireworks after the game. He is

checking to see if retirees would be able to view a motivational Zoom webinar with Dr. Birchard (Dr. Bird) on 6/7/22. June 17th is the annual golf tournament at Tall Pines Golf Course. The annual clambake will be on Friday August 12th.

Contact your legislators to push for the health insurance bill to pass. If passed, this will establish the state's contribution rate toward health insurance premiums for all NYS employees and retirees.

Allan Hochberg, President

Allan thanked everyone for coming to the picnic at Cole Park. The last meeting was at the Hickories Park in Owego last summer. We have not met since then due to COVID.

He is hoping to have another picnic, with Phil's Chicken House providing the food soon.

Communication: Retirees are making changes to improve communication to Retirees. PEF website has been substantially enhanced and provides a good deal of useful information such as benefits.

COLA bill: The cost of living increased 8.5% last year. Energy prices and gas prices have gone up 30% this past year. COLA adjustments for the pension have not increased in 20 years. Currently, COLA is determined on the base of \$18000. We are hoping to have the COLA base amount increased.

Investments: Bond fund values have decreased as inflation has increased. The stock market has gone down substantially. With the current market volatility, it would be a good opportunity to touch base with Stacey Braun Associates. It is an excellent free service with highly trained professionals.

Thirty-six attendees signed letters advocating for a COLA Pension Bill. Ten retiree hats were raffled off.