

PEF Retirees Chapter 2 Meeting Minutes
10/12/2023 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Chat- A-Whyle Restaurant
Bath NY

Members Involved:

Paul Titus, Gary Rice, Dale Smith, Scott Wood, Elen Wood, Jackie Eakin, Ronald Eakin, Al Ash, Debbie Ash, Pam Fraboni, Noah Fehl, Fred Daniels., Mary Daniels, Louis Odessa, Wendy Proctor, Kim Paterson, Gilda Murdock, Mary Carr, Jim Carr, Ellen Benedict, Sherry Seeley, Diane Bower, Susan Kelly, Joyce Carson, Wyant Keefer, Pearl Jordan, JoAnne Caruso-Laverde, Kathy Borzell, V. Sue Marosek, Randy VanDerzee, Mary Evans, Andrew Puleo,

Moment of Silence and Welcoming Remarks:

Jim Carr led members in a moment of silence remembering those members and loved ones no longer with us, as well as, for the Israel-Gaza war victims.

President's Report:

Jim reported to NYSARA (New York State Alliance For Retired Americans) and explained that PEF RETIREES are part of NYSARA and reported a rally he attended in Binghamton the previous week focusing on social security proposed cuts. Bob Reynolds PEF Chapter 5 President was also at the Binghamton rally. See PEF website videos with information. Scott Wood (PEF retiree will take on the responsibility for creating a Southern Tier Chapter of NYSARA.

Jim reported the Labor Counsel meeting the previous night will create a panel to fix Tier 6. Jim and Scott Wood will be part of this - which will be in Chemung County. All unions (AFL- CIO) working to try to fix Tier 6, along with COLA changes - continued work in progress.

Jim encouraged members to complete letters (see website) for COLA, Tier 6 and NYSHIP.

Treasurer's Report:

Pam Fraboni gave rundown of current finances and reported that finances are doing well,

Member Issues:

Jim encouraged current and new members to use PEF retirees website for information and applications to join.

Information shared with members included: 2023 annual delegates award dinner (Rochester Labor Council) on Dec 14, 2023 and journal advertisements cost and deadlines; H.R. 3206 - a bill to repeal the inclusion in gross income of Social Security Benefits; WDI Child Care Scholarship Program. Letter composed by Jim shared with members addressing the value of organized labor and government policies that favor unions and the middle class to keep the economy fair and growing.

Reminders to members to register and to vote in local, town school and all elections every year.

The Facebook page is handled by Don Morganstern and includes membership benefit changes. PEF also has a web site. Retirement calculations are taking longer to process due to staffing,

Andrew Puleo presented Social Security concerns - elimination of Social Security being taxed as income (currently in House) - suggested googling Social Security tax elimination. Contact Senators Chuck Schumer, Nick Langworthy (represents 23rd district of NY) and/or Kristin Gillibrand.

Jim discussed recruiting new PEF members when they retire. Four new members have joined between Jan and Mar 2023,

Members voiced interest in a holiday party, with a short meeting, per Jim. Pam and Scott will take the lead on this - to continue to work with Hibernian Club in Elmira - tentatively for early December.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment:

Member's meeting adjourned followed by a delightful luncheon and social hour.