



**NEW YORK STATE  
Public Employees Federation  
Region 09 Retirees  
1168-70 Troy Schnectday Rd  
PO Box 12414  
Albany, NY 12212-2414**

**Retiree Chapter 09 Officers:  
President: Patrick McLaughlin  
Vice Pres: Tom Ryan, East side:  
Secretary: Mary Jones  
Treasurer: Diane Conklin  
Vice Pres; Vivian Street, West side**

### **PEF CHAPTER 9 RETIREES MEETING MINUTE**

**The Venue: Blauvelt Fire House**

**Address:548 Western Highway, Blauvelt. NY 10913**

**Date: 8/24/2022**

**Attendance:52 members and 2 guest speakers; 12 no shows**

#### **Agenda;**

**The meeting was called to order by Patrick McLaughlin at 12:30. After the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence, a buffet lunch was served.**

**President's Remarks- Patrick welcomed the members from Rockland, Orange and Sullivan counties after a long absence due to the pandemic.**

**Guest Speaker: Don Morganstern spoke to the retirees regarding the importance of contributing to COPE. He announced that we had 2 successes recently. One was that Medicare can now negotiate for drug costs with maximum out of pockets capped at \$2,000., and insulin costs are capped at 35.00 per month. We are 1 vote in the Senate from getting dental and vision benefits thru medicare. He emphasized the need to protect SS and Medicare and not vote for the politicians who want to privatize SS. He suggested we know what each politician's voting record is and vote for those who support retiree issues...i.e..yes for Medicare and SS preservation.**

**Barry A Kaufmann, President of NYSARA reiterated the importance of supporting any candidate that supports our issues regardless of their party affiliation. He stressed that we have serious Senior issues and Our Democracy Is Not Secure. He reinforced that SS is not going bankrupt, and that we must get rid of the cap on FICA taxes of 140,000. income. Also, that one's investments are not taxable and how people claim their income as investments and end up paying zero taxes. Our COLA should go up next year and that we need to find a better way of**

determining COLA for the elderly. CIP-E is a cola method specifically designed for Seniors. Barry reminded the members that if you choose a Medicare Advantage plan, you lose the Empire Plan forever. We should be getting some premium money back next year because of the excess Part B premium we've been charged this year. The credit will result in a lower premium charge for Part B in 2023. In addition, we got 120 days back for skilled nursing home stays after losing them under Cumo's regime.

**Secretary's Report-** Ron Manuli made a motion to accept the minutes. They were accepted as written, seconded and approved.

**Treasurer's Report -** The current balance is 20,037.97. Ron Manuli made a motion to accept the report; it was accepted, seconded and so moved.

**Committee Reports:** none

**Old Business-** Patrick reminded the attendees that when they retire they are no longer members of PEF. We have no one negotiating for retiree issues nor do we have a vote at a convention. We only have a representative who is invited as a guest.

**New Business-** We currently have 1700 members in Region 9. We are the third largest chapter in the state. You can pay annual membership dues thru pension deduction or a yearly check. The PEF retiree website is [www.pefretirees.org](http://www.pefretirees.org). Patrick encouraged all to fill out the comment sheet in their folders with suggestions for future speakers and meeting formats.

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:35pm, by Ron Manuli, seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Jones*

Mary Jones

Secretary