

PEF Retirees Chapter 2 Meeting Minutes
5/22/2024 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Ginny Lee Cafe
at Wagner Vineyards Lodi, NY

Members Involved:

Jim Carr, Thomas Tedone,, Sherry Hartman, Norman Hultzman, Scott Wood, Ellie Wood, Shelly Wisneski, Jackie Eakin, Ron Eakin, Dale Smith, Gary Rice, Mary Evans, Katy Baltzell, Mary Carr, Jane Snyder, Margaret Anderson, Ellen Benedict, Pam Fraboni, Noah Fehl, Al Ash, Debbie Ash, Pearl Jordan, Gilda Murdock, Tom McIlroy, Wyant Kiefer, Randy VanDerzee, Rhonda Robinson, Leona Deming, Alvin Deming, Charlie Melcheski, Gerald McDermitt, Mary R Carr

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.

President's Report:

Jim reported PEF did well in this year's budget with the governor and legislature. Higher premiums for IRMAA Medicare taken out and some fixes for Tier 6. The final average salary will be calculated on the highest three years rather than five. This should help new Tier 6 members coming in. Will keep working on it - remains better than a 401k where you take 100% of the risk.

Jim reported that Civil Service does not have enough workforce and is not answering phones,

Jim encouraged members to complete letters (see website) for COLA, Tier 6 and NYSHIP. Greater than 32,000 letters were sent regarding PEF Budget priorities, which is why retirees and PEF members did well. Still working on COLA - see form with QR code for letter writing. This should also be sent in an email to all and is on the PEF website. Continuing to work on health care protection. It was also voted to give more dollars back to the chapters - the current Chapter 2 \$2500 yearly will go up.

Jim reported that PEF has a Veteran's Committee to address veteran issues. Veteran pins are available on the table. Veterans are encouraged to get the information on the table and fill out the form.

Jim reported that Indivisible (see handout on table) explains the Inflation Reduction Act and accelerating the clean energy future, creating jobs, and keeping money in our pockets. Since signed into law in August 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act has created over hundreds of thousands of jobs thanks to 200+ new clean energy projects in every state, The Inflation Reduction Act is lowering everyday health care costs. Examples include: 1. Lower monthly costs for those who get insulin through Medicare with a \$35 cap on monthly insulin costs. 2. By allowing Medicare to negotiate drug pricing, seniors on Medicare will save money on certain lifesaving drugs. 3. The Inflation Reduction Act will reduce health premiums by up to \$800 for

people who buy insurance on their own, making healthcare more affordable and accessible for more people.

Jim reported that Care Patrol (flyers on tables) is a new membership benefit. Care patrol provides services for seniors. See membership web site. Examples of services include bathing, dressing and personal hygiene assistance. Care Patrol services also include recommendations for senior placement in the community, residential settings, home care services and temporary respite.

Jim reported that dental and vision insurance is not continued upon retirement and is out of pocket for retirees. A lot of calls were received concerning the new dental plan - this is not for retirees. GHI is now Emblem. Retirees who continued their dental plan upon retirement have Emblem now and Sun Life is an option. Be aware that if you drop the coverage, it is hard to get back.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Member Issues:

Jim reported that new PEF retiree members are welcome, as well as all NYS retirees - retirees do not have to be PEF retirees to become members.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment:

Meeting was followed by a luncheon and social hour.