

PEF Chapter 3 Retirees Meeting Minutes May 15, 2024

Topic: Welcome

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence for those members no longer with us.

Topic: Review of Minutes from November 2023 and February 2024

The minutes were reviewed and approved. It was suggested that where the meeting was held to be included in the minutes.

Resolution: The location for future meetings will be included at the end of the minutes if known at that time.

Topic: Membership Benefits Table

There was a table with items that were available for attendees to take.

Topic: Finance Report

At the end of April there was \$ 2988.19 in the bank account. The COVID money has been spent and the 2023 monies are being used before the 2024 monies will be released to the chapter.

Topic: NYSARA- New York State Alliance for Retired Americans

This organization provides useful information for retirees. The website address is NYSARA.org. Retirees can sign up for the Monday alerts which provide information of importance to retirees.

Topic: COPE

Members were encouraged to join COPE- this is the way retirees can impact federal legislation regarding issues affecting retirees. Applications were available for members.

Topic: Phone, E-mail, and Text Scams

There was a discussion on the various scams that are targeting people. Be careful of calls from numbers you do not recognize and do not click on links in emails and texts that you do not recognize. Many emails or texts can appear to come from a legitimate source. Do not answer phone calls if you do not recognize the number - a legitimate caller will leave a message.

Topic: State Budget Issues

IRMAA (income related monthly adjustment amount) for retirees who have high incomes was not included in the budget. The COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) bill was not addressed as well. There needs to be one COLA bill that is a combined effort of all the parties involved. The RPEA COLA bill was taken out of circulation and PEF is waiting to hear from CSEA.

Topic: Retirees Dental Insurance

Some retirees stated that they are having problems with reimbursement for procedures and in finding dentists that will take EmblemHealth. EmblemHealth or Sunlife are the only dental insurances available for retirees at this time. It is not known if the new dental insurance company for active employees will provide a direct pay plan for retirees.

Topic: NYSHIP Retirees Health Insurance

There was much discussion regarding the Empire Plan for Retirees, the Medicare Advantage Plans, and the coverage each program provides. It was mentioned that some Medicare Advantage Plans do not cover you from state to state. Retirees should do their due diligence when selecting or changing a Medicare plan. **Retirees have the option of changing insurance plans that NYSHIP offers for retirees. DO NOT DROP the state plan.** Once a retiree leaves NYSHIP the person cannot re-enroll in the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm

Next meeting: August 21, 2024 at the Henrietta Veterans Memorial Park - Roberts Cabin.

Submitted by: Louise King, Secretary

