

Disclaimer: The following minutes have not been presented to the Executive Committee of the Retired Council. They are not official and have not been approved by the IEA Retired Council.

IEA-Retired Council

Feb. 24-25, 2011

Springfield

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Tucker at 12:00 P.M.

In Attendance: Chair, Jack Tucker, Sec./Treas., Barb Gilhaus, Janet Kilgus, Dottie Beeler, Linda Walcher, Chuck Starke, Ed Rosenthal, Ray Bill, Gene Craig, NEA-Retired Secretary, and Mae Smith, NEA-Retired Advisory Council Member. Dave Bishop was present on Skype.

Staff in Attendance: Meredith Byers, Kim Riley, Jim Reed, Will Lovett.

Guests: Sonya Williams, TRS Benefits Counselor.

There was a **motion** by Janet Kilgus, **seconded** by Dottie Beeler that the minutes from the Nov. 4-5, 2010 Council meeting be approved. **Motion carried.**

IEA RA: There was a discussion of the RA as to parking, dances, hospitality suites, handicapped access, and transportation to Convention Center.

Staff Report: None

Newsletter Assignments: The next official newsletter will be July 2011. Dave had prepared a handout of suggested topics and writers for upcoming newsletters. Deadline for the articles is May 5, 2011. Dave will also work with Dan Billingsly to get Retired articles on the website.

NEA Advisory Council Report: Gene Craig and Mae Smith were present to give the report. They had a written report in addition to their oral report. Mae gave the lobbying report since Gene had been unable to get to DC for that portion due to weather conditions. Republicans in DC are only interested in cutting the budget and increasing jobs. Gene reported that John Wilson, Executive Director of NEA, will be retiring the end of August. John Stocks will be the next Executive Directors of NEA. Denise Williams of Illinois has been asked to sing the opening song at the NEA-Retired Annual meeting which begins June 28 and ends June 30, 2011. Retired membership is up this year. NEA-Retired Dues will be going up.

State Outreach to Teach: Meredith Byers talk with us about the state program. There is some extra money for motel rooms so retirees may stay on Friday night. A bus will pick up students in Champaign to take them to the Holiday Inn Express in Danville. Work day will be March 26, 2011 from 8 AM – 3 PM.

Awards: Dottie Beeler chaired the awards in place of JoAnn who was absent. Katie Kreis was elected as the Bob Haisman Student of the Year Award Winner. Martha Venetucci was elected for the Bob Haisman Teacher of the Year Award. Dottie Beeler was elected as the Mary Lou and Keith Hauge Award Winner. **Motion** by Janet Kilgus, **seconded** by Chuck Starke to approve the above award winners.

Motion Carried.

Conference Committee: No report.

Living Library Report: Janet Kilgus had written reports which were distributed to the Council and she highlighted areas of importance.

Mentoring Program: Linda Walcher handed out the Mentoring report to the Council and discussed some items on the report. Linda also announced that she needed a few more workers for the Spring Student Conference.

New Staff Alignment: There was a lengthy discussion as to the Pilot Program which the IEA-Retired Program has been made a part of. Many concerns were brought up but few answers were available. Kim Riley was present on Friday and gave us her views on how the alignments would occur. Deniece Hopkins will be the Lead Organizer for the project. Kim wants to work closely with the retirees and seems to be very excited to be a part of our group.

Bylaw Proposal for Minority Representation at IEA RA: Our bylaw received unanimous support from the BOD.

Recess at 4:55 PM

Resume at 9:00 AM

TRS Benefits: Sonja Williams a benefits counselor from TRS discussed "Understanding Your Benefits" and "Post Retirement Matters." She also distributed the Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) Highlights booklet.

Legislative Report: Jim Reed informed the Council of the issues in Wisconsin. Many other states are also facing issues such as vouchers, payroll deductions, and pensions. He distributed a Fact Sheet, which can be found on the website, about "Reducing Pension Benefits for Current Educators" and discussed the issues around that topic. Jim also discussed the Governor's issue of consolidation of school. Lobby day will be May 4, 2011.

Will Lovett was also present to talk about Legislative issues that affect or could possibly affect retirees.

Financial Analysis: Barb Gilhaus had prepared the financial analysis from the information provided by Amanda Plunkett. She reviewed the information with the Council. At this point we are doing very well on our spending. Barb Gilhaus and JoAnn Kenner will need to review the unassigned SIDs .

Council Policies: **Motion** by Barb Gilhaus that room cost at Council meetings be limited to the cost of a room at our main site. **Seconded** by Janet Kilgus. **Motion carried.**

Retired Life Membership: Ed Rosenthal , chair of the alternative continuous membership committee had talked to Becky Pringle. She indicated that we would need to come up with a plan, get our state leadership to approve it, and then take it to NEA for approval. **Motion** by Ed Rosenthal to submit to IEA and NEA a proposal for a 4 year buy-in plan for IEA and NEA lifetime Membership. Points to be included are: 1.) Billing to be done by IEA 2.) Cost to be locked in at first payment 3.) Non-refundable if payment is missed. **Seconded** by Barb Gilhaus. **Motion carried.**

Ed Rosenthal asked if there was some way we could keep people connected by having a legislative committee. Possibly one member from each Chapter, meeting one or two times a year. Janet suggested that we might be able to have them meet at the same time as our Retired Conference Presidents' Meeting for one of the meetings. Can we work with IEA/IPACE on this?

Ed Rosenthal **moved**, Dottie Beeler **seconded** that the IEA-Retired Council take a position against taxation of Retirement Benefits. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn: 12:27 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Barb Gilhaus

Secretary/Treasurer