WCIRTA General Membership Meeting

Monday, August 13, 2018

St. Paul Parish Center

Johnston City, Illinois

The WCIRTA held a membership meeting at St. Paul Parish Center in Johnston City, Illinois. The meeting convened at 1:37 pm. There were 31 members present. Board members present were Kent Carrell, Don Kragness, Bert Gordon, Tom Oates, Betsy Murphy, John Harland, Anna Morris, Ed Tresnak, Loren Taylor, and Bob Campbell. Special guest and speaker for the meeting was Jennifer Badiu, Assistant Director of the SIH Cancer Institute.

**Welcome:** PresidentKent Carrell welcomed all present with an invitation to enjoy delicious pies provided by Andresen’s Café in Johnston City.

**Introduction of Speaker:** Jennifer Badiu from the SIH Cancer Institute provided the membership with information about the facility in Carterville, IL. Opened in 2015, the institute will be expanding and renovating with patient comfort and needs in mind. The response and support from the community has been great. She highlighted the services available as well as explained the progress made in treating cancer and collaboration with other medical facilities. The institute focuses on providing a team approach to the best possible care close to home in a therapeutic environment as well as recruiting high quality physicians that will remain in the area. Informational flyers were provided and questions were fielded from the audience.

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer:** 2018 dues are payable at this time. Local dues are $10 per year with checks to be made payable to WCIRTA. Provide the treasurer with any contact information updates.

**Legislation:** Anna Morris reported that the bill to allow retirees to opt back into TRIP is on the Governor’s desk and he has 60 days to sign it or veto it. The bill that allows retirees to work 120 days has passed and has been signed into law.

**Membership:** President Carrell announced that individuals who have not paid dues since 2015 will receive a notice that their name will be removed from the membership list after January 1, 2019. This will allow the membership to reflect a more accurate member count.

**Foundation:** John Harland highlighted the three basic components of the foundation: (1) to provide retired teachers with additional assistance, (2) to provide grants for active teachers, and (3) to provide scholarships to prospective teachers. He encouraged retirees to support the foundation by donating to the address label fundraiser.

**Member Benefits:** It was announced that an AMBA representative will speak at our next membership meeting. Currently, an AMBA rep is contacting individuals who have taken advantage of these benefits throughout Southern Illinois.

**Other Business:** President Carrell introduced Ed Tresnak as a new WCIRTA board member at large. He also informed the members that the chair position for the Member Benefits Committee is currently available. The previous discussion regarding a WCIRTA scholarship is still under review.

**Next Membership Meeting:** The next membership meeting will be October 18, 2018 at Mary’s Restaurant in Herrin, Illinois. Bill Funkhouser, IRTA Area 6 Rep and an AMBA rep will be featured speakers.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next board meeting will be September 13, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Murphy, Secretary