WCIRTA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday May 8, 2018

Mackie’s Restaurant

The WCIRTA held a membership meeting at the Mackie’s Restaurant in Marion, Illinois on May 8, 2018. The meeting convened at 12:38 pm. Board members present were Kent Carrell, Anna Morris, Bert Gordon, Tom Oates, Loren Taylor, Betsy Murphy, Don Kragness, Bob Campbell, Steve Maxwell, John Harland, and Judi Harland. Special guest was Tiffany Sievers from SI Elder Law. Thirty-five WCIRTA members attended.

**Welcome:** PresidentKent Carrell welcomed all present. He led the members in a blessing prior to the luncheon buffet.

**Introduction of Speaker:** President Carrell introduced Tiffany Sievers from SI Elder Law as our program speaker. She provided a very informative presentation regarding Estate Planning, Power of Attorneys for Healthcare and Property, and Wills. She explained the probate process and the ways to avoid probate and protect assets. Her organization also helps individuals obtain other benefits that may be available for such things as nursing home care. Several members commented on the benefits of estate planning.

**Business:** President Carrell made the following announcements:

* The New Retiree Dinner Meeting at Mackie’s was held April 25, 2018. Nine of the 21 new retirees attended and indicated their interest in joining the association.
* WCIRTA board members attended the Area 6 Conference in Carbondale on May 3, 2018. IRTA has set a goal of obtaining 39,000 members which gives the association more clout with legislators.
* Announced disturbing information that the state is not making payments to the insurance accounts and payments are being delayed.
* Stated that there are AMBA benefits and discounts available to members at MYAMBA.COM.
* The board has considered providing a scholarship in the name of WCIRTA. If this is possible, an income stream to provide sustainability needs to be considered. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, they are asked to share their thoughts with a member of the board.
* Board members are contacting individuals that are listed on the membership list and encouraging them to renew and/or join. Membership in the association is important in helping protect retiree’s benefits.
* Judi Harland encouraged members to respond to the IRTA Foundation mailing and send in a donation. This money is used to provide support to retired teachers, scholarships and active teacher grants.

**Next Membership Meeting:** Membership meetings for 2018:

* August 13, 2018 at St Paul’s Family Life Center, Johnston City, IL. This is the PIE Meeting.
* October 18, 2018 at Mary’s Restaurant, Herrin, IL

**Next Board Meeting:** The next board meeting will be June 21, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

**ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES:** Board meeting was rescheduled 6/8/18 by President Carrell for June 28, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the church.

A motion was made by John Harland and seconded by Tom Oates to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Murphy, Secretary