

HCAA Board Meeting Notes

September 10, 2020

Present: Linda Frank, Diane Kinn, Linda Kolbusz-Kosan, Michael Nejman, Hazel Rilki, Jaci Carroll, Pat Wenthold, Carole Bomba, Judi Zaplatynsky, Karen Johnstone, Jeanne Pankanin, Kathy Hanahan

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am

Introductions, and Welcome! to new Members at Large Carole Bomba, Karen Johnstone, and Barb Anderson (who couldn't join us today). We are glad to have you with us!

Highlights from Prior Meeting: Kathy shared a few highlights from the July 23rd meeting, including a discussion regarding the Fair Tax Amendment proposal, our membership numbers and the need to reach out to potential new members, and the SUAA Fall annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Linda shared the information sent in by Sharon. Our previous balance was \$5,517.70, we had deposits totaling \$310.54, there were no expenses submitted since the last report, bringing our current balance to \$5,828.24. Registration costs for Linda, Michael, and Pat to attend the fall annual meeting will be on the next report.

Membership Report: Hazel reported that we currently have 284 active members, plus 5 who are graced. We had a brief discussion about touching base with some specific new retirees, as well as the need to reach out to Harper folks who are still working.

Social Report: Jaci and Diane met to discuss some possible social activities that could be done online. They mentioned the possibility of a Zoom presentation in late October regarding things retirees wished they had known prior to retiring. Other online options that were discussed included a book club, concerts (including the possibility of Harper groups, such as the Jazz Band), a movie/TV show discussion group, documentaries sponsored by universities, or a CE type of class providing online instruction on a topic of interest. Also mentioned was the possibility of walking with other Harper folks at the Chicago Botanic Garden on Friday mornings. Reservations would probably need to be made.

Legislative Report: A question had been raised regarding whether or not HCAA Committee Chairs are allowed to vote, if they are not considered official Board members. Michael checked our Constitution and by-laws, and found that only official Board members are allowed a formal vote, however, anyone can give an advisory vote. We generally only hold a vote when it comes to spending money, or changing our constitution. And, as we tend to consider all opinions prior to a vote, it seemed to be a general consensus that committee chairs sharing their advisory votes but not having a formal vote was acceptable. If desired, we can change our constitution to allow for more than 10 formal voters.

The Graduated (Fair) Tax Amendment proposal, which will be voted on in November, is getting more media attention in recent weeks, both pro and con. For more information about the proposal, visit the HCAA website.

The federal fiscal year ends on September 30th. Congress returned to session on September 8th, and if they don't pass a funding deal soon, there may be a government shut-down. One of the biggest sticking points is a new COVID-19 relief package, which could range from \$1 Trillion to \$3 trillion.

The general election is November 3rd.

- Voter registration deadline is Tuesday, October 6th, or if online, Sunday, October 18th.
- Early voting runs from October 19th – November 2nd.
- Vote-by-mail applications are available now.

SUAA Board of Directors Report: Pat shared that the group met late last week. SUAA, after investigating pros and cons, has decided to support the Fair Tax Amendment proposal. Pensions would not be taxed. The two main topics to be discussed at the fall annual meeting on September 30th will be the November election, as well as making one or two by-law changes. The larger review and change of the SUAA constitution and by-laws will be put off for one more year. Linda and the group expressed their appreciation of Pat's years of service as the Region 1 rep.

Website Update: Judi reported that there have been no major changes since the last meeting. Michael expressed his appreciation of the work that has been done to update and improve the site. Jeanne asked if the website's address could be mentioned more frequently in various communications that go out to the membership, so that members can find it more easily.

New Business: Linda mentioned that she and Hazel have access to the membership list provided by SUAA. They have found that the spreadsheet does not always have an updated cell phone number or address. As many people no longer have or use their landlines, it can be difficult to get in touch with folks when needed. The group decided that the Board and Chairs will forward their cell phone numbers to Hazel, as well as an Emergency Contact name and number.

Linda shared that typically at this time of the year, we would have our HCAA annual meeting with a lunch and Harper update presentation from the College president. Linda asked for help in contacting Dr. Proctor and getting an online meeting scheduled. Linda KK volunteered to assist with this task.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 5th, 2:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 am

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Hanahan