

HCAA Board Meeting

January 18, 2021

Notes

Present: Linda Frank, Jaci Carroll, Linda Kolbusz-Kosan, Diane Kinn, Hazel Rilki, Karen Johnstone, Michele Ukleja, Sharon Martin, Russ Mills, Judi Zaplatynksy, Michael Nejman, Carole Bomba, Kathy Hanahan

Meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm

Highlights of last meeting: Kathy shared that at our November 16th, 2020 meeting, we had discussed the results of the November 3rd general election, which included the failure of the Fair Tax Amendment proposal and the possible subsequent consequences. We talked about the new social event coming up (the book club discussion) which was garnering interest, and we discussed the idea of sending letters to our HCAA members who do not seem to get our email communications due to old email addresses on file. We also welcomed Michele Ukleja to the Board as a Member at Large.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon reported that we have had one deposit (\$100.48) and no expenses since our last meeting, which brings our new balance to \$5,969.68. **NOTE:** Sharon received a new statement from the bank just a few days after our meeting. There was one more deposit in December for \$95.48. Here are the details for the entire 2020 year: Balance as of January 1, 2020 was \$6019.50. Total annual receipts were \$1427.66. Total disbursements were \$1382.00. Balance as of December 31st, 2020 was \$6065.16.

Social Report: Jaci shared that the list of free Harper community education courses that Michael had mentioned was in the process of being added to the Events portion of the website. Some are already posted, but others, such as book discussion groups, will be posted as soon as we have some needed info from the Library. Feed My Starving Children is preparing to start up again, and Jaci suggested that possibly in the late spring, things will be safe enough for a group of us to consider going again. She also shared that we will be partnering with the Foundation office to offer a retirement planning webinar facilitated by Bruce Bohrer in March, perhaps April. The Foundation will cover the expenses.

Membership: Hazel recently sent the Board the list of our emergency contact information. She reported that we now have 279/280 active members. Some members who had lapsed renewed their membership, and we also have several new members, including Dr. Proctor. It appears that the form on the website for submitting email corrections is working, as Hazel has received several corrections. Also, regarding our plan to send out letters to our members, Hazel reported that SUAA is planning a mass mailing to those who have retired in the past four years as well as those who plan to retire within the next five years, encouraging them to join their local chapters. Therefore, we will probably not need to go ahead with our plan. Hazel has had an offer from a SUAA staff member to go over our membership lists to look for discrepancies, and to get those resolved. Judi recommended that on our list of members, we include both their former name as well the new one, if it has changed, in order to make it easier to identify them. She also recommended that when we contact new members or those who will be retiring soon, we suggest that they take a look at our website, and in particular, the retirement/pre-retirement section, as there is a lot of helpful information there. It might help entice new retirees to join.

Legislative Report: The full Legislative report will be posted on the website soon, but a few highlights to note include the following:

- State Representative Emanuel Chris Welch was named the new Speaker of the House, replacing Mike Madigan, who is ending a 38-year run as Springfield's most powerful politician.
- The 101st General Assembly returns to session virtually on January 26th. Some of the key items on their agenda will include the budget, redistricting, and police reform.
- The Chronicle of Higher Education has published three articles recently which warn of upcoming financial difficulties for two-year schools, due to large decreases in enrollment since the start of the pandemic, and reduced funding from state budgets that have taken a hit due to COVID-19.
- Free Community College? Biden and Harris emphasized the need for continued education beyond high school in their campaign, and want to make it accessible for everyone. Two-year colleges will be in the spotlight in Biden's agenda, and there has been speculation as to whether a more educated population can help unite a divided United States.

Website Report: Judi shared that we have now finished posting the tips and words of wisdom shared by Jeanne this past fall (some of it related to getting signed up for Medicare early, especially if planning to travel out of the country) in various sections of the website, and recommended that if any of us have tidbits or tips they'd like to share about things they learned the hard way, please feel free to fill out the form on the Pre-Retirement Pearls page.

New Business: We need people to let us know what interest they have in various roles on the Board. If you want to stay in the position you currently hold, or you wish to take on a new role or added responsibility, we will need to know before the first meeting in the fall. New positions are voted on at the first fall meeting. We are especially looking for a new President-Elect. Michael and Linda both shared that the work is not difficult, and that they appreciated getting to know new people, especially those "in the know." Judi recommended that we make an announcement in the next newsletter, with a description of what each of the roles entails.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 8th, 2021, 2:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 2:57 pm

Respectfully submitted: Kathy Hanahan