

October 10, 2012 12th Meeting of 2012  
58th Overall Meeting  
302 Irvis Office Building

Wayne Burton, presiding; Lynn Herman, acting Secretary  
Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2012 accepted as e-mailed prior to meeting  
Attendees: Full info on sign-in sheet: Burton, Herman, Swope, Dessaux, Houghton, Funk.  
Also attending was Jen Blatz, Pension Coordinator for the PA AFL-CIO. She will be working on public pension issues

RSC Chairman, Don Mayer, was unable to attend the meeting, and it was chaired by APSCURF President, Wayne Burton. Wayne said that this was the twelfth meeting of the RSC this year and 59<sup>th</sup> overall.

Lynn Herman gave the Legislative Report. Since our last RSC meeting, Lynn reported on the meeting that he had set up for Richard Rowland, Executive Director of PASR, their lobbyist, Fred McKillop, and Lynn with Senator Jake Corman, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and his staff. Lynn informed the RSC members of Senator Corman's reaction to PASR's pension reform proposal when Senator Corman said that he appreciated us coming in with some proposed solutions to the pension problem and that he directed his staff to conduct an actuarial analysis of the proposals.

The Senator said a pension reform bill would be very hard for one political party to carry alone. "It's a budget issue for me. I want to solve the pension problem. I'm up for having the discussion for the budget deadline in June. I appreciate this information."

We then discussed the October 3 public hearing that the PA Employees Retirement Commission (PERC) held on pension reform that many of us had attended. Jen Blatz, Pension Coordinator for the AFL-CIO, questioned why the previously scheduled PERC meeting for this week was cancelled. Lynn said that the Legislators are back in their Districts campaigning for the Election and some Legislators sit on the PERC Board.

Jen said that her own impression was that, if you listened to the point/counterpoint exchange of questions the PERC members made to the testifiers, that it was good information and very instructive especially as we get closer to Governor Corbett's state budget address in February.

Jen said that her role as the AFL-CIO Pension Coordinator is to mobilize the union memberships whether they be the retiree memberships or the actives. She said that in Rhode Island they took away their COLAs. "I talk to retirees about mobilizing because they can go after your retirement benefits," she said.

Wayne Burton said that he couldn't understand why some Legislators want to change the pension systems from the current defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan when there has been so much testimony presented that it would cost more because there would be fewer employees paying into the pension systems.

Jen and Adam announced that they were leaving the meeting early to prepare for a meeting on pension reform that night being held at the AFSCME conference center in Harrisburg. It will be televised live on PCN television.

Randy McKillop gave us an update on the PA RSC website and the proposed benefits to our retiree groups that he has been arranging. Randy he would provide us with a draft email that we could use for our groups as a template that would drive our state and school retirees to utilize the website and become familiar with the Grass Roots Education and Training Program video modules.

Randy said that since his last presentation to the RSC, Mowery Associates has reached out to our RSC member groups with an aggressive approach to provide all our retirees with a discounted vision and dental plan. Also the US Pharmacy benefits card that was approved at the September RSC meeting will be put out soon so that the retirees can use it.

As to the RSC website, Randy said that it is up and running and there has been some movement of people going to it. However, more needs to be done to let the state and school retirees and Legislators know the information is there.

Randy introduced Lisa West, Sales Manager with Care Innovations. Lisa said that Care Innovations helps seniors live independently in their home. One of their programs is LINK which is a personal emergency response system. It is similar to Senior Alert except that their product is much less expensive; there is no contract, and no shipping charges.

With LINK, seniors wear a wrist band with a button on it. If they fall or have an emergency, they press a button on the wrist band and someone from Care Innovations will speak to them and address their concern. If there is no answer to the button, emergency personnel are dispatched to the senior's home immediately.

The LINK product is simple to install to the home telephone system with easy to read instructions and color coded for better understanding. It has a range the size of a football field and is waterproof. Lisa said the device gives seniors and their family members comfort knowing that they are safe and, if anything happens, they will be taken care of.

Lisa said that the PA RSC is the first large quantity group that Care Innovations is offering a reduced rate. The normal cost is \$29.95, but our state and school retirees can get it for \$24.95, a \$5.00 discount. Also, the retiree would get a \$25.00 gift certificate from Pro Flowers.

Randy said the public can't get a better rate for this system than what Care Innovations is offering the Coalition.

The RSC thanked Lisa for her presentation and unanimously voted to include it in our RSC website benefits.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 14.