

Northern Fairfield County Retired Teachers' Association
Fall Luncheon
October 31, 2017

The fall luncheon of the NFCRTA was held at Anthony's Lake Club on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 at 11:30AM.

President's Remarks

President Rona Rothhouse welcomed everyone to the luncheon meeting. Rona stressed the importance of being a member of ARTC and briefly discussed the important work that the association does on our behalf, including protecting our pension and health benefits.

Webmaster Joretta Kilcourse

Joretta circulated a list of members' e-mail addresses and asked everyone to make sure that their addresses were accurate, Newcomers to the luncheon were asked to list their addresses. She also discussed all of the exhibits and programs going on at the Danbury Museum and invited attendees to participate.

Membership

June Jones, Membership Chairperson, reported that we have several new members, and introduced those who were in attendance. She also said that 63% of our total membership have paid their dues. This is the most ever. Currently, we have 315 members, representing most of the towns in northern Fairfield County.

Legislative

Legislative Chairperson Bill Murray discussed the new state budget. Active teachers must now add another 1% of their earnings to the General Fund. Most of this will go into the Pension Fund. Asking towns to pay a portion of our pension funds did not pass. However, we will not receive a 50% reduction in our state income tax, as this was voted down. We will receive a 25% reduction, the same as last year. Our Pension Fund has been affected by more teachers living longer and the state's failure to properly fund it. Bill said that he thought the fund was in relatively good shape now. Last year the fund made 14% in interest and right now the fund has more money in it than it has ever had. Bill then answered questions related to our health benefits with Stirling versus using another secondary provider. In his opinion, he feels that Stirling is the better option.

Adjournment

The meeting temporarily adjourned so that lunch could be served.

Resumption of Meeting

Rona stated that a new secretary is needed because Julianne Gallagher has resigned as of November 1, 2017. She has been bending the minutes for the past 16 years. Cathy Baker volunteered to fill the position.

Tribute to Roz Schoonmaker

Rona introduced Roz Schoonmaker, who has served as a Trustee on the Teachers Retirement Board for many, many years. She recently celebrated her 87th birthday and is still very active on the Board, as well as in ARTC and other organizations. Rona presented her with a gift from NFCRTA.

Speaker: Wendy Lecker

Rona introduced our speaker, Wendy Lecker, who is a columnist for the Hearst Connecticut Media Group and is senior attorney at the Education Law Center. She discussed fiscal and educational policies of charter schools, their programs, results, impact on public schools and the influence of Betsy DeVoss, the current U.S. Secretary of Education for the Trump Administration. A question and answer session followed her remarks.

Raffle

Treasurer Libby Kasimir collected \$187.00 for the raffle, the most she has ever raised. The raffle was won by Joretta Kilcourse.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Julianne Gallagher
Recording Secretary