

NFCRTA
Spring Luncheon
June 1, 2016

The NFCRTA spring luncheon was held at Anthony's Lake Club on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 11:30AM.

Call to Order

President Rona Rothhouse called the meeting to order at 11:45AM.

President's Remarks

President Rothhouse recently attended the ARTC spring luncheon held at the Aqua Turf Restaurant in Southington. She said that she was impressed by all that ARTC does for retired teachers and encouraged everyone to join the association. She also said the Membership Chairperson, June Jones gave out information on ARTC'S schedule of meetings in a recent letter to NFCRTA members.

Rona also talked about the need for a Vice President and invited anyone interested in filling the position to see her after the luncheon.

Webmaster Joretta Kilcourse

Joretta stressed the need for having members' correct e-mail addresses. She is a volunteer at the Danbury Museum and recently gave tours to third graders from the Danbury School System. She gave us information on a Clambake fundraiser being held at the museum on June 30. There will be a Cursive Writing Camp held at the museum from June 27 - July 1. Since cursive writing is no longer taught in the public schools throughout the country, this camp is very pertinent for those who wish to see that skill returned to the curriculum in our schools.

Bill Murray, Legislative Chairperson

Mr. Murray also stressed the importance of joining ARTC. He attended Lobby Day in Hartford on April 6. There were 106 retirees in attendance and 24 legislators also attended and spoke to the gathering and answered questions. There were 3 main topics discussed: 1. preserve pension funding, 2. have state continue to pay 1/3 supplemental contribution to health insurance fund, 3. preserve 25% deduction from the state income tax on our pensions in 2016. There are also serious concerns about our pension fund due to the budget problems the state faces. There are also educational issues facing the legislature, as well as testing concerns.

Libby Kasimer, Treasurer

We have \$23,189.93 in all of our accounts. Libby also received \$840.00 in donations.

June Jones, Membership Chairperson

June reported that our membership is growing and the same is true of ARTC. ARTC had

a surplus of funds this year. She also wanted us to know that the affiliates are working together. Regarding Lobby Day, teachers were notified about this event but we didn't have a representation at the event except for some of our officers and chairpersons.

Kay Santuro, Scholarship Chairperson

Kay began her presentation by reading a letter from a former recipient who received the Mary Edgett Scholarship Award 4 years ago. At that time, one Danbury and one Bethel student received awards. They met at the Awards luncheon and subsequently became close friends at Westconn. They wanted us to know that the luncheon was the impetus for their friendship. One of the ladies will be teaching in Myrtle Beach in the fall and the other lady will be completing her student teaching.

This year, it was very difficult to choose award winners because they were all eminently worthy of the scholarships. So it was decided to give out 3 scholarships. The Mary Edgett \$1500.00 Scholarship was given to Danbury High School graduate Angie Tobar. She plans to be a teacher and will be a Westconn student in the fall. She was accompanied to the luncheon by her sister, who is a Westconn student.

The next scholarship award of \$1,000.00 was given to Amber Horvath who is a graduate of Abbott Tech. She wants to study Early Childhood Education and would like to go to UConn. She spoke about the serious problems her parents are having with illness and unemployment.

Another \$1,000.00 scholarship award was given to Heidi Matias, who is also a Danbury High School graduate. She told us that she loves children and wants to pursue a career in teaching at Westconn.

Introduction of Speaker

President Rothhouse introduced our speaker, Bob Steele. She gave us an overview of his background and said that he has written a book called "The Curse", which details the history of casino gambling in our state from the very beginning to the present day. Mr. Steele discussed the positive and negative aspects of gambling and the impact the construction of casinos has had on the communities that surround them and the people who live there. He also discussed the role of the state in the spread of casinos and the funds they receive from the slot machines.

Raffle

Treasurer Libby Kasimer conducted a 50/50 raffle. \$120.00 was split with the winner and our association.

Attendance

There were 55 people in attendance.

Special Note

Attendee Bud McQuade was introduced. He is about to turn 100 years old. He formerly taught in Redding.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne Gallagher

Recording Secretary