

**NFCRTA
Spring Luncheon
May 20, 2014**

The NFCRTA Spring Luncheon was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at Anthony's Lake Club at 11:30AM. There were 52 members in attendance.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President John Luning at 12:00PM. He then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests: ARTC President Tom Singleton and Gloria Brown, President of CEA Retired, were introduced by President Luning and Bill Murray. Legislative Chairperson.

Introduction of New President: Rona Rothhouse introduced our new President, John Luning, and gave a brief summary of his biography, including his teaching career and his service to the Litchfield Teacher's Association.

New Members: New members in attendance were recognized. They were Catherine Jerome (Naugatuck); Claudia Anderson (Danbury); Jim Backus (Danbury); and Rich Redell (Danbury).

Danbury Museum: Joretta Kilcourse talked about events taking place at the museum and then introduced Museum Director Bridget Guertin. Mrs. Guertin spoke briefly about Danbury's history, in particular, President Thomas Jefferson's letter written in answer to a controversy surrounding the issue of establishing a state religion. President Jefferson responded that he felt there should be freedom of religion and not an established state church.

June Jones, Membership Chairperson: June reported that all NFCRTA offices have been filled, with the exception of Insurance Chairperson. She then introduced Vice President Rona Rothhouse, who gave a summary of her teaching career at Danbury and Bethel High Schools, the numerous awards she has been given, and other aspects of her life and interests.

Next to be introduced was Bill Murray, Legislative Chairperson, and June gave a brief overview of his life and teaching career.

President's Remarks: President Luning praised Kay, Libby, June, and Rose for all that they do for our organization.

Guest Speaker: After a delicious lunch, the meeting resumed at 1:40PM. President Luning introduced our guest speaker, ARTC President Tom Singleton. Mr. Singleton talked about his career as a school Social Worker, and his service to various teachers' associations. As President of ARTC for the past two years, he remarked that he has attended numerous meetings, luncheons, and other functions, resulting in extensive mileage covered. He talked about legislation relating to retirees, and the need for a strong and numerous membership. Also discussed was Gov. Malloy's plan to give tax breaks to retired teachers. With regard to Lobby Day, he said that over 100 retired teachers and 30 legislators attended. CEARetired also took part and it was a joint effort by both associations. He has also been meeting with Gloria Brown, CEARetired President, over the past few months.

Unfortunately, the results of Lobby Day were not very good. The legislature passed a revised tax exemption bill with the following stipulations: 10% reduction for us in Jan. 2015; Additional reduction of 15% in Jan. 2016; and a 27% reduction in 2017. However, Mr. Singleton said that we shouldn't count on these reductions because of the state deficit.

Other points covered were:

- Marketing - there will be a new logo (state capitol) and a new newsletter
- Website will be updated and there will be an involvement with Social Media
- New brochure to attract new members
- ARTC current membership is about 7300. This is down from 10,000 in 2008
- Eliminate life membership
- Problem: people join local affiliates but not ARTC
- July, 2015 - implementing new dues system
- Challenges: increase membership, income tax relief, and HIVA account.

Questions: Past President Earl Smith praised Tom Singleton for doing a wonderful job as ARTC President. He said that the organization needs young people. He also praised Denise Napier, State Treasurer for the excellent service she provides.

Prescription Drug Program: The Teachers' Retirement Board is investigating the possibility of contracting with a different company to replace Caremark as our prescription drug provider.

Raffle: The raffle was won by Ron Arbitelle. He donated \$126.00 of his winnings to the Scholarship Fund.

Adjournment: After praising ARTC President Tom Singleton for the wonderful job he is doing, President Luning adjourned the meeting at 2:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Julianne Gallagher
Recording Secretary