

Northern Fairfield County Retired Teachers' Association
Fall Luncheon
October 29, 2018

The fall luncheon of the Northern Fairfield County Retired Teachers' Association was held at Anthony's Lake Club on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 11:30 AM.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Rona Rothhouse at 11:38.

President's Remarks

Rona welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that committee reports would be suspended since we had two guest speakers who had a lot of information to share - Richard Follman, Insurance Chairman for ARTC and Ed Messina, the President of ARTC. Rona reiterated the importance of becoming a member of ARTC since they are the voice of retired teachers in CT.

Adjournment

The meeting temporarily adjourned so that lunch could be served.

Resumption of Meeting

Rona introduced both speakers and thank them for taking the time to explain the current situation with our insurance and pension plans.

Speakers

Rich Follman, is a member of Southern Fairfield County ARTC and Insurance Chairman for ARTC.

He provided some background as to why our health insurance is facing bankruptcy. In 2006, the health plan was to be funded 1/3 by retired teachers, 1/3 by the state, 1/3 by current teachers. Because of the downturn of the market and the lack of state funding from 2010-2019 the plan is going bankrupt. He urged members to call their State Representatives to make sure that the state funds its 1/3 portion. Every two years there is a reconciliation of the state budget. The new budget becomes the law and supersedes our 2006 contract with the state. Therefore, every two years

the TRB has to basically “beg the state” to fund the 1/3 portion that was promised.

Bill Murray, NFCRTA’s Legislative Chairperson, stated that the cost of our insurance is affected by three things: increase in the numbers of retired teachers, increase in the overall cost of insurance and an increase in the use of the plan.

There was a question and answer period regarding insurance fielded by both Rich and Bill.

Ed Messina, the President of ARTC, was the second guest speaker of the day. He explained that there are 36,000 retired teachers and 50,000 active teachers, but about 20,000 teachers do not belong to any affiliate. There are several choices to dealing with retirement plans. None of them are as good as a defined pension. Kentucky has lost their teacher retirement plan all together. It is critical that current working teachers and retired teachers work together to preserve the current retirement plan.

Raffle

Treasurer Libby Kasimir collected \$460 from the 50/50 raffle. It was won by Betsy Petrone. The remaining 50% goes to the scholarship fund.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Baker
Recording Secretary