

AFT 6157 Retiree Chapter
Spring Meeting
Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Bill Jacobs, Chapter President, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

Member Concerns

Walt Soellner noted that at the recent CFT Convention retiree meeting, there is an attempt being made to fight the Social Security offset issues pertaining to STRS retirees.

He also mentioned that some retirees don't realize a potential threat to medical coverage. We now will have website and this is a new way to generate interest in the chapter to allow us to be a more important force.

In addition, Walt said the Debbie De La Rosa is retiring as Secretary, and we will need a new Secretary. The election is coming up in the Fall, and we need a number of people in each position. Ron Levesque is the Treasurer/ Membership officer and we should really try to expand the Board.

The website is new and it includes memorials to a number of faculty. Ron would like to feature article on a retiree in each newsletter, and he did an article on Anne Lopez highlighting the work she is doing with migrant farmworkers. Chuck Hunter is looking for help because he is writing the history of San Jose City College. The website will be finalized in a couple of weeks and made available to all the chapter members.

Treasurer/ Membership Report

Membership

Ron Levesque reported that we have 100 dues paying members, which is forty-five percent of all retirees. Ninety-eight percent of members use email. We will soon have our own email address. We are looking at going electronic for the payment of memberships dues, possibly with a service like PayPal.

Treasure Report

Ron handed out the financial report and reviewed the numbers. The financial report is included on the website.

After maintaining our finances in a traditional checking and savings account, it was decided after 10 years to earn a better return and last fall, we opened an account with Fidelity. There was talk about moving into a "green" fund which will return less, but something we feel good about. Bill Jacobs stated that the purpose of our finances would allow the retirees to defend ourselves if the need arises. On two occasions the Union treasury went low and stuff happens. An organization has more of a presence if it has money in the bank.

Walt made a motion for the chapter to go green. There was discussion. Phil Crawford stated there is 40 million dollars in the bond invested for medical expenses. He was not sure that we should have any risk.

Walt said he disagreed with Bill about our finances. He said we are not a bank and we should do something with the money.

Walt's motion was seconded and the majority of members present at the meeting voted in favor of going green.

Walt then moved that we create 6, two hundred fifty-dollar scholarships and that the scholarships be allocated to homeless students. Discussion followed and Ron noted the language in the motion was too specific. The motion was amended to develop a plan for the idea of a scholarship and present a report of the plan at the next meeting. The motion was seconded and the majority of members present at the meeting voted in favor of the motion.

Karen Pullen, Bobbie Kawazoe and Phil Crawford volunteered to join a sub-committee to research the topic of scholarships. Karen Pullen volunteered to chair the group. The sub-committee will report back on their findings at the fall meeting,

State of AFT6157

Paul Fong, AFT 6157 President, shared that Walt and Bill will be helping to count the ballots on May 10 for the election of officers to the Union's Executive Board. He said there will be one more year of paper ballots before moving to electronic voting.

Salary negotiations will address equity adjustments and will include 4½ and 2 ½ percent at the top.

Another step will be added to the adjunct salary schedule.

Retiree Medical Bond Phil reported that the bond for medical retiree expenses is very well managed. The bond remains at 40 million dollars and has not lost any value.