

MINUTES ACRE MEETING APRIL 18, 2012

Board Meeting 10 am

President Wainscott called the meeting to order. There was a quorum.

Minutes from last month were approved. Motion by Jim Nichols Seconded Tim Cook Carried Yes

Financial Report was approved. Motion by Tim Cook Seconded by Richard McBryde Carried Yes

Insurance Chairman Francis Bradley.

Reported that he was preparing a report on the Health Care surcharge for spouses to be brought up at the April 30th City Council Healthcare Oversight Committee. He wants to obtain how many actives and retirees are paying the surcharge. He stated that the City misled the CCHCO and instead of charging the spouses who refused to take their own company's, charged both the ones who took it out and the ones who did not. Brenda Ford is no longer Pearl Gibson's Assistant Andrea Slaughter has that position now. The method to use to get out of the surcharge for healthcare was explained that you need to submit on the spouse's company letterhead that health insurance is no longer available. But you would be audited at the next open enrollment and required to submit your tax statements proving spouse was not working at a company with insurance. For the smoking surcharge the City would give you the name of an approved lab where you could go at your expense and if nicotine did not show up then the surcharged can be removed.

The Board was of the opinion that no one would want their 1040 forms, which would have routing numbers for your checking accounts, stocks, bonds, with Identity theft so huge, floating around City Hall. A **motion** was made by Jim Nichols and **seconded** by Robert McCulley that Clyde prepares a letter which the Secretary would forward to Director Robinson with our concerns. **Approved** by Board.

Vice President Gary James thanked everyone for their concerns during his hip replacement.

Dan Melancon Pension Overview stated there was \$1.8 billion in the pension fund about 77% funded or \$600 million shortfall.

Treasurer Jim Nichols advised he had taken a new job, but felt it would not interfere with his Acre duties, he also recommended that a **Benevolence Committee** be formed to reach out to those members or spouses during death and or illness. **Motion** by Francis Bradley, **Second** by Tim Cook, **Approved** by Board. **Richard McBryde** in the general meeting agreed to chair that committee. Jim gave the following names as members of his Membership Committee who are contacting past due members. **Betty Boyette, Bette Jo Hamby, Doug Sanders, Delbert Rowe, and Darrell White**. According to Jim they are doing an excellent job resulting in dues coming in.

Board Member Pat Adams asked that we look into the questions 1. If a retiree dies and is drawing a social security checks can the widow now draw off the retiree's SS if it is greater than her SS check. And 2. If the spouse has a greater SS check and dies will the City Retiree be able to draw off that spouse's greater check. He asked that someone check into it. The "**Windfall Elimination Provision**" which penalizes social security benefits for those retirees who worked for an employer who did not withhold social security taxes for those retiring after 1985 was discussed as well as the "**Government Pension Offset**" which affects spouses and widows or widowers of those who worked where SS was not withheld. Two thirds of whatever monthly civil service pension will be deducted from whatever widower's benefit you are entitled to from SS.

Public Relations and Webmaster **Tim Cook** gave the following report. The newsletter should be mailed out by the 25th. It will also be posted on our website. Director Robinson submitted a letter from Mayor Wharton on the Surcharges that he asked us to put in the newsletter, but it was so large it would have occupied two thirds of it, so the decision was made to put a notice about the letter and post it on the Website for those interested in reading it. Emails addresses for the Board are in place, these are the addresses used on the ACRE website. He is still waiting for Board Members to check the site and reply to him. Content on the Website has been updated, but no new pages have been added.

Adjourned until noon.

General Meeting 12 noon

President Wainscott welcomed the members. **Richard McBryde** had prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance

Francis Bradley Advised every one of the 1st quarter City Council Healthcare Oversight Committee on April 30, 2012 at 2pm on the 5th floor conference room of City Hall. He discussed the fact that he was bringing up the surcharges at that meeting and if anyone had any examples he could use please get them to him. He reminded the membership about co-pays and deductibles, and that you may have to pay some small portion of the bill that in the past the Doctor might have forgave.

Dan Melancon \$1.8 billion in pension fund, about \$600 million short. There are 460 Disability Pensioners, 130 ordinary disability [non job related], and 330 Line of Duty disabilities.

Jim Nichols Expenses for past month \$1067.23, Revenue \$614.58, left negative number \$452.62 from account.

Clyde Keenan There have been some people in the hospital with Do Not Resuscitate written on the chart, that Doctors have refused to adhere to and on their own began feeding tubes, etc. Apparently the forms are not enough and he recommends that before you get to these stages in your life you Designate in Writing who will make your DNR decision. Without that the family may be stuck with more expense and you exposed to treatment you did not want.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Motion to Approved By Tim Cook

Second to Approve By Dan Melancon

Approved: Yes May 16, 2012