

ACRE
General Membership Meeting
July 16, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by President Mike Lee.

The opening prayer was given by Jim Smith, Chaplin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Lee explained to the membership that an injunction and lawsuit was to be filed this morning (July 16) by our legal advisor, Clyde Keenan. Prior to this morning there was a commitment from the fire and police associations that they were "all in" with ACRE, however, Clyde Keenan was informed by the fire and police attorney's that were backing off of their support.

Michael Williams, president of the MPA explained to the ACRE members that MPA and the firefighters were backing off of participating in the injunction and lawsuit because they began negotiations for a settlement of the healthcare issues and their participation would stop all negotiations with the city. He said that several members of the council have agreed to refer the current issues to the Healthcare Oversight Committee which meets on July 29th. The police and fire associations will wait and see what happens then.

Mike Lee reminded the membership of the function of the City Council Healthcare Oversight Committee. It was created to review and vote on any changes to employee and retirees healthcare, and then present it to the full council for consideration. He further pointed out that the city did not present their proposal to the oversight committee before finalizing it and presenting it to the council for a vote.

Mike Lee asked the membership, by a show of hands, if they wanted ACRE to wait until after the July 29th Healthcare Oversight Committee meeting before our injunction and lawsuit is filed. The show of hands was overwhelmingly in favor of waiting.

The balance of the meeting was a question and answer session from the audience. No one from the audience spoke out against waiting for the July 29th meeting.

At the conclusion of the Q & A session the Memphis City Employee Credit Union treated the members to lunch. Jim Smith, Chaplin, offered the closing prayer.

It should be noted that the number of retirees present was estimated to be in excess of 500.

John M. Johnson
Secretary