



451 West Street
Amherst, MA 01002-2995
Tel: 413/253-4351
Fax: 413/253-4375

FEAWM
Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 24, 2007
USDA-NRCS
Amherst, MA

Present: Ronald Grzelak, SSA Holyoke; Linda Repasky, USFWS; Patrick DeFalco, SSA Holyoke; David Mendoza, Barnes ANG; Douglas Loux, SSA Holyoke; Diane Petit, USDA-NRCS; Joseph McDanel, Westover Air Reserve Base; David Levin, Executive Director

Minutes: The February 21, 2007 minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

Executive Director's Report: David met with Ron to discuss the development of the responsibilities of the Executive Director. David has met with the Activities and Federal Relations Committees.

Treasurer's Report: Balance in the accounts as of April 18, 2007 was \$8951.37. The treasurer's report was accepted as written.

Committee Updates

Activities - The committee met to plan the annual picnic. The picnic will be held at Nonotuck Park in Easthampton on June 9, 2007 starting at noon. The flyer has been developed and will be going out to agencies in the near future. The cost will remain the same at \$8.00 per person or \$20.00 per family. We will once again sponsor a "Best Pie" contest. Last year we had approximately 35 attend and our goal is to increase this to 50 this year. In addition to the support of the VA Employee Association, we will have the support of the Barnes Food Services Section in preparation of salads and desserts.

Awards - David Tuttle was out of town and could not attend the meeting. The chair will contact him to insure the committee is on target for this year's Awards Program.

Education - It was reported that we have met the required number of participants to support the pre-retirement seminars scheduled for May 15-16, 2007. We hoped to have approximately 250 attend but should have between 150 - 160 attend. A list of participants will be provided to Westover Security prior to the seminars.

Federal Relations - The committee met to develop a charter and set goals for the coming year. The committee will meet monthly. Priority agenda items will be the establishment of a regularly scheduled briefing/meeting with the local congressional representatives; exploring and recommending ways of increasing participation in the FEAWM by agencies and recommending potential coordinating functions the FEAWM may wish to consider, i.e. CFC and disaster planning/coordination.

Board Nominating Committee - The nominating committee is asking for individual names for potential board members. They plan to meet and make recommendations for new Board members for vote at the May 24th meeting.

Pay and Benefits - The Albany group is moving along. They were informed they needed to submit their proposal for locality pay prior to the end of July. The fact that they are the state capital and have approximately 3,000 federal employees in Albany County may support Albany in becoming a separate pay area. They have requested the assistance of Jeff Anliker and he has agreed to consult with them. We will be considering revising our proposal for Berkshire County and re-submitting it in July. Westover is moving forward with its pay proposal.

Website and PR - There is a scheduled meeting for May 2nd. Website and newsletter development in addition to the server will be agenda items.

General Discussion

With Michael O'Reilly relocating to Connecticut, the Board discussed the appointment of a new treasurer. Jeff Anliker has indicated he would be willing to serve in that capacity. The board unanimously supported Jeff as treasurer with the chair to serve as backup. Appropriate bank paperwork will be completed and submitted. It was recommended that we look into more flexible accounts to invest our funds in rather than the CD we currently have.

It was recommended we devote our next board meeting as a retreat to develop ideas and goals for the FEAWM. It was suggested that David Levin contact Kim Ainsworth, Executive Director of the Boston Federal Executive Board to see if she would like be the facilitator of this meeting. The retreat would be on June 19th between 10-2. David will contact Kim and request her participation.

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 19, 2007 at NRCS in Amherst. The next full committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2007 at NRCS in Amherst. The guest speaker will be Mr. Kurt Czarnowski, Regional Communications Director, SSA and the topic will be Social Security and the Federal Employee.

Recorded by: David Levin