



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

**FEAWM
Board Meeting
August 15, 2007
FSA Conference Room
Amherst, MA**

Present: Ron Grzelak, Patrick Defalco, SSA; Linda Repasky, USF&WS; Jeff Anliker, David Levin, FEA; Joe McDanel, WARB; Diane Petit, Karen Regish, USDA-NRCS.

Minutes: The minutes from the June 19, 2007 Board meeting were approved as written.

Treasurers Report: Balance in the account as of June 19, 2007 was \$8,838.28. The treasurer's report was accepted as written.

Committee Updates:

Activities: No new report. They are working on a fall to early winter bowling activity for this year.

Awards: The committee reviewed 43 nominations for this year's awards. Approximately 15 nominees were changed to a different category. David Tuttle notified the nominees of the category change. Award plaques have been ordered.

Sponsors for this year's awards program thus far are Hanscom Air Reserve Base, Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Connecticutare, Greater Boston Federal Executive Association and Westover ARB. The deadline for sponsors is August 31st.

Color Guard will be present. The committee is still looking for a guest speaker for the event. Suggestions were to contact Alan Blair.

Linda suggested that the judging committee meet with the awards committee to go over problems with criteria for award selection. A suggestion was to totally revamp the criteria for awards for next year. The board will look into doing this and sending out criteria suggestions to David Tuttle sometime in April.

Education: Ron commented that the committee is looking into doing another retirement seminar in the spring. David suggested polling agencies to find a common problem that we could research doing a seminar on. Linda suggested a stress management or résumé writing course. Patrick suggested that it be called a Promotion Opportunities Seminar or Character Building and Intercommunication Skills Seminar.

A suggestion was made to start spending some of the money in the FEA account to hire outside speakers for these seminars. A comment was to ask GBFEB on how they handle hiring outside people for their seminars.

The board suggested not doing a retirement seminar every year and to look for new educational trainings.

Federal Relations: The next meeting is schedule for Monday August 20th. Letters were sent out to the Congressional Staff asking for their support of the Berkshire Locality pay proposal in October. The committee would like to stress to the Congressional Staff that Western Massachusetts has over 8,000 Federal Employees. This makes a huge impact on the economy in the state.

Pay and Benefits: Patrick commented that a package was sent to the Federal Salary Council on locality pay for Berkshire County. Patrick will travel to Washington, DC to testify on behalf of Berkshire County. We are asking to be added to the Hartford locality pay area.

Patrick stated that the committee focused on answers to last years problems in the proposal. He said that Albany has requested to be included in the Bureau of Statistics Wage Survey. Patrick suggested to Albany that they go to DC to testify. A motion was made that the FEA pay for Patrick to travel to DC to testify. The motion was unanimously approved.

Website/Public Relations: Diane is preparing a media advisory for the awards event in September. She is going to schedule a teleconference for the next committee meeting.

Diane will be purchasing a table top exhibit for the FEA. The price will be approximately \$700. A suggestion was also made to purchase a table skirt with the FEA logo on it.

Executive Directors Report: David announced that Kim Ainsworth of the GBFEB will no longer be funded by the EPA Agency. She will be doing EPA work.

Regarding the future of the FEAWM, David suggested that board discuss future goals or create a separate committee to come up with a strategic plan for FEAWM future. This could be done at an interim board meeting. David will send out an email suggesting different dates that this could be done.

October 1, 2007, the new officers take rein.

Next board meeting will be held in October at 8:00 a.m. Date and place to be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Recorder: Karen M. Regish