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**FEAWM**  
**Full Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 24, 2007**  
**USDA-NRCS**  
**Amherst, MA**

**Present:** Ron Grzelak, Patrick Defalco, Doug Loux, SSA, Holyoke; Jeff Anliker, David Levin; Linda Repasky, USF&WS; Rene Squiers, MEPS; David Mendoza, Barnes Air National Guard Base; Joe McDanel, WARB; Sandra Adams, USDA-FSA; Mary Dowling, VA; Karen Regish, USDA-NRCS; Kurt Czarnowski, Director SSA, Regulatory Communications.

The meeting opened at 8:15 with introductions.

**Minutes-** The minutes from the March 26, 2007 Full Membership meeting were approved as written.

**Treasurers Report-** Jeff reported that the treasurers account was currently at \$9,263.02. The report was accepted as written.

**Executive Directors Update:** David reported that the next board meeting to be held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at USDA-NRCS from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. will focus on the directional purpose of the FEA. Kim Ainsworth from the GBFEB and Mike Walsh, Facilitator at the VA Medical center will aid the group in a focus on goals for the future. Lunch will be provided.

**Speaker:** Kurt Czarnowski, Regional Communications Director from the Social Security Agency, spoke on Social Security issues, retirement, CSRS, & FERS. He also left handouts on Medicare, Social Security Benefits, Medicaid, Medicare, Survivors Benefits, Windfall Elimination Provision, and Government Pension Offset. He explained that the updated social security benefits now counts earning per year and converts them to credits and not quarters. For a person to be able to collect under the social security system, he or she must earn 40 credits in their lifetime. He explained that one a person reaches their full retirement age, there is not income earning limitation. If you are not at full retirement age, however, there is an income limit of \$12,960.

**Activities-** Patrick reported that the 3r Annual Federal Employees Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 9, 2007 at Nonotuck Park in Easthampton. Tickets for the picnic are \$8.00 per person or \$20 per family. The notice of the picnic is posted on the FEAWM website.

**Awards-**Nomination packets were sent out in May. They included 13 categories of awards with the criteria remaining virtually the same as last year. This year's event will be held at the Log Cabin Restaurant on September 27, 2007.

**Education-**Doug reported that the education program on retirement that was held in May went very well. About 170 people attended. He received all positive feedback from the seminar. Feedback was to have a retirement seminar once a year, with the possibility of Steve Marder returning again. The committee is looking for new members for next year.

**Federal Relations-** The federal relation committee held two meeting. They developed a charter that was brought to the board and approved. The committee is also working on an information booklet to be developed for each agency that would be presented to congressional members at their meetings.

**Pay and Benefits-**Reported that they will be holding a teleconference with the Albany FEA to discuss locality pay for their area to included Berkshire County.

**Website/PR-** The website committee will be asking the board for money to purchase a display board that they would use at different government events. They would also like to purchase pens or pencils with the FEAWM website on them. The committee will be asking the board if they would look into another web server to host the FEAWM site so that everyone on the committee will have access to it.

**Election of new officers:** The nominating committee presented the new members to the board slate as follows:

Mary Dowling, FEAWM Chairperson  
Joe McDanel, Vice Chairperson  
Linda Repasky, Member  
David Mendoza, Member  
Patrick Defalco, Member

Jeff Anliker will remain as treasurer. The new officers were approved by all members and will take their new seats in October of 2007.

Next full membership meeting will be held on June 19, 2007. The next board meeting will held on June 29, 2007 from 10:00 to 2:00 pm, lunch included. It will focus on the new goals of the FEAWM.

Recorder: Karen M. Regish