

May 1, 2008

The May meeting of the Amherst Teachers' Association was called to order by President Scott Pecze. Holly Miller-McGuire moved to accept the April minutes. The minutes from the previous month were accepted as submitted. Lisa Misson gave the treasurer's report. See attached.

The insurance report was given. The committee is trying to figure out how to serve the majority of people and to keep our premiums at the lowest level. We will let everyone know when Medical Mutual has updated the computers. We are hoping it will be in June sometime. It will no later than July 1.

LPDC-The committee is making some minor changes. Because the committee set-up is a negotiated item, we will make a proposal to change the number of meetings.

Social-The spring get-together was a blast. People enjoyed Scorchers, the food, and the place itself. It may become the new place.

Old Business-403B regulations-The IRS is saying the 403Bs need to be overseen in a better way. Shirley is willing to be involved with this undertaking. All of the carriers need to agree on an information sharing agreement. If a provider is not willing to take part, payroll deduction will not be possible. You will have to do it on your own. The company and the board office will be privy to both sides. This goes into effect January 1, 2009.

Shupe-A copier was ordered TODAY. Wahoo!

New Business-We have always had an increase in premiums. Depending on each insurance company, the month of payment has varied. Mr. Cato, the insurance man, has suggested that we change back to July. Because of some large upcoming claims, our premiums could be raised substantially if we wait until January, our present month of payment. If we change to July, we may avoid the claims, as they are expected to be filed in between July and January.

The Fun for Children in Public Education (the old EPAC) will be up and coming by September. You will have the opportunity to donate by payroll deduction.

Holly Miller-McGuire moved the meeting be adjourned. Wendi Lowe seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned. Those in attendance were: Scott Pecze, Holly Miller-McGuire, Lisa Misson, Jennifer Henry, Suzanne White, Laura Brogan, Heather Large, Sue Schneider, Johana Bierek, Steve Latto, Wendi Lowe, Stephanie Boggs, Lisa Jeskie, Deanna Walther, and Kim Obbey.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Gambish, secretary

Tidbits

Andrea Clark, second grade teacher, and her husband, Casey, are expecting a baby in September. Congratulations!

Matt, the speech therapist at Shupe, and Marybeth DeMooy have a new baby girl, Ava. Best wishes to you.

Nancy Campana, fourth grade teacher at Harris, suffered a brain aneurism on April 17th. She is home and getting better everyday.

Our very own social chairman, Lisa Schenk, really did an outstanding job organizing our dinner party. No details were overlooked. Following a delicious dinner, we all heard complimentary remarks about our retirees.

First of all, Suzanne White introduced Bob Boynton and presented him with a lovely gift from ATA. It is a picture of the Lorain Lighthouse and is engraved with words of thanks.

Heather Large saluted Barb Guzik. The words of praise and thanks were moving to say the least. Barb is very much appreciated by her co-workers and has served as an adored mentor. As only Barb can, a classy short thank you was made.

Joe Mullen shared stories about Jan Young. Those of us who know her would agree that while she has a dry sense of humor, the children love her desperately. We know children are very intuitive. They know her and trust her. For some of us older people, Jan said it was just yesterday when she was honoring Esther Johnson at Spring Lake!!

Robbie DiFilippo and Lisa Volzer shared the many laurels of Kathy DeFranco. With nearly her entire family present, remarks were made about Kathy's natural caring of other staff members. One can see how loving she is. I know she will be remembered fondly. She thanked her co-workers for their support through difficult times, which I am sure she has returned a thousand times.

Lisa Jeskie and Deanna Walther proudly spoke of Renee VanderWyden. I loved when Renee said that she is so proud to say she is a teacher in Amherst. She reminded us to pay close attention to the presidential candidates and their stands on "No Child Left Behind."

Jeanie Balukas honored Simone Gall. Simone has served in many capacities in this area, but she holds teaching near and dear to her heart. She spoke openly and freely about a teacher's relationship with students. "Show them you are human," Simone said. "They need to know you are human." Those are words we must not forget.

I truly think that the ATA retirement dinner is a wonderful way of showing our gratitude to our teachers and of enjoying each others' company. We are very thankful for our retiring teachers, who they are, and what they stand for.

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy summer. Take time to enjoy yourselves. Share special times with friends. Hold your kids a little longer.