**Retiree Fall Meeting Minutes**

September 8th, 2009

The semi-annual retiree’s meeting was held at the APWU hall on Tuesday, September 8th, 2009. Thirty-four members/spouses attended with socializing at 10 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by President Barb Versteegh with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Midge Slater, an organizer for Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans, was the guest speaker. The Alliance is a political action group made up of retired union members with the goal of making sure the voice of America’s retired population is heard. Some of the senior citizens concerns which the Alliance are now or have in the past supported are:

Not Privatizing Social Security

Government-Run Health Care including improvements to Medicare

Savings on the cost of Prescription Drugs

Affordable Long-Term Care Costs

Keeping Senior’s Standard of Living Up

Seniors Living Below the Poverty Line

Income Tax on Pensions

Property Tax Breaks for Low-Income Seniors

The cost to belong to the Alliance is $10 for individuals and $125 for our size group per year. Their web site is www. retiredamericans.org.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The treasure’s report was read and approved. The financial records of the chapter were reviewed by Trustees - Lloyd Weems, Ralph Crowell, and Harold Noland who found everything to be in order.

No safety report was given.

Legislative Report was given by Robin Arnold. Our local has formed a committee to fight the closing Post Offices and branches and cutting days of delivery. Robin noted HR658 deals with closing Post Offices which is different from closing branches of a Post Office. We are urged to contact our congressmen to keep the 6-day delivery.

Sen. Harkin has signed on to HR 235/S484 to eliminate GPO/WEP for CSRS retires.

Other bills discussed were:

H.R. 22 would allow the Postal Service to pre-fund future retiree health plan rates. Postmaster Potter refused to make the payment on September 1, 2009.

H.R. 958 is the FERS Sick Leave Equity Act that would allow FERS employees to receive credit for their sick leave just like CSRS employees.

H.R. 2161 would nullify certain regulations the Bush Administration changed on FMLA

President Barb announced an option on the APWU web site that will automatically send letters to your congressmen at APWU.org.

All retirees were invited to attend the APWU picnic on September 20th.

Old Business - In the previous meeting we had voted to buy the union hall a new dishwasher. Jon Arnold requested that we redirect the motion on the dishwasher to the installation of a basement slop sink. A motion was made by Bob Lang to redirect the $500 to install the slop sink. Lloyd Weems seconded it and the motion passed.

New Business – Lloyd Weems made a motion that our chapter join Alliance for Retired Americans. It was seconded by Bob Lange. The motion passed.

President Barb brought up what should be done with the one dollar increase in dues that is returned to the local. Lloyd Weems made a motion the one dollar be used for organization to encourage new retirees and old retirees who are not members to join. The motion was seconded and passed.

Jon Arnold said the cost of mailing the union paper had gone up and asked if the retirees could pay part of the postage cost. Harold Noland made a motion that we pay the postage costs for the union papers that are mailed to retired members only. The union would still pay the postage cost for retirees that are no longer members. The motion was seconded and passed.

Door Prizes - $25 HyVee gift certificate -- Jo Vonk $15 HyVee gift certificate -- Charlie Mathis

The next meeting will be held May 11, 2010.

Motion was made to adjourn at 11:40.

A delicious pork lunch was served.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Alexander, Secretary