
Newsletter

Words From the Prez

Pete DeRosa

The SWRA kicked off 2010 with a well attended and interesting general membership meeting. We discussed the plans for the year, including the social calendar and the speakers for our meetings. A full list and schedule of the events can be found on our website.

One of the discussions held at the meeting dealt with our retiree insurance. To address the issue of inconsistencies of how our health insurance is administered and questions answered, we have formed two teams. One is focused on the CBS retiree insurance program (Al Forlano and myself), the other on the Siemens retiree insurance program (Sharon McIlhenney and Heiner Moers). We hope to establish a better line of communication and support within the respective corporations. At this time, we have had some very preliminary discussions with CBS about this. Hopefully our efforts will pay off in putting a support process in place to assist our members to better understand their coverage and resolve issues.

Finally, it appears that this year will be a very interesting one in another very important way. The national midterm elections will dominate the world of politics. The impact of legislation, either passed or not passed, will be felt for generations to come. Each of us will be saddled with the question, "What have I done to make my voice heard and to affect the outcome?"

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on **April 13th**.

Secretary's Report **Sharon McIlhenney**

Welcome retirees to 2010! This month's meeting was held in Quad I Cafeteria. However, the next three meetings for 2010 will be in Quad II Cafeteria. Our President, Pete DeRosa, opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. with some introductory/general remarks about the Agenda (Guest Speaker, Special Events, Upcoming

Speaker Topics, Upcoming Financial Seminar, Habitat Project, Treasurer's Report, and General Discussion).

Ben Wolfe from Siemens Energy presented a Siemens business update... Thank you Ben for a very interesting update on the state of the business.

Pete introduced new members Rose Gregorio and Rick Antos.



New member Rose Gregorio with Bill Nygren

Ish Aneja covered a list of six special events the association has proposed for 2010 ranging from a major league baseball game in March to a picnic, air show, casual dinner, and a holiday party. Throughout the year, we look forward to as many of our retirees participating in these events as possible.

George Baker talked about last year's successful financial seminars and that they are planning to offer additional classes in March at St. Stephen's location.

Tom Finnimore spoke about a special SWRA service project with Habitat for Humanity in Seminole County. This is a good opportunity to do things as a semi-social group.

Joe Pankowiecki provided a Treasurer's Report.

Afterwards, the meeting was opened to a general discussion. The subject of healthcare related issues was brought up. The association has tried using

facebook as a blog, but it is not widely accessed by retirees. The association will look at other ways to possibly assist retirees with gathering information on costs and alternatives for Pre-Medicare, Post-Medicare options. One of the members even mentioned the possibility of bringing someone in from the Benefits Access Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. **The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. in Quad II Cafeteria.**



Members listen to Ben Wolfe's discussion



Look...Even Al Forlano (center) attended

Treasurer's Report Joe Pankowiecki

The Association is pleased to welcome new member **Rose Gregorio**.

vinrose1063@embarqmail.com

Our membership currently stands at 236. The checking account balance is \$5521.54.

An audit committee consisting of Dick Countess, Tom Lane, and Heiner Moers was selected at the January general membership meeting. The committee will audit the Association's 2009 financial records and report its findings to the membership at the April meeting.

Email reminders were sent to notify members that 2010 dues are due in January. Thanks to the 136 members who have already paid.

Those who have not yet sent in their dues are asked to write a check for \$10 payable to the **Siemens Westinghouse Retirees Association** and send it to:

Joe Pankowiecki
1081 Nodding Pines Way
Casselberry, FL 32707-5915

Also please notify Joe Pankowiecki of any change to your email or postal mailing address so that we can maintain an accurate membership directory.

If you know a retiree who is not a member of the Association, encourage them to join. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website, www.SiemensWestinghouseRetirees.org. Those interested can also contact me for a form or to answer any membership questions.

Social Events

Ish Aneja

Planning for an active social calendar was discussed during the meeting. Here are several ideas that we will pursue...

March 13, 2010...TICO Air Show at the Space Coast Regional Airport Titusville

March 24, 2010...Major League Baseball Game (2008 World Champion PHILLIES vs. Braves)

May, 2010...Spring Picnic

September, 2010...Casual Fall Dinner

December, 2010...Holiday Party

TBD...Social Mixer with Future Retirees

As details are firmed up you will be informed at the meetings, through the newsletter, by email and the SWRA web site.

Did You Know...

It is not unusual for one to wonder how to get involved with an organization to make a difference or to contribute to society. Well, here is an opportunity that can be fun for the entire family thanks to Walt Disney World.

You can help Disney Parks celebrate the spirit of volunteerism this year and be a part of the one million people who are making a difference. **Give a day, Get a Disney day** is a program where you can get a one day pass to a Disney Park for a day you give to a local charity. For terms and conditions and to sign up, just visit www.disneyarks.com.

Follow Up... Habitat for Humanity

After a little phone tag with Gayle Horner from Habitat we settled on Wed. Feb. 17th for the first work day by the SWRA volunteers. The Seminole Habitat has just broken ground on 2 houses and we will help during the construction and have some social fun doing it. So far about a dozen members have expressed an interest in helping and if you wish to come please contact Tom Finnimore at tom19913@gmail.com. More details will be sent to the volunteers next month.

Financial Seminar George Baker

As a result of the very positive reaction to the Financial Seminar that SWRA sponsored last October, we are offering this 4 part course again on **March 1, 8, 15 and 28**. It is open to all members and their spouses.

The course will be taught by Mr. Craig Townsend and Mr. Chris Bordner who have been guest speakers at a number of our Investment Group meetings the past 4 years. This course is also taught by them at local universities.

The classes will be held in the Conference Center of St Stephens Church located at 575 Tuskawilla Road in Winter Springs. Classes will run from 9:30am to noon. A charge of \$30 per single person or per couple

Reminder...

The next membership meeting is **9:30, Tuesday, April 13th**, in **Quad 2** cafeteria. Mark your calendars now!!! Our speaker will be Mike Revac to discuss Siemens wind power turbines.

Minds are like parachutes...they only work when they are open.

will cover the cost of the notebook text each couple or single person will receive. Since the books have to be ordered in advance, please advise George Baker (gbaker6335@cfl.rr.com) by email as soon as you can with the names of those who plan to attend.

The course is geared towards retirees like us and is of significant value to spouses who will gain a basic knowledge in all the key areas of personal finance. If you would like to speak to someone who attended the last session send me an email and I will provide the contact information

Spouses are strongly encouraged to attend. They tend to be the biggest benefactors.

The four modules presented on consecutive Monday mornings from 9:30am to noon are:

Financial Basics
Retirement Income
Investments
Risk Management and Estate Planning

Gardeners Listen Up...

Master Gardeners of Seminole County is sponsoring a **Garden Walk** on Sunday, May 16, 12 pm to 5 pm. We are looking for interesting gardens in Seminole County for the 2010 Garden Walk.

Please send photos of your yard or garden to gardenwalk@gmail.com or call the University of Florida Extension Office 407-665-5556.

Deadline for entries is February 20.

Obituaries

Bob Zigmont passed away on January 18th. Condolences can be sent to **Marie** at...

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