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## Newsletter

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### Words From the Prez

**Pete DeRosa**

Those of you who attended our July meeting got to hear Florida State legislator Dean Cannon, Representative for State District 35, speak on the energy challenges facing the state. He also took the opportunity to answer our questions and give us some insights into other legislative issues that affect us all. An added bonus to the meeting was hearing Craig Weeks, CEO of Siemens Fossil Power Generation Service, give us an update of that part of the business as he introduced our speaker. Special thanks goes to SWRA member Jack Kern for getting us access to Mr. Cannon.



Picture from the 7/13 meeting...**Pete DeRosa** (l), Rep. **Dean Cannon** (c), **Craig Weeks** (r)

During the discussion, Representative Cannon asked how many of us had contacted an elected official recently and voiced an opinion on a legislation issue or concern. Of the approximately fifty people present, about a half dozen raised their hands. Though the speaker applauded the group on that above average response, it gave me something to reflect upon and share with you. Could it be that only ten percent or less of constituents make their elected officials hear their opinions and input? Given the upcoming local, state and national elections, as well as the so many important pivotal issues we face, I find that both

disappointing and scary. Today, there are many very easy ways to enter the process of governing ourselves. You can use the internet, the phone, or pen and paper to have a voice that is punctuated by your vote. Don't take this right for granted. Your voice is power. Be heard.

Thanks to Charlie Sloan, Al Forlano, Tom Radkevich, Tom Finnimore, Augie Bugge and Dave Berrong for participating in a July Q&A Seminar for future retirees at Siemens. This first of two parts focused on the long term retirement planning in the areas of health care, financial planning, growing in retirement and family considerations. The second part of this will take place next month.

With only one more general membership meeting remaining this year, keep an eye on our website and your email for up-to-date information on upcoming events. I hope to see you at one our next events. Remember, your input, feedback and participation is always welcome.

### Secretary's Report **Sharon McIlhenney**

This month's meeting was held in Quad II Cafeteria. Since coffee and donuts are provided for each meeting, there is always a good reason to come a little early for camaraderie before the meeting starts at 9:30 a.m.

Just a reminder of the standard procedure for all our meetings in Quad II: All retirees must sign in at the security desk upon entering Quad II to receive a numbered guest badge which must be turned in at the end of the meeting. Remember that we must also be escorted by a current Siemens employee if we are to enter any other buildings in the Siemens complex.

Our President, Pete DeRosa, opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with some introductory/general remarks about the Agenda (Guest Speaker, SWRA Bylaw

Update, United Healthcare Class Action, Board Elections, Treasurer's Report, Upcoming Social Events and Photo Journal, and General Discussion).

At 9:35 a.m., Pete introduced Craig Weeks to introduce our very special guest speaker, State Representative Dean Cannon, District 35 (Orange County). First, Dean told us a little bit about himself, and if you wish to know more (especially if you are in District 35) check out his website at [www.deancannon.com](http://www.deancannon.com). If Representative Cannon is re-elected to serve District 35, he will also serve as Speaker of the House for his last term in office. Representative Cannon is working hard for stronger schools, lower taxes, more affordable healthcare, and a vibrant and growing Central Florida economy. He believes common sense, conservative leadership is the key to keeping our community strong and making it even better. He continues to be a strong advocate in Tallahassee on the issues that matter the most to us and continues to work hard to make government more accountable to you, the taxpayer.

At 10:25 a.m. Jim Polacheck covered the proposed By-Laws update where we have added Siemens retirees, associate memberships for spouses of deceased members, clarifications, term limits, and interfaces with Siemens Company. The by-laws are also being updated to cover electronic communication. More information will be provided at October's meeting and members will vote on the changes. You can see the proposed changes on the SWRA website...under 'Important Documents'

Jim also gave us more information on the United Healthcare Class Action Lawsuit which covers the years of 1994 to 2009. If you were covered by UHC during those years, more information can be obtained from Berdon Claims Administration, LLC at 1-800-443-1073 or [www.berdonclaims.com](http://www.berdonclaims.com). We have also included this on the retirees' facebook discussion page.

At 10:46 a.m. Joe Pankowiecki gave the Treasurer's Report and also indicated that six positions on the Board were up for renewal. The Secretary position on the Board currently held by Sharon McIlhenney is OPEN and nominations are being requested. **"The Secretary shall be custodian of all non-financial records of the Association and record**

**the minutes of all meetings, be able to produce a copy of the By-Laws, notify the Board members of all meetings, handle all correspondence of the Association and assist the President with correspondence. The Secretary will keep a copy of the register of the members, addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers".** Please notify any one of the Board members if you would like to be considered for this position.

At 10:47 a.m. Tom Finnimore briefed the members on the recent Habitat for Humanity Project that a several dozen retirees participated in. Although the organization is not building any new homes at this time, they will be refurbishing two homes (one in Oviedo and one in Sanford). If you might be interested in helping out, check the website or let Tom know.

At 10:50 a.m., Ish Aneja talked about the social event being planned for September 16 (dinner at Seasons 52) and December 2 (holiday party). We were then treated to a powerpoint show of the scenic places Ish and family visited on a trip to the Southwest region of India in February/March.

The meeting was then opened for a general discussion and feedback by all members present. Pete DeRosa also mentioned that some of the Board members would be participating in an upcoming information session at Siemens for future retirees.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 12, at 9:30 a.m. in Quad II Cafeteria.**

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Joe Pankowiecki**

The Association is pleased to welcome the following new members:

**Richard Lane**

[richlacrosse@yahoo.com](mailto:richlacrosse@yahoo.com)

**William (Ted) Dawson**

[tteds99miata@aol.com](mailto:tteds99miata@aol.com)

**Bill Trappen**

[bill19678@aol.com](mailto:bill19678@aol.com)

Membership in good standing is currently at 229. The checking account balance is \$5348.81.

To date, 95% of the membership have paid their 2010 dues which were payable in January. In accordance with our bylaws, membership has been suspended for anyone who has not paid current year dues by June 30.

Please notify Joe Pankowiecki of any change to your email or postal mailing address so that we can maintain an accurate membership directory and keep you informed of Association activities.

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](http://www.SiemensWestinghouseRetirees.org). Those interested can also contact me for a form or to answer any membership questions.

### **A Call for Member Input      Pete DeRosa**

We cannot escape the often too frequent notice that a fellow SWRA member has passed away. In many of those instances there is a surviving spouse or family member who has lost a more than loved one. That person may have also lost a trusted confident who shared the burden of many issues around the home. Once mundane issues like knowing how to maintain an auto, fix a sprinkler head, or knowing who to call when a leak in the roof is spotted become more significant. More daunting, the surviving spouse may have lost the one person who knew how to navigate through the myriad of Westinghouse, CBS and Siemens benefits documents and organizations.

In recent conversations among several SWRA Board members, Dave Berrong suggested we put together a "Helping Hand" group within the SWRA to

### **Reminder...**

The next membership meeting is **9:30, Tuesday, October 12th**, in **Quad 2** cafeteria. Mark your calendars now!!! There will be a full agenda of topics to discuss.

When you don't know that you don't know it's a lot different than when you do know that you don't know.

offer assistance to those surviving spouses. That assistance might be as simple as fixing a leaky faucet, recommending a trusted roofer or assisting in getting help with an insurance claim. It is a concept that needs some development and structure, but one worth pursuing.

Over the next several months, the SWRA will be working on the concept in an effort to develop it into a working resource for those needing such advice or help. We should emphasize that this is currently just a concept and can only go forward if enough members step forward with both participation and leadership. We plan to discuss this at our next general membership meeting in October. If you are interested please step forward.

### **Social Events**

**Ish Aneja**

To increase interaction with members of our Association, we are going to have our First Casual Dinner get together at Season 52 restaurant located at 463 E. Altamonte Drive (in front parking lot of Altamonte Mall). It will be on **Thursday, September 16, 2010** starting at 6:30 PM. Hopefully we will get a separate room for our dinner gathering. Everyone will order from the menu and will be paying for whatever you order. We would like all spouses to participate in this event so that we all get to know each other better. Please mark your calendar for this event. More details will be coming in future newsletters and at our July General Body meeting.

### **Obituaries**

**Ron Warner** passed away on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Ron worked for Westinghouse for 38 years and was a manager in Design Engineering.

## Officers For 2010

<b>President</b>	Pete DeRosa	<a href="mailto:petederosa@cfl.rr.com">petederosa@cfl.rr.com</a>	407-359-1731
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