

Minutes for 10-18-2016 AFT2121R Chapter meeting

In attendance: Kim Lee, Jim McKinney, Renato Larin, Cliff Liehe, Denise Jindrich, Ann Killebrew, Ron Bixler, Gus Goldstein, Ann Marie Fleming, Doug Orr

Agenda:

- 1) Approve agenda
- 2) Approve minutes
- 3) Check-in
- 4) Reports: CalSTRS Board; CFT Climate committee
- 5a) End of semester party
- 5b) Financial Planning Workshops: add Golden Handshake, 403(b) Compare
- 6) Election work
- 7) Membership in chapter: review list, CalSTRS direct deduction
- 8) Other
- 9) Next meeting

Agenda and minutes were approved.

4) Reports:

- Doug reported on the CalSTRS board meetings. They are in the process of discussing a new set of “investment beliefs” to guide their investment policies. The CFT, CTA and other unions have been pushing to have them include a belief about aligning the interests of CalSTRS and those of the investment managers they hire. These could be as narrow as ensuring that the fees charged are not excessive (CalSTRS staff preference) to as broad as requiring that outside managers do not use the profits they get from CalSTRS to undermine public education and defined benefit pensions (our preference). Doug also reported on the Marin court case which challenges the “California Rule” that requires that a benefit of equal value be put in place for any additional cost imposed on members. The ruling in Marin is that only a “reasonable” benefit be maintained.
- Ann reported on the first meeting of the CFT Climate sub-committee. She reported that they met and were putting together a work plan.

5a) End of semester party: Pierre Coste does not want us to use the kitchen this year. Not sure why. Has never been a problem in the past. Jenny is the main organizer and we will be helping her.

5b) Planning workshops: There was an extended discussion of new topics and workshops.

- Several of the workshops were rearranged so that the presenters could remain in the same room all day.
- Gus agreed to do the “What I wish I had known” workshop again, but she requested other folks to help out.
- There was a discussion on whether to have a long-term care workshop, and if so, who should be the presenter. Ron suggested John Allen. Someone else suggested Brian Doyle (CFT field rep).
- Angie is on board for two sessions
- There was a long discussion about having a detailed part-timer issues session. Cliff pointed out the biggest problem with this is that the math details affecting PT pensions is so complicated, it is very difficult to do in a group session. At minimum, it would need a 2 hour session. If we do this session, Cliff recommended Deborah Dahl-Shank do the session at 1:15 and have it be open-ended.
- There was a long discussion about who to have as the lunch speaker. Ultimately we decided to invite Bob Bezemek, CFT lawyer, to speak on the importance of the Marin court case that creates an existential threat to all defined benefit pensions in CA.

- There was a discussion of having a session on the 403(b) plans being offered by CCSF in place of the session that used to be done by Zuk Financial, but we decided against this. In place of this, we decided to have another person from CalSTRS present on the newly upgraded 403(b) Compare website.
 - Kim has contacted Evelyn Tavisora about allocating flex credit for the workshops
 - We need to nail down all rooms and workshop titles by Dec. 2
- 6) Election work: several people have been doing phone banking and a couple people might go to Nevada to do canvassing.
- 7) Membership:
- Notices about renewals were sent out in June, but almost no one has renewed. This might be a problem with changing emails, but we need to do more to try to reach those who have not renewed.
 - CalSTRS will now do automatic dues deductions. This will reduce the hassle of constantly asking people to renew. All we need is their proper name and last four digits of their Social Security number. If we have this, we can forward it to CalSTRS.
 - We discussed the need to set up some sub-committees to handle membership issues. These could include committees to go over the CalSTRS contact list, a group to recruit new members and a group to follow-up with old members. This discussion was very late in the meeting and nothing concrete was resolved. This needs to be addressed more completely soon.
- 8) Other: Cliff asked about the plan to contact all new hires in person to talk to them about retirement issues. Jessica B. is working on a packet of materials concerning union issues to give to all new hires. We suspect this may have fallen by the wayside given everything else that is going on. Ann agreed to follow up with Jessica.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Orr