

RECOM

Retired Employees City of Mesa

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RECOM Executive Board

Message from the Board

Welcome Bill!

As my final act as Board member I get to introduce Bill Petrie who will help to guide RECOM for the next year along with Lin Adams, Kathy Barrett, Jo Ferguson, John Gendron, Frank Mizner, and Chuck Wennerlund.

I will crib liberally from the Boomer Profile that Bill wrote for the Mesa Republic on May 17, 2008 because “why reinvent the wheel?” – or Bill for that matter. After graduating from ASU, Bill worked in the Windy City for a while and then decided to come back to home turf.

He worked for the City of Mesa for twenty seven years in a variety jobs all related to planning. During that time, the City grew from 140,000 people to 450,000 so he had much to do with how the city looks now and became an expert in the planning process – from design review to building inspection.

Apparently 30 or so years in planning didn't slake Bill's thirst for more knowledge about the building and development process. After retirement in July 2005 he went back to school to look at it from the other perspective – the private sector.

Combining his experience with the City and his recent courses in real estate and property development he established a consulting firm to help business people whose expertise is in some other field but who need to erect a building through the process.

Lest you think Bill is one of those folks who can't do anything but work, he wants you to know that one of the best things he did was join the Mesa Rotary Club that gave him a chance to meet other folks who were helping out the community in a variety of ways – especially in the non-profit agencies. One he particularly likes and works with is Save the Family.

And to show how really dedicated he is, he chose to join RECOM and serve on our Board to help the City of Mesa retirees with their benefits issues and information.

He's been attending Board meetings so that he can be up to speed when he takes over in July. We're looking forward to his fresh perspective when he joins the Board for the annual retreat on July 3rd.

Barbara will continue to edit the newsletter and represent RECOM on the Employees Benefits Task force.

Speaker

Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa. Anyone remember their high school Latin class? Any Catholics out there? Roughly translated, it means: "Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault" and in the writer's experience it generally was associated with an activity that involved cleaning erasers, sweeping floors or scraping chewing gum off school desks.

Well, the Board wants to repeat that opening phrase to the members – especially those that might not have received the cancellation notice in time and drove all the way down to the meeting room for the May 16th meeting. The Fire Department was conducting tests for future firemen and needed the room -- but they had told us that last fall and the Board just plain forgot! I won't say we had a collective senior moment – but there you are – we're all seniors.....and we collectively forgot about the scheduling conflict

Imagine the Board standing in a straight line with palms outstretched waiting for the inevitable ruler to smack their palms. Even if you didn't go to Catholic school, I'll bet you saw "Late Night Catechism".

Seriously, our most sincere apologies for the cancelled meeting.

Pre-Retirement Seminar



If you've been retired for a few years, you may have been lucky enough to attend a pre-retirement seminar.

But the City hasn't done one in several years and the RECOM Board thought it might be a good service to active employees and a good way to let people know about our group. Success on both counts!



The registration table where Lin Adams handed out the packets of information to attendees.



It was a ½ day program held on June 4th in the auditorium of the City's Conference center. 114 people attended -- employees and spouses and the reviews were great.



Here's John Gendron welcoming the future retirees.

We want to thank Assistant City Manager Debbi Dollar for her help in providing the auditorium free of charge and providing access to employees through the intranet. And a sincere thanks to the supervisors who gave employees paid time off to attend. Kim West was most helpful with the refreshments and the reservations of the auditorium. Rick Moudy helped with details of AV equipment – always a big concern.



Barbara Jackson, with 30 years of working at Social Security, provides information on Social Security qualifying, benefits, and the filing process.



ASRS representative Rose Busse provided valuable information on the retirement process and options available.

Mike Melby of Cue Financial, - a very active speaker - wrapped up the seminar sharing thoughts on Investing in Turbulent Times



People found most of the information useful, and took the time to make thoughtful suggestions for improvements.

Are you one of those folks who just hates, **hates** those evaluation sheets at the end of a program? (Me too!) But apparently this program was so needed that we got a great number of responses back. And, for example, found out that people would actually pay a modest fee to attend this program. And, that more than half of the folks attending had never heard of RECOM. We even received a few thank you notes from attendees.



Jody Topping, as usual, got rave reviews for her succinct explanations of a decidedly convoluted topic. Thank you Jody!

Kathy Barrett, John Gendron, and Frank Mizner spearheaded this program and deserve kudos for its success and thanks for their hard work. One never knows how much work goes into one of these programs unless one has been involved in organizing such a soiree – well not technically a “soiree” – but I don’t know what you call a morning gathering. Any French scholars out there?

(Photos courtesy of Jo Ferguson)

Reports

Benefits Task Force

Donna reported that the trust fund remains at a healthy \$17 million dollars.

A number of Requests for Proposal (RFPs) for health care network are due during the month of June and will be reviewed by staff and management .

There may also be another RFP going out for vision care.

There was some discussion about dental benefits. City of Mesa's premiums are higher than some other Valley cities. This is due to a variety of reasons, one of them being that the City doesn't have a dental network – like we do for doctors and hospitals.

In general, the City never breaks even with the dental benefit. To save money, the city could join a dental network.

They are considering taking a poll in fall of 2008 regarding members' preferences. We'd all have to be educated about the pros and cons. One of those cons would be that we might have to change dentists if our dentist isn't in the selected network.

Meetings

Next meeting will be on **June 18th** at the usual place, in the community room of the fire station at 1st Street and Mesa Dr. 9:00AM.

Speaker: Judy Coleman, AAA – Topic: Travel in Arizona -- Bus tours, Guided tours, AAA Services.

July 16th meeting:

Speaker: Linda Burns , Hospice of the Valley – “Getting Your End-of-Life Directives in Order --- What you need, where to file and how to update your health care directives, living wills “ She will also discuss hospice care.

August 20th meeting:

Speaker: Matt Fehling, President & CEO of the Arizona Better Business Bureau, will present an overview of their activities with focus on consumer fraud, especially involving the elderly.

Announcements

The Board will conduct its annual half-day retreat on July 3rd. This is the time when the Board reviews the activities and accomplishments of the previous year and plans activities and programs for the upcoming year. Members are encouraged to submit program ideas or other suggestions to any board member at the next membership meeting, or email the editor at bseperich@aol.com. Signature is fine, but anonymous is OK too!