



**Veterans' Association
of the
Chicago & North Western Railway**



Organized December 9, 1924

Chicago Chapter Luncheon – September 22, 2012

114 members and guests attended the annual luncheon and reunion of the Chicago Chapter of the Veterans' Association of the Chicago and North Western Railway held on Saturday, September 22, 2012 at Elks Lodge 1526 in Des Plaines, Illinois. At 1:00 PM, Chapter President **Dave Svendsen** asked for a moment of silence for departed members and said a blessing on the meal.

The business meeting was dispensed with, it being explained that once elected to office there is no way out except to resign! There being no resignations, the present officers will remain - **David Svendsen**, President; **Mary Flynn**, Vice President and **Bob Guhr**, Secretary-Treasurer.

This year, everyone received a ticket good for a free drink. Members and guests have always been very supportive of our raffle and this support has enabled us to hold the price on the meal even though the cost has gone up, plus providing the funds for the free drink. THANKS, everyone. No guarantees for the future as that will depend on how well the treasury holds up.

An announcement was made about a relatively unnoticed provision in our Constitution providing Life Membership for members who have attained the age of 80 years and who have been members for at least 80 years or are totally disabled. This exempts them from further dues payments. A separate mailing was sent to qualifying members and those close to qualifying, informing them of this provision. Here is the specific paragraph from our Constitution:

Article III – Membership, Section 5: Life Membership: At the request of a Member, who has reached the age of eighty (80) years, and who has been a member of this Association for at least ten (10) years, or is totally and permanently disabled, he shall be furnished with a Life Membership card entitling him to all the privileges of an active member and be exempt from paying dues.

If you qualify, please don't hesitate to request this consideration from the General Secretary Treasurer.

Comments were made about the lack of the 2011 Annual Report and it was explained that there is a 2011 Annual Report, but it was not mailed to everyone because an error made by the General Secretary Treasurer. The annual year-end post card mailing, upon which you indicate your interest in receiving the report before returning the mailing, only went to members whose dues were in arrears. Those whose dues were current, which is the case for most of us, did not receive the mailing or the Annual Report. If you want one, you will have to request it from the General Secretary Treasurer.

Another change, which was not popular, was that we no longer collect national dues. This decision was made after the General Secretary Treasurer blamed the Chicago Chapter and me in particular for the Annual Report mix-up, stating that our collection of national dues at last year's luncheon caused the problem. There is no connection between these two activities so that "reason" makes no sense. We regret the inconvenience to our Chicago Chapter members.

The meeting wound up with the drawing for the door and raffle prizes. Sincere thanks to everyone who brought donations. There were quite a few of them and these contributions are sincerely appreciated. and went a long way to making the event a success.

Both our photographers were not available this year, one being on vacation and the other being on assignment for the Union Pacific Railroad. Again, our apologies.

Next year's luncheon will be on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at the Des Plaines Elks Lodge. We hope to see you there.

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