

Minutes of the 52nd Annual CNW Veterans of Florida Luncheon

The 52nd Annual Luncheon of the Florida Chapter of the C&NW Veterans Association was held on Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Downtown Historic Ft. Myers. There was a social hour from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm provided by Attorney Will Moody.

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Barden. Mr. Westphal led the group in prayer. All 85 members in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Barden introduced A. W. (Whitey) Westphal, Moody Law Retiree Representative, and Designated Council for NARVE (National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees). Mr. Westphal spoke to our members regarding the importance of being aware of efforts by certain members of Congress attempting to alter our Railroad Retirement Fund. This effort has been unsuccessful in the past, but all of us should keep watch should another attempt be made. If this happens again, we should contact our Congressmen and Senators.

Mr. Westphal told our members the 40th Biennial Convention for NARVE will be held May 15-17, 2016 in Union Station, St. Louis Missouri. Details can be found at NARVE.org. (This site also details the benefits of joining NARVE as well as the annual cost.)

The Florida Chapter wishes to thank Mr. Westphal for a very informative and humorous presentation.

Dianne Koppelman presented President Barden with a check for \$60.00. The General President of the C&NW Veterans, Curtis Schmidt, advised our Florida Chapter that for each dues paying member of each Chapter, \$2.00 would be sent to offset the cost of Chapter Luncheons.

The election of Officers for the CNW Veterans of Florida was held. President Dan Barden offered the group a list of nominees and asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were none. The following people took office:

- Nick Rendleman, President
- Rusann Schroeder, Vice President
- Patty Rendleman, Secretary/Treasurer

Thank you all for volunteering to take office for 2016. We wish you a successful year.

Our luncheon followed presented by the catering services of the Holiday Inn.

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The list of 85 attendees is below. We had extensive door prizes due to several wonderful donations by our members. Thank you all.

Alex and Lynn Amundson
Dan and Vicki Barden
Jon and Liz Berg
Tom and Susan Berry
Al and Pam Bertolani
Hank and Theresa Best
Carl and Carrie Biron
Ed and Paula Bjork
Lauren and Sandy Bockin
Tom and Lisa Coté
Jerry and Judy Dempsey
Jeff and Debbie Duris
Willie Digby and James Steele
Randy and Linda Ferguson
Doug and Lorie Freund
Tony Grippo
Jim and Anne Hansen
Steve Herzfeld
Bob and Sharon Hicks
Bill and Patty Highline
Mike and Christy Holinka
Joe and Bonnie Jarmy
Bud and Elaine Jason
Al and Carol Kawalek
Dori King
Dianne Koppelman
Marilyn Mahoney
Harry Meihnsner
Ric and Nancy Meihnsner
Bruce and Cheri Nachreiner
Tom and Jeri Olsen
Ginger Olson

Earle Overby and Terri Hult
Dennis Pilz
Andy Ragona
Nick and Patty Rendleman
Joseph Richart and Joan Weitzer
Dennis Savage
Curtis and Barbara Schmidt
Donald Scott
Jeff and Rusann Schroeder
Robert and Janet Stewart
Manny and Kathy Swikert
Ed Swingholm
Whitey Westphal
Roger Wilhelmi
Bill and Karen Wismeth
Jim and Jane Zorba

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Because of the horrid weather conditions in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic Coast and many flight cancelations, BJ and Sharon Jacobson, Jerry Mathey, and Joe Nolan were unable to make it to the Luncheon.

The 50/50 drawing was held and we had 3 winners.

\$100.00 each to Ed Swingholm and Andy Ragona, and \$25 to Dianne Koppelman.

The raffle for door prizes netted the Association \$392.00. Most in attendance were able to choose from the selection.

I would like to thank Dan Barden and Tom Olsen for their very valuable assistance. I couldn't have done it without you.

It has been a pleasure for Tom and me to serve as officers for the last three years. We wish much success going forward for all the new officers.

Respectfully submitted

Jeri Olsen

Former Secretary/Treasurer

Florida Chapter of the C&NW Veterans Association