

President's Message

John Schnittgrund

I'm happy that the pension problem seems to have been resolved. The City has hired Laura Hall to administrate the pension, both new and old hire. Many of you have received the census questionnaire and we have answered a few questions. The census is conducted each year by the FPPA. This is done to be sure that benefits are being properly paid. The City has completed this census for us in the past and this year Ms. Hall has asked that we fill out the information to make sure it is right and complete. Finally, some professionalism.

This past week we had our election of officers at White Fence Farm. After the monthlong nomination process the officers for 2019 are: John Schnittgrund- President; Dave Metzler-Vice President; Jennifer Pettinger-Secretary; Paulette Schnittgrund-Treasurer. The 2019 board includes Mark Chaffin, Glen Miller, Barb Miller, Lynne Mullen, Harry Queen, Sheryl Ventura, John Pettinger. The Audit Committee is Janice Queen, Charlotte Chaffin and JC Tyus.

This election of officers was our last at White Fence Farm. The restaurant is closing and we will have to change things up a little next year. This dinner was special and several of our members brought extra guests to this final dinner. If you were at the dinner, you may have noticed that a place was set for those retirees who have passed away and are no longer with us. This will be a permanent feature of our dinners in the future. Thanks to Janice Queen for setting the table.

The need for a peer support unit was discussed in past years and some training was provided. However, through the years, participation waned. This past year we have had a couple of incidents that indicate that there is still a need for some type of peer support intervention.

We have met with the Department Peer Support and Nicoletti and Associates to see if there was any way retirees could use the psychological services provided by the Department. The Department Peer Support Unit assured us that, if they are contacted, they will respond to any call they receive. The use of the psychological services is a different situation.

The Department of Safety pays for any psychological services needed by Police, Fire and Sheriff Depts from the Department of Safety budget. Services for retirees would necessarily affect that budget. We are intending to ask that services for retirees be considered when budgets are being formulated. Nicoletti Associates understands the need for services to retirees and they have said that reduced rates are available to retirees, should they be needed.

If you need the services of Nicoletti and Associates they might be covered by health insurance. We will continue to work on this benefit for retirees and will report on any progress we make.

It's that time of year when we start thinking of the 2019 roster book. We are well on the way to finalizing the book. Make sure you send your updates and make sure your dues are paid by Dec 31, 2018 to get your copy.

As always, we are looking for things to do and people to do them. If you have any ideas or want to get involved let us know.

I hope your Thanksgiving was eventful and we look forward to seeing you at the Christmas party Dec 8 at Potenza Hall.