

SOAR meeting
April 10, 2018
1:30 p.m.

President Jerry Redington called the meeting to order and the Roll Call of Officers was taken. All were present.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as read.

The Treasurer gave her report.

Jerry attended the VEBA trustee meeting by conference call on April 6, 2018. He reported that we have two trustees who represent us at the meetings and do an excellent job. The financial picture of the VEBA account is very good. We have very little in the stock market so we avoid the ups and downs of the value of stocks. Freedom Blue is for those retirees eligible for Medicare Part A and B. Blue Cross PPO is for those not eligible yet for Medicare. The contract was reviewed and we should be fine for the next few years. Prescription costs were discussed. The administrative report was that the age of recipients is gradually increasing as we all live longer. The tire plant in Mexico sells its tires overseas.

Pharmacies may charge the copay cost for pills even when the actual pills cost less than the copay. CVS says they can't charge more than the cost of the pill but others have found that they do charge more. It is best to question how much the prescription is without the copay and choose the cheaper cost.

Retirees meeting notices are put on Facebook each month thanks to Mary Gerloff.

The big news is that everyone on Medicare will receive a new Medicare card this year. Expect to receive it sometime this summer although you have about a year to get it. Your old card is still good until you receive it. Your Social Security number will be replaced with a new number that is safer. Once you receive your card by mail at no cost to you, you can destroy your old Medicare card. Medical personnel may ask to see your new card. It is safe to carry this card since it no longer has your Social Security Number. Be wary of scams. You may be told you must pay for this new card, or you need to share information, etc. Only your doctor and pharmacist will need to see the card.

Freedom Blue sent out a new medical card to about 2000 people. This was a mistake and you don't need the new card. The information should be the same as the card you have.

Harvey Wilhelms will talk to us about Freeport Toys in the near future.

The Asbestos program will be sending out letters in the next 5 weeks or so about the x-ray screenings.

We adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Walt, Secretary

PS: The Retiree Picnic will be June 12, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. Be there or be square!