



DSEA – Retired Newsletter

June 2008

DSEA-R ...The Commitment Continues

WEBSITE: www.dsea-r.org

DSEA-Retired Annual Meeting Held

The retirees held their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at Dover Downs. This meeting presented lots of information and this year was actually more packed than usual since DSEA-R has been making great strides in increasing membership.

The program for the meeting was as follows:

Greetings & remarks by

Norman Poole, DSEA-R President

Barbara Grogg, DSEA President,

Diane Donohue, current DSEA Vice President & incoming DSEA President

Presentations & reports were made by the following:

Stephen Smith, DSEA-R's computer & website "guru"

David Craik, Administrator, State of Delaware Pension Office

Barbara Bordley, Membership Committee

Rich Phillips, Communications Committee and New Castle Co. Representative

Dorothy Mack, Activities Committee

Jim Testerman, Legislative Committee and Kent County Representative

Sonya Brown, Treasurer's report

Linda Stigile, Election's Committee and Sussex County Representative



Throughout this newsletter you will find updates and highlights of reports from this meeting and Fellowship Breakfast.

Election results

Linda Stigile, Sussex County Representative and Elections chairperson, announced the following results for 2-year terms at the Annual Meeting:

Carla Pyle, Vice President

Delores Price, Sussex County Representative

Sonya Brown, Treasurer

Jim Testerman, Kent County Representative



Rich Phillips, New Castle County Representative

Membership Report shows increase

Barbara Bordley, Chair of the Membership Committee, proudly reported that DSEA-R has a total membership of 919, as of April's meeting. The numbers break down as follows: 39 pre-retired members, 279 annual payers, 599 retired life members.

Barbara also reported that the membership numbers have **doubled** from the year 2000. There were 455 members in 2000, 498 in 2001, 608 in 2002, 661 in 2003, 687 in 2004, 702 in 2005, 708 in 2006, 799 in 2007, 919 in 2008.

About your DSEA/DSEA-R Membership Card: Hold on to that card; it doesn't expire until 2009 and you will **NOT** receive a new one until then.



Lifetime members will be receiving their membership information (including your 2009 calendar) at the end of July or the beginning of August. Watch for it in the mail.

Annual-pay members or deduction members will be receiving their payment notices at the same time; your membership materials will be mailed to upon payment receipt.

Legislative Report: the good and bad

Jim Testerman filed the following report:

"I testified before the JFC (Joint Finance Committee), as I usually do, for our Legislative objectives. The administrator organization (DRSPA – Delaware Retired School Personnel Association) was present, introduced their members who were present, and said: 'We agree with Jim Testerman; are there any questions?' JFC members were very receptive and I left the committee meeting with the feeling that we would get a raise this year if at all possible. However, I have very little good news for you at our Annual Meeting this year. The Governor did include 15 million dollars in her budget for our fund to pre-fund medical (OEPB) benefits and the decision has been made not to increase medical benefits, fees and co-pays. This may all be out the window now as the JFC goes through the budget to cut many millions of dollars. There is almost no chance that we will get a pension increase this year or that active employees will get a raise unless revenue increases substantially. Agitating for a raise under current revenues predictions may only alienate legislators. We should try to keep the 15 million for the OEPB Fund but should realize that this may be a vain hope. I wish I had better news for you but this is all there is and all we can do is pray for increased revenue."



Jim added at the June 3rd Legislative Committee Meeting that \$1,786 had been donated by retirees to the Children's Advocacy Fund; 65 retirees donated. Thank you!

Committees are buzzing for you!



The Communications Committee and Membership Committee have been working together to increase the membership of DSEA-Retired. What was accomplished since the 2007 Annual Meeting is as follows: 3 newsletters, an updated retiree brochure, a survey for members and prospective members to complete, letters and presentation to the DSEA Council of Presidents and Executive Board, the DSEA-R website,

presentations to Winter Advocacy Retreat, ESP Conference and DSEA Rep Assembly. The Pre-Retirement Workshops were very popular, especially in New Castle County; we had 75 pre-retirees attend. Several people were turned away due to reaching capacity for the room.

2008-2009 budget presented to members

Sonya Brown, DSEA-R treasurer presented the following budget at the meeting.

o Income --	\$11,846.00
o Expenses --	
o Leaders travel & expenses	\$4,150.00
o Committee Travel	\$ 850.00
o Committee Programs	\$ 450.00
o Membership	\$ 750.00
o Communications	\$1,000.00
o Programs	\$2,450.00
o Operations	\$2,196.00

For a full, detailed report on the budget, please check the DSEA-R website.

Tammy reports additional benefits for DSEA & DSEA-R members

Tammy Wagner, DSEA Member Benefits Coordinator, shared lots of information about the many benefits now available to members. Some of these benefits are listed below; more information is available on the DSEA website. And to make it even more convenient, you can now **print** most tickets online (save your gas for your trip!)

Theme Park discounts (Busch Gardens, SeaWorld, Sesame Place, Water County, USA, Adventure Island); Morey's Pier's Splash & Ride; Six Flags Great Adventure with Safari; Clementon Amusement Park & Splash World; King's Dominion



Tammy also announced Access.com; this new online service provides savings for automotive, dining, health & beauty, recreation, travel, services, fashion, education, music & games, jewelry & accessories, golf, home & garden, gifts & flowers, shoes, electronics, retail outlets. Check out the Access site and the DSEA savings.

Another new service discount is Comfort Keepers ®. Discounts range from 2 to 11.8 percent. Their website is www.comfortkeepers.com.

If you like to eat, Super Suppers, located across from Christiana Hospital in Newark, offers specials for DSEA & DSEA-R members; their website is www.SSChristianaDE.com.



TicketsAtWork.com is also offering discounts to DSEA & DSEA-R members. The categories of nationwide amusement & entertainment attractions including Las Vegas performances, tours; *Cirque du Soleil*, movie tickets to AMC, Regal, Cinemark and Carmike; New York City & Broadway shows, as well as special discounts for Disney theme parks and hotels.

Remember that as a member of DSEA-R, you can take advantage of all discounts just as you did when you were a DSEA member!

Elder abuse on the rise

Lester Johnson, Special Investigator for Elderly Abuse & Financial Exploitation presented some hints to seniors about scams and problems to many seniors. Lester works for the State Delaware, Department of Justice. He warns that seniors are more vulnerable to scams because of the trusting attitude that we've had when we were growing up. The cases he mentions are done by phone, mail, in person and on the internet.

The following are some of the warnings:

1. Sweepstakes (most common today)

Approximately 99% of them are illegal; once you're on their mailing list, the list is sold to others and your contact information is available. **You must buy legitimate lottery tickets to win! They are not sent or emailed to you!!!**

Canadian and other foreign lotteries are similar to sweepstakes; they fit into this category! Sometimes you get word that you've won the computerized or electronic lottery; usually it means sending them money for you to get your winnings. **They get YOUR money; YOU get nothing in return!!!!**



2.If you submit a check for anything, it has the basic information needed to get into your account. Your bank's routing number & your checking account number is easily accessible. These scammers can actually use your information for **auto-debits**; in other words, with the account number you sent with your check, scammers will go into your account & deduct amounts of money until you try to stop it.

3. Maintenance work on your house, driveway, car, etc. Only deal with a reputable company. If someone comes to your house with a great offer, call the Better Business Bureau or ask for credentials and references. They're probably scammers.

4. Auto fraud – insurance, car dealers, garages, etc. can also scam you for your money. Adding more insurance than needed, dealers selling you optional things on your car & auto repair shops charging you for extra work not done!



5. Investment fraud – If you take advantage of their special offers through a contact they make with you, you may lose everything

6. Reverse mortgages & foreclosures could cause problems as well; be wary of strangers who come to you & not you seeking them out for assistance

7. Even the economic stimulus checks are being exploited. Special offers with more money if you cash with a company could pose problems.

8. “Best friends” or even family members who take advantage of seniors, infirm or disabled through inheritance, checking and bank accounts, power of attorney, wills etc. These people want to “help you,” but they may be scamming money from you. Yes, I said family too! It's happen & it's not uncommon.

9. Computer hackers are the ones who can get into your computer & steal your personal information or take complete control of your computers, especially if you have insufficient firewalls, spyware and security updates. Make sure your computer is safe from hackers.



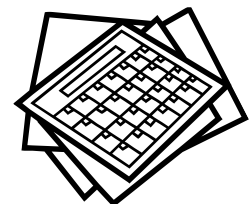
10.Traveling gypsies are people who approach your house & steal from you. This usually happens when 1 person politely knocks on your front door while a partner enters your house through the back door or window and robs you.

Upcoming DSEA-Retired dates & events

July 7

Membership/Communication Committees meeting
10 a.m. at DSEA Board Room in Dover

Activities Committee meeting
1 p.m., DSEA Broad room in Dover



July 15 & 16

Strategic Planning for DSEA-R
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, Pizzadili Winery in Felton

August 5

DSEA-R Board Meeting
10 a.m., DSEA Board Room

Communications Committee meeting
11:30 a.m., DSEA Board room

Legislative Committee meeting
1 p.m., DSEA Board room

For additional details & future dates, please check **YOUR** website www.dsea-r.org