

**MINUTES  
NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA UNIT  
OF THE  
AMERICAN RED CROSS RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

**AUGUST 8, 2018 SUMMER LUNCHEON MEETING**

**ATTENDING:** Anthony J. Dombroski, President and guest; members: Ann Marie Balz and guest, Betty Bauman, Gail Blessing, Irene Caprari, Sally Conaboy, Rosemarie Dress, Carol Hayer and guest, Joan LaTorre and guest, Lois McManus, Karen McManus, Mary Ann Stavitski, Yvonne Udzella, Beth Ann Williams and guest, and Janice Williams and guest.

**Luncheon:** Before our guest speakers from Northeast Sight Services spoke, Tony arranged to treat all attendees to 3 different kinds of pizza from Sabatini's Pizza just down the road. While he went for the pizza the retirees enjoyed time to chat with one another and enjoy their camaraderie. When the pizza arrived, all enjoyed it with various beverages. Since the speakers weren't quite ready, Tony decided to go on with our meeting.

**Meeting Minutes** Tony asked if there were any changes and/or additions to the May 9, 2018 meeting minutes. There being none the minutes were accepted as mailed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carol Hayer, treasurer reported a beginning balance on May 8, of \$2,352.56. Total receipts of \$14.00 were added, equaling \$2,366.56 Less disbursements of \$50.00 for the May meeting speaker. Ending bank balance as of Aug. 8 2018 was \$2,316.56

**Wellness:** Tony reported on the retirees he contacted, he noted that Joan Yonki had fallen and broke her pelvis and was recuperating at John Heinz Rehab Center and asked other retirees if anyone had contacted anyone else.

**2018 Christmas Holiday Party:** Our holiday party this year will be held at the Woodlands Inn, Route 315 on Saturday, December 8, 2018. Please mark your calendar now! Full details later.

**March Meetings:** Tony noted we won't have meetings in March beginning in 2019 as the attendance is rather poor due to inclement weather conditions and many of our regular retirees go away during the winter months.

Tony asked if there were any further questions, many raised the issue of us NOT getting our YSA reimbursement payments in a timely manner. He noted that he is having problems also and suggested that all 24 of us call so they realize there is a major problem with their system and FIX it permanently, so we could receive our reimbursements in a timely manner and NOT months later.

**Next Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 1:00 P.M. at the Blood Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.**

**Guest Speakers:** Sara Peperno, President and CEO of the Northeast Sight Services spoke to us. She was assisted by Amy, a staff member; they gave us an overview of the work that is done there.

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Northeast Sight Services is a non-profit organization that serves N E Pennsylvania including Luzerne, Wyoming, Wayne and Pike Counties. The Social Service programs are offered to Individuals who are blind or have low vision. Our Prevention of Blindness programs are offered to people of all ages and demographics. Individuals achieve the best possible quality of life and prevent vision loss through education and early detection for people of all ages.

The Association of the Blind started in 1918 by Arline Phillips. Her mission was to help "other blind persons help themselves." 50 years ago, the Prevention of Blindness program was started by an Eilene Kaska who realized the need for vision screenings in children entering kindergarten. Between both our children and adult vision screening programs, 5,200 individuals were screened.

They asked for five retirees to volunteer to participate in a test and do certain things on their cell phones. They were given plastic glasses that made their vision like the following: macular degeneration, vision with diabetic retinopathy, cataracts, glaucoma and normal vision. Each person was asked to comment on the difficulties they encountered. Four out of the five had extreme difficulty performing the simple tasks asked of them.

We were then all invited to take a tour of the Vision Resource Center which is a one-stop shop for practical tools that enhance work, home life and leisure for people with vision loss. They included such items as state-of-the art reading magnifiers, talking watches and clocks, specialized kitchen tools, writing aids and computer programs, etc., etc.

We were amazed at these items and how they can help and thanked Northeast Sight Services for all their time. For further details, please call 570-693-3555 at ext 222

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosemarie Dress, Secretary*