TCAA Spring Luncheon

April 21, 2015

Submitted by Carol Bibby

President Jens Nielsen gave a warm welcome to the approximately 30 attendees at the 2015 TCAA Spring Luncheon. The luncheon was held at Pescatore Palace in Franklin Park. A thank you to Vito Barbanente (HIA graduate) and his staff for a wonderful lunch.

Scheduled speaker, Mr. Tom Olsen, Triton Foundation President, was not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict. However, Eleonore Weber and Linda Brookhart were introduced by President Nielsen as the speakers for the meeting.

As of this date, Linda stated that the pension issue is still in the Illinois Supreme Court and although we are waiting for their response, there is a good feeling that it will be positive for the retirees. A decision from the Illinois Supreme Court is expected by May 1, but may be as late as July 15. However the outcome, contributions to the SUAA Legal Fund and SUAAction Fund are needed. Clarification between the two funds was given and Linda stated the SUAA Legal Fund is the one that is in need of contributions now to pay legal bills. Members are encouraged to contribute any amount they can. (SUAAction Fund contributions are used for political initiatives for state legislators.)

Governor Rauner is considering a constitutional amendment in 2016, depending on the Court’s decision, but he is working with top legislators on a pension fix. Nothing much else is being done with increasing taxes, perhaps on services and progressive taxes, but that is not being actively pursued at this time. A note for those who are eligible for insurance coverage: open enrollment is May 1 – May 31 with coverage beginning July 1. There could be more changes in regard to insurance coverage. CIP is bankrupt and no money is being budgeted for CIP. It is not clear what, if anything, will happen with the Advantage plan, as far as cost. That will come later.
Eleonore Weber stated that there is and will continue to be more cost sharing with insurance plans. The best defense is to stay healthy – exercise, eat properly to maintain healthy weight and preventive exams. Eleonore is available to give us a cost analysis on LTC. Contact her at 312-952-1706.

Jens closed the meeting with a thank you to our attendees for their support and interest. Next TCAA Luncheon will be October 20, 2015. Mark your calendars. More information will be in the September newsletter.