

***SAN ANTONIO FIRE AND POLICE  
PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES  
OF  
July 12, 2011  
By Earnest D. Gay, Recording Secretary***

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by President Mike Trainer. Mike announced that Alice Ives has her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday today and we all sang happy birthday for her.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Our invocation was lead by Vic Abate, which was followed by our Sergeant at arms, Jose Flores, leading the members in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

President	Mike Trainer - present
Vice President	James Baer – present
Recording Secretary	Earnest Gay - present
Treasurer	Jo Ann Dickinson – present
Corresponding Secretary Fire	Sabino Briseno - present
Corresponding Secretary Police	Bill Turner - present
Sergeant at arms	Joe Flores Sr – present
Parliamentarian – appointed	Mary Holub -- present

All board members present for the July 2011 meeting.

**SPEAKER OF THE MONTH**

Vice President Baer introduced our speaker for July. Steve Hilbig, Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals, since 2006. Justice Hilbig talked about the function of the court and told us of his accomplishments and qualifications for the office. Justice Hilbig is running for reelection to the Fourth Court of Appeals and asked for our support.

**REPORTS of OFFICERS**

**Recording Secretary**

The minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting were read by me. It was note that I should include Mark Gremmer’s last name in the minutes as it had been left out.

**Treasurer**

Jo Ann reported that we had income for June 2011 of \$365.98 with expenses of \$403.00 giving us a -\$37.02 for June 2011. Our Balance Sheet shows we have a fund balance of \$57,586.05 with income for the year of \$4,434.45 giving us a total balance in all accounts of \$62,020.50

### **Corresponding Secretary – Police**

Bill reported that he sent out 4 sympathy cards in the previous month and he also sent out 4 invitations to recent retirees to join our association. [Bills Report is attached.](#)

### **Corresponding Secretary – Fire**

Breezy reported that he sent out 2 sympathy cards, 1 get well card and talked with another retiree. Breezy also sent out 5 invitations to join our association. [Breezy's report is attached.](#)

## **REPORTS of COMMITTEES**

### **President**

President Trainer gave us an update on the legislative processes that are ongoing and the organizations that are trying to attack our defined benefit pensions. Mike also reported on a new group that has formed in the Houston area called TXPPR, (Texans for Public Pension Reform), that has all defined benefits plans on their agenda and in their sights. Mike advised that CLEAT was putting on a one day pension strategy seminar in Fort Worth Texas. There was a motion (Jose Flores) and second () to send Mike to the conference. The motion passed without opposition and Mike will attend the seminar. Mike also spoke on the problems with the different air life ambulance services. There are several companies and the fees vary. Mike wants to have a committee set up to address the issue with our insurance providers and also possibly in the legislature. Mike broke from the regular order of business long enough for Larry Reed to introduce our newest pension trustee, J. T. Trevino who was recently elected as the active fire trustee. J. T. spoke for a few moments and advises he is available to everyone including the retirees

### **Pension Fund Committee**

Larry reported that the fund was at 2.126 billion and we are at +10% YTD. Larry reported that our CFO wanted to pass along that our Hedge Fund investments are no longer done fund to fund but now done direct and the savings the fund realized by not having to pay commissions was about \$5 million. Larry was also pleased that we are sending a member to the C.L.E.A.T. seminar as we have to protect our pensions. Larry reported that a study that TEXpers commissioned with "Pension Trustee Advisors" that showed in preliminary results that San Antonio, Austin and Houston would pay from 39% to 44% more to give their retired employees their same benefits under defined contribution plans. The reason some cities for pushing toward the defined contribution plans was to save money but the study shows that costs will increase greatly if the plans were forced to change. The reality is that these cities, states, etc really don't want to do anything other than reduce our pensions. Larry also reported that Shawn Ury will take over as chairman of the board at the pension board meetings, Justin Rodriguez will be Vice Chairmen and J. T. Trevino is the new secretary. The new city council members will probably be appointed by August.

### **Pre-Funded Health Insurance Committee**

Henry reported that the fund was at \$213,594,870.00 which is down 1 million. Henry explained the letter that many members received about the federal money set aside for the insurance companies covering retirees between 55 – 65 years of age. Henry reported the fund is similar to the prescription bill last year. The paperwork is daunting and keeps getting sent back for revision and it is unknown if we will get any of these funds. Henry also reported on the Air Ambulance problem, especially the wide disparity in charges these companies charge. Some of the Air Ambulance companies offer an insurance or membership program which is designed to enhance service and reduce costs to the patients. Some of the policies these companies provide have fine print in the policies that makes it difficult to determine if you really get anything for your membership. Gerry reported that he was in Washington D C and he spoke with congressmen and they all reported they were aware of the problems but Gerry was not convinced that they were overly concerned about the middle class and their involvement in their pensions.

### **DOOR PRIZES**

There were over 50 in attendance for the July meeting and we awarded 6 door prizes of \$10 each to six of the members present. There was also a special prize donated by Armando (bottle of whiskey). [July's winners were Frank Ibarra, Mary Lou Trevino, Gloria Ehrlich, Carlos Madero – got the whiskey, Breezy Briseno, M Flores and John Scott.](#)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

After the door prizes were given, President Trainer adjourned the meeting without opposition.