

September 20, 2023

RFAO Executive Board meeting via TEAMS

In Attendance: Dwight Matthews, Judith Van Houten, Ruth Farrell, Takamaru Ashikaga, Alison Pechenick, Rachel Johnson, Mara Saule, Alan Gotlieb, Lee Thompson, Beth Mintz

Vice President Beth Mintz brought the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

1. Use of RFAO list serv: A retiree requested the All-Retirees Listserv be sent a letter encouraging people to sign a petition asking Vermont legislators to support paid leave legislation. The board unanimously decided that such materials are best distributed via the RFAO Forum email list.
2. Elections at the next RFAO Business Meeting:
There should be an election for the officers of the RFAO at the next Business Meeting. In preparation for that, there should be a solicitation from the membership for people wishing to run for offices of President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and 5 at large Board Members. There was a discussion of current elected Board Members wish to run for their seats again. Stephen Cutler will not be continuing in his elected position. Four other members wish to run again.
A request for nominations, including self-nominations, should be distributed very soon in order to meet the Constitution's description of the election process in time for the November 2 Business Meeting.
3. November 2 was chosen as the date for the next Business Meeting with special speaker. A subcommittee was charged with creating a slate of possible speakers to present to the Board. The time horizon for this process is short in that the potential speaker must be invited soon for the November 2 meeting.
4. There was an in-depth discussion of the various issues brought to individual Board members by our members, some of whom cannot find physicians or health care centers that will accept Cigna insurance. We again considered our approach to this problem. A draft letter for the UVM administration will be circulated and, before it is finalized, it will be brought to Caitlyn Sisler for her input and guidance. We also will invite Caitlyn to our next Board meeting and ask that she bring Cigna staff to attend as well.
5. A Board member described to us in detail the problems with identifying specialist physicians outside Vermont, who will accept Cigna Medicare Advantage insurance. The web site that should be a resource for identifying physicians was not functional and out of order for many days. The rep contacted by phone could not identify the kind of specialist needed. This problem should be brought to the Cigna Reps attention at our next meeting with them.
There was a request that we should clarify the role of UVM HR in navigating these problems and concerns. Also an issue for our next meeting with Caitlyn Sisler.
6. The memo of March 7, 2023 from Michael Gurdon to the membership should be updated and distributed again because our new members have not seen it and its valuable information, including the contact information for our Cigna liaison.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Van Houten