

Executive Board & Legislative Committee Meeting
March 21, 2011
Red Blazer Restaurant
Concord, NH

Present: David Kelley, Ernie Loomis, Herb Frink, Roland Lamy, David Cargill, Don Carlson, Dick Campbell, Walt Morse, Kathy Kimball, Paul O'Leary

Guests: Warren Brown, Wayne Vetter

Chairman Kelley opened the meeting by distributing multiple handouts of current legislative efforts. Dick Campbell also distributed an excel spreadsheet identifying senators and the current membership.

Ernie then gave an overview of three current bills in particular that are cause for retiree concern:

- HB 231 – Healthcare issues
- HB 580 – House omnibus bill; primary concern for NHRSTA is that it removes the Special Account
- SB 3 – Omnibus bill sponsored by both Senators and House reps, primary concern for NHRSTA is that it removes the Special Account

HB 231 passed as amended in the House and has been sent to the Division 1 Finance Committee; hearings may begin tomorrow at 9 am in executive committee (no testimony by the public) to examine financial aspects only; then to the Senate for vote

HB 580 still in committee, work session to continue hearing scheduled for 2 pm also tomorrow

Discussion turned to formulating a strategy for the NHRSTA to follow. We need to have common themes when attempting to educate various legislators regarding issues important to the Association.

HB 231 Message: This bill would be devastating to retirees if passed into law. As currently written, the cap will drastically change the coverage provided for health care and has the potential to dramatically increase retiree payments for premiums. The cap is unnecessary due to current law and is punitive in nature as it will cause great hardship on retirees.

STRATEGY:

1. Outreach to senators by the legislative committee

2. **Chairman Kelley to draft a letter for NHRSTA members with bullet points to assist others in writing their own letters to their senators**

Regarding the verbal attacks against state retirees by Representative Neal Kurk, the message is that it will not benefit our efforts if we behave as he does. Chairman Kelley will create an official letter to address Rep. Kurk's inflammatory remarks.

Dick Campbell posed the question of what action might the NHRSTA take if these bills pass into law? Will we take legal action? First there needs to be an issue identified. Legal action would be very expensive. What action might the SEA take? That is not yet known. At this point, little can be done until the legislative process plays out. However, we should keep our options open.

There was much discussion on all of these items by everyone. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kimball
NHRSTA Secretary