

CHURCH ALLIANCE

Acting on Behalf of Church Benefits Programs

Chair:
Mr. John G. Kapanke

Secretary/Treasurer:
Robert H. Rydland, Esquire

Board of Pensions
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Church of the Nazarene

Br. William L. Walz, FSC *
Christian Brothers Services

Mr. Edward W. Wood
International Pentecostal Holiness Church

*** Steering Committee Members**

Mr. Leo J. Landes, Emeritus

Counsel:

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32ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH ALLIANCE

**SCOTTSDALE PLAZA RESORT
BALLROOM A, B AND C**

NOVEMBER 29, 2007

OPENING DEVOTIONAL

Rabbi Stephen Kahn, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beth Israel

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

CHURCH ALLIANCE MEETING

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

- I. Call to Order – *John G. Kapanke, Chair***
- II. Welcome Members and Guests**
- III. Approve Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting**
- IV. Ratification of Membership**
 - A. Ratification of Membership for **Brother Michael Quirk, FSC, Christian Brothers Services.** Pursuant to the Standing Rules, the Steering Committee has temporarily approved Brother Quirk's membership and now brings it for final ratification by the General Membership.**
- V. Election of the Steering Committee – *Br. William L. Walz, FSC***
 - A. The Standing Rules provide that the Steering Committee shall be composed of the chief executive officers of the six highest contributing members, the "Standing Members," and up to six chief executive officers of the other members. Based on information provided by the Church Benefits Association, the following individuals (in alphabetical order) shall serve as Standing Members for 2008:**

Barbara A. Boigegrain – General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church

Dr. O. S. Hawkins – GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

John G. Kapanke – Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Robert W. Maggs Jr. – Board of Pensions Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

John M. Preis – YMCA Retirement Fund

T. Dennis Sullivan – The Church Pension Fund Episcopal Church

- B.** In accordance with the Standing Rules, the Steering Committee nominates the following individuals (in alphabetical order) as “Elected Members” for approval by the general membership of the Church Alliance:

Michael A. Downs – The Pensions Board, United Church of Christ

Rev. Sumner M. Grant – The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of the American Baptist Churches

James P. Hamlett – Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Robert M. Koppel – Reform Pension Board

Paul W. Middeke – Concordia Plan Services Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Vacancy – TBD

VI. Emeritus Member

Leo Landis – Joint Retirement Board for Conservative Judaism (Emeritus)

VII. Treasurer’s Report – *Robert H. Rydland, Secretary*

A. 2007 Treasurer’s Report

B. 2008 Budget -- \$325,000

1. Steering Committee Recommendation Concerning 2008 Budget

The Steering Committee recommends the Church Alliance dues for 2008 be established at \$300,000. This budget calls for utilizing \$25,000 from Church Alliance reserves.

2. Steering Committee Recommendation Concerning Allocation of 2007 Costs

Pursuant to Amended Standing Rule No. 7, the Steering Committee proposes that the allocation of costs will be pro rata based on the amount

of pension reserves and contingency funds (at market value) with a cap of \$55,000 for the largest denomination. This results in the 12 largest members paying approximately 93% and the smaller denominations paying approximately 7% collectively.

VIII. Chair's Report – *John G. Kapanke, Chair*

SPEAKER

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

IX. Honorable William M. Thomas, former Congressman and Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee (see attached bio)

BREAK

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

SPEAKER

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

X. Dr. Lowell Catlett, Regent's Professor of Economics, Agriculture and Genetic Engineering at New Mexico State University (see attached bio)

XI. Other Business

XII. Adjourn



Bill Thomas

Former U.S. Congressman & Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee

Professional Experience

- Senior Advisor, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC, 2007 – present.
- Visiting Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, 2007 – present.
- Member, U.S. House of Representatives, 1979 – 2007.
- Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee, 2001 – 2007.
- Chairman, House Administration Committee, 1995 – 2001.
- Co-chairman, National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare, 1998 – 1999.
- Member, California State Assembly, 1974 – 1978.
- Professor, Political Science, Bakersfield College, 1965 – 1974.

Education

- M.A., Political Science and History, San Francisco State University
- B.A., Political Science and History, San Francisco State University
- A.A., Santa Ana Community College

Personal

- Married to wife Sharon and has 2 grown children, Christopher and Amelia. Resides in Washington, D.C. and Bakersfield, CA.

Summary of Key Legislative Accomplishments

Tax Relief

The nearly \$2 trillion in tax relief Thomas guided through Congress put money back into Americans' hands and has resulted in strong economic growth and job creation.

- Under Thomas' leadership, Congress enacted four major tax relief packages. American taxpayers from every walk of life have benefited from rate reductions, family-oriented tax credits, investment tax relief and many others.
- Small businesses, manufacturers and other job creators have responded to tax relief by hiring more workers and investing in their businesses. The result is a strong economy that has withstood a recession, a terrorist attack and natural disasters.

Opening Markets for American-Made Products

After nearly a decade with few comprehensive free trade agreements, Thomas led the effort in 2002 to reauthorize Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and empowered the President with negotiating power to open new markets to U.S. exports and create more American jobs.

- The Administration has utilized TPA and negotiated numerous important free trade agreements, seven of which have been approved by Congress. These agreements have opened access to new markets for U.S. products and services and restored America's stature in the international marketplace.

Improving Health Care and Enhancing Retirement Security

As the U.S. prepares for the retirement of the baby boomer generation, Thomas has worked tirelessly to strengthen health care and retirement benefits, while enacting reforms to eliminate wasteful spending in entitlement programs – saving money for taxpayers and making the program more financially stable for beneficiaries.

- In 2003, Thomas led the conference committee for the *Medicare Modernization Act* (MMA). This landmark legislation created the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, which now provides seniors with real relief from high drug prices. The legislation also made critical reforms to Medicare to ensure that it is available for many years to come.
- As part of the MMA, Thomas also included the creation of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). These innovative tax-preferred savings accounts give consumers more choice and control over their health care finances and decisions
- In 2006, Thomas was a key player as Congress enacted the *Pension Protection Act of 2006*. This important legislation will protect the pensions of millions of Americans, while also providing increased savings opportunities – improving their economic security for the long term.

Ensuring Energy Availability and Reliability; Reducing Energy Prices

Energy consumption in America is growing faster than production. Thomas sought to utilize the tax code in creating a comprehensive energy plan for America.

- In 2005, Congress approved the *Energy Policy Act*. Thomas led the effort to include in the legislation a package of tax incentives aimed at strengthening our current energy infrastructure, while also looking to the future and the use of alternative energy sources.

Lowell Catlett, Ph.D.



DR. LOWELL CATLETT, is a Regent's Professor of Economics, Agriculture and Genetic Engineering at New Mexico State University, Lowell became Dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics in January 2006. He is an exciting futurist whose knowledge of technologies and their implications on the way we will live and work is addressed in his varied and upbeat presentations. His vast knowledge astounds corporate and association audiences both nationally and internationally. His presentations are thought-provoking and highly-entertaining.

Dr. Catlett received his doctorate in Economics from Iowa State University, and has twice received the Don C. Roush Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Burlington Foundation Faculty Achievement Award for Outstanding University Teaching. In 1994 he was one of two Western Regional recipients of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges "Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Award."

In addition to his selection in 2002 as a member of the original class of six New Mexico State University Regents Professors, Dr. Catlett has received every teaching award the university offers, including the Westhafer Award for Teaching in 1990, New Mexico State University's top honor. The professor of agricultural economics and agricultural business is internationally known as an expert in commodities futures markets and is in demand as a speaker and consultant on predicting and planning for near- and long-term futures.

Lowell recently received the College of Agriculture and Home Economics Advisor of the Year as well as Teacher of the Year at New Mexico State University.

He is a consultant to the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, Defense and Labor. He has also been a consultant to many Fortune 500 companies.

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