

WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 by President Yee, and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Yee, Cox, Macdonald, Wadlin, Noelke, McCall, Sockolosky, Cairgle and Smith

EXCUSED: Kreklau

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: A motion as made and supported to accept the roll call of officers. Motion carried.

Sub-Chapter 38 minutes for the Executive and Membership meetings are recoded to help the Recording Secretary to produce minutes for each meeting. Pursuant to the previous direction of the membership these recordings shall be disposed of as soon as reasonably possible after the Sub-Chapter membership has approved the minutes. The minutes are not intended to be an actual verbatim record of the proceedings but are summarized notes of the agenda items, motion maker of the motion, votes and lengthy discussions.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. MiARA August 2019 reporting on the August 2019 membership meeting and the resolution passed by the Alliance for Retired Americans urging Medicare for all plus report on the failed health care system in America. Receive and File
2. Chapter 255 – The official 2019 Michigan Retirees United AFSCME Chapter 255 Convention call for Saturday, October 26, 2019 at the Western Hotel Southfield. Sub-Chapter 38 is entitled to ten (10) delegates. Registration is \$15.00 per person and luncheon is an additional \$40.00 per person. Refer to New Business

A motion was made and supported to receive and file Item #1 and refer Item 2 to New Business. Motion carried.

READING OF MINUTES

Brother Macdonald made the motion and was properly supported to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of August 13, 2019, as corrected, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions and adopt as corrected. The motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: President Yee reported that Commissioner Varga of the Ways and Means Committee was interested in an increase in the Stipend for those retirees that are under the poverty level. It was mentioned that Chairman Bell was not interested in a fight regarding the stipend.

AFSCME locals are in the process of negotiating some contracts with the County.

A motion was made and supported to accept the President's report. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT:

The Vice President reported that the coalition has set September 25, 2019 for a meeting, however, the place has not been determined as yet.

The mail box was cleared earlier today.

Council 25 will be moving to new offices in the New Center area. Not sure at this point exactly where or when,

Tomorrow is the anniversary of September 11.

A motion was made and supported to accept the Vice President's report. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Brother Macdonald reported that the Sub-Chapter has \$136,409.17 in cash and investments as of August 31, 2019. There are 1,345 current members with 188 participating in the PEOPLE PLAN and 78 members were lost this calendar year.

SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were three (3) grievances filed by AFSCME and its Local Unions relating to pension issues of which two (2) survived various court hearings and were remanded for arbitration. They are:

- 1. Elimination of 13th Check:** The grievance dealt with the changes Evans and the County Commission to eliminate the funding of the 13th check, taking that money (\$32+ million) away from the retirees and using the thirty-two + million dollars, in the 13th check account as a required County contribution to the pension system.
- 2. Medical Insurance for Disability Retirees:** For (30) years the County had a practice which was supported by the various CBAs and the pension ordinance which provided that people who retired on a duty or non-duty disability pension were entitled to medical insurance as part of their retirement. In 2010, CEO Ficano eliminated this program and the Union filed an unfair labor practice and prevailed.

The Sub-Chapter has been assisting legal counsel in preparation for arbitration. Considering the previous lengthy legal battles on those issues Legal Counsel have agreed not to have evidentiary hearings on these grievances with all of the factual data stipulated by both sides. Should the parties not agree on the proposed stipulations, the arbitrator may rule on what stipulations to accept or order evidentiary hearings. Sub-Chapter 38 remains committed to assisting legal counsel during the arbitration process.

WAYNE COUNTY LAWSUIT TO SEAT EVAN'S BOARD

Wayne County CEO Evans filed a lawsuit against the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System Commissioners (WCERS) demanding the ability to seat his hand-picked WCERS Board by expanding the Board to ten (10) members while eliminating one (1) active employee Commissioner and one (1) retired member Commissioner. Wayne County Circuit Judge Leslie Kim Smith issued an opinion on July 31, 2017 denying Evans the ability to seat his WCERS Board. Wayne County filed an appeal with the Michigan Court of Appeals (Case No. 339714) and an appellate court decision, dated May 9, 2019, confirmed the ruling of Judge Smith. Wayne County has filed an application to appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court. WCERS and the Commission have filed arguments opposing the application for appeal. It is now a waiting game.

PRESCRIPTION CO-PAY SETTLEMENT

Payments by Wayne County of both Medicare eligible and Non-Medicare stipends appear to be consistent with the settlement agreement. The Sub-Chapter continues to pursue a grievance on the issue of the many problems with the Health Reimbursement Accounts at TASC (formerly Genesis). As a partial response the Sub-Chapter received a list from Wayne County of 996 HRA accounts at TASC with balances of more than \$3,000.00 totaling over \$3.5million. It is evident that the only resolution to those grievances is a mutually acceptable Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Plan and that every Medicare eligible class member know their rights and responsibilities under the plan. The Sub-Chapter is seeking mutually agreed upon HRA plan or that at least a summary plan document be provided to every current and future Medicare eligible retiree. The primary problem is communication with affected retirees. Wayne County and the Sub-Chapter are both working on developing a communication plan. Wayne County does not appear interested in resolving our concerns and the Sub-Chapter is exploring options.

During a meeting with the Chairman of the Wayne County Committee on Ways and Means it appears that the Sub-Chapter may get some relief for Medicare eligible stipend

recipients below the poverty level. A recent discussion with other commissioners reinforces the impression. With the Commission budget deliberations beginning soon we will get a better idea of what to expect.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Health Insurance Services, the contractor that interfaces between Wayne County and TASC, has requested an opportunity to address the membership at the November 12, 2019 membership meeting about the group Health Care coverage plans available for 2020. The group plans are through AmWins.

A motion was made and supported to accept the Treasurer' report. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The Health Insurance Services has requested to speak to the membership at the November 12, 2019 Meeting. The open enrollment is coming up. Maybe flyers for distribution would suffice.

A motion was made and supported to accept this report. Motion carried.

If we have more members to attend the Convention, the Treasurer will need additional money appropriated.

John McCall and Faith Cairgle are the delegates for this convention, but do not have a vote.

A motion was made and supported to accept this report. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

GOOD AND WELFARE

It was reported that Marilyn Macdonald had a stroke recently, but is showing some improvement.

Charlie Parke made it safely to New Mexico.

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

A motion was made and supported to accept this report. Motion carried.

A motion was made and supported at 12:10 PM to adjourn. Motion carried.