

June 8, 2021

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by President Yee via ZOOM and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Bauman, Cairgle, Kreklau, McCall, Noelke, Pendracki, Wadlin, and

Yee **EXCUSED:** Cox, Smith and Sockolosky

ABSENT: None

GUEST: Macdonald

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Brother Pendracki made the motion, properly supported by Sister O'Leary-MacGillis, to accept the roll call of officers. The motion carried.

Sub-Chapter 38 minutes for the Executive and Membership meetings are recorded 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 38 membership has approved the minutes. The minutes are not or intended to be an actual verbatim record of the proceedings but are summarized notes of the agenda items, motions, makers of the motion, votes, and lengthy discussions.

Brother Yee began the meeting explaining to Zoom participants how to maneuver during the meeting and asking for muting by participants.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. MiARA May 2021 newsletter that included an article urging Support for Congress to pass the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act and the For the People Act. A commentary on the George Floyd memory plus a warning about "smishing". Receive and File 2. Council 25 An email reporting on the endorsements for the August 3, 2021, elections compiled by the Region 1 and Region 2 PEOPLE Committee and adopted by the Michigan Council 25 AFSCME Executive Board. Refer to PEOPLE Com.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to receive and file Item 1 and refer Item 2 to the PEOPLE Committee. The motion carried.

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READING OF MINUTES

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of May 11, 2021, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Membership meeting of May 11, 2021, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

President: President Yee informed the Board that Sister Bettye Misuraca is hospitalized and has had to have surgery for is believed to be a bleeding ulcer.

President Yee will be contacting the UAW Hall to find out when we may be able to start meeting in person. The limits on in-door meeting will be lifted on July 1st and he's hoping that our August meeting, which should be on August 10th, will be able to be an "in-person" meeting. He doesn't believe that we will have enough time to get it set up and get notifications out for the July meeting. There were 19 participants at the 1st zoom Membership meeting last month.

He's going to be sending out a letter to the Wayne County Board of Commissioners regarding the Medicare Supplement issue and again giving very low-income retirees an additional \$15 per month as was done for the 2019 fiscal year. It wasn't pushed last year inasmuch as the COVID issues left finances up in the air most everywhere. He wants to at least discuss it with those in a position to make this happen. The County has received in excess of 340 million in COVID relief funds that can be used to make us for lost revenues. It was just a little over one million the last time and he would like to push for it for ALL Medicare eligible retirees this time.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept the President's report as presented. The motion carried.

VICE-PRESIDENT: No report.

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Financial Report:

Brother Noelke reported that the Sub-Chapter has \$136,114.36 in cash and investments as of May 31, 2021. There are 1,292 current members with 168 participating in the PEOPLE Plan and (59) members lost this year.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept the Treasurer report as presented. The motion carried.

REPORT, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Presented by Brother Macdonald) Pending Arbitration Case

There were three (3) grievances filed by AFSCME and its Local Unions relating to pension issues of which one (1) is still to be decided at arbitration. That grievance is **Medical Insurance for Disability Retirees**. For (30) years, the County had a practice which was supported by the various CBAs and the

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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. Oral arguments before the arbitrator were in September 2020. The arbitrator has not issued a decision due to personal issues but expects to have a decision in May or June but there's nothing yet.

PRESCRIPTION CO-PAY SETTLEMENT

Payments by Wayne County of Medicare eligible stipends appear to be consistent with the settlement agreement. The Sub-Chapter has identified a number of incorrect or omitted pre-Medicare stipend payments. The June 2021 reconciliation found a number of overpayments. Legal counsel and your representatives assigned the task of monitoring the stipend programs, have repeatedly communicated with Wayne County to resolve these overpayments. Wayne County has not responded as to how they propose to deal with the overpayments. Wayne County has claimed that a review of the stipend program is complete but never provided a copy to the Sub-Chapter for review and comment. Considering the lack of a response to our repeated requests, there does not appear to be any chance that Wayne County will produce such an audit.

The Sub-Chapter filed Grievance #8 on April 15, 2020, about the many problems with the Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) at TASC (formerly Genesis). Arbitration was held on February 7, 2020, with the arbitrator granting the grievance and ordering Wayne County to (1) meet with us "on a regular and meaningful basis to develop a stipend plan", (2) Wayne County will provide all eligible with an agreed upon summary plan document"(3) "upon implementation of the new stipend plan or March 10, 2021" "the unilateral HRA plan will be dissolved" and (4) Wayne County will compensate all Medicare eligible class members that were harmed by the unilateral implemented plan". Legal counsel and your representatives assigned the task of monitoring the stipend programs have been participating in video conferences with Wayne County with the express purpose of resolving the inconsistencies of the current process with the settlement agreement. The Sub-Chapter representatives have proposed alternative solutions and Wayne County has proposed the Municipal Employees' Retirement Systems (MERS) as an alternative that would maintain tax-free status for the stipends. Wayne County agreed and is drafting MERS HSA agreements for review and comment. Wayne County has also requested that any Grievance #8 Settlement Agreement be approved by the courts. The transition to MERS is anticipated to occur in October/November 2021 and the Sub-Chapter has demanded an implementation schedule from Wayne County. As of this report, Wayne County has not produced any implementation documents notwithstanding our requests.

President Yee, through our legal counsel, put Wayne County on notice that the Medicare eligible stipend recipients are entitled to a 2% increase in tier stipend effective with the January 1, 2022 stipend payment. Wayne County, has again, yet to respond.

Brother Macdonald also informed the Executive Board that the WCERS has received notice that Richard Kaufman has resigned from the WCERS Board. There was no reason given. Mr. Kaufman served as an Ex-Officio member of the Board representing the County Executive. He has not attended any meetings for some time.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept Brother Macdonald's report. The motion carried.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PEOPLE Committee: Sister Bauman reported that Region 1 and 2 screened 30 candidates; and endorsed 20 of them. The information has been sent to Council 25 for approval. She sent a summary of the endorsements to President Yee to be shared with the membership. She thanked the Sub-Chapter members who participated.

Brother Macdonald, a member of the PEOPLE Committee, informed the Board that over half of the members of the screening group were Sub-Chapter 38 members. He also spoke very highly of the quality of questions posed by Sister Cairgle and Sister Bauman. He congratulated both of them on their work.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Brother Pendracki, to accept the PEOPLE Committee report as presented. The motion carried.

Chapter 255:

Brother McCall reminded the Board of the "Save-the-Date" for October 15 and 16 with the reception being Friday October 15th and the convention on Saturday October 16 from 8 am to 5 pm at the Laborer's Union Hall. Brother McCall added that Chapter 255 does have a website at AFSCME255.mi.com.

Advertisements in the Reception Program will help to pay for the reception costs and lots of ads are needed. He hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

Tickets for the Reception on Friday, October 15th, are available from Brother John McCall. Brother Macdonald asked if the number of representatives on each committee has been determined. Brother McCall indicated that had not yet been decided.

Motion by Brother Noelke, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept the Chapter 255 report. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD AND WELFARE

President Yee reported that Brother Lorenzo Moner passed on May 13th. It was a nice service, very well attended. The Inkster Police Department provided a police escort from the funeral home to the cemetery.

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brother Wadlin, properly supported by Brother Macdonald, to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 pm.. The motion carried

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