

July 13, 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, Kreklau, McCall, Noelke, Pendracki, Sockolowski, Wadlin, and Yee

EXCUSED: Cairgle, Cox and Smith

ABSENT: None

GUEST: Macdonald

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Brother Pendracki made the motion, properly supported by Brother Noelke, 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 The June 2021 newsletter that included an article discussing GOP voter suppression bills, the Michigan Office of Services helping seniors and ARA urging Congress to act to lower drug prices. No membership meetings scheduled. Receive and File

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to receive and file. The motion carried.

READING OF MINUTES

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of June 8, 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 Noelke, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Membership meeting of June 8, 2021, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

President:

Over 300 people have not yet responded to the Retirement Office's request for submission of a witnessed statement signed by the retiree to make sure the retiree is still alive. The Retirement System will send out one more request to those they have not yet heard from before they suspend the retirement checks and the checks will be escrowed until the proof of life is supplied. A copy of the sample letter is now shared on the screen. It will be sent out on July 23, 2021.

The movement of the HRA with TASC to a MSA with MERS is coming along. Hopefully it will be completed by the end of this year.

A letter has been sent to the Wayne County Board of Commissioners regarding requesting the additional \$15 per month Medicare supplement be included in the next budget and it was requested for ALL Medicare eligible retirees. In addition, a request was submitted to include the \$1,000 annually for mirrored-retirees. Not sure of the support on the Commission yet. We also requested the 2% increase in the Medicare supplement since the AFSCME employees are getting a 2% increase.

The President has contacted the UAW Hall and they are open now for hall usage for in-person meetings; however, after a review of what it will take to inform all the members of the in-person meetings, it was suggested we wait until the October 2021 meeting date. We have to send mail notice of that meeting since it is an election. One Trustee position, Paul Pendracki, is up for election. Brother Pendracki was asked if he would accept the nomination and he agreed. We will ask for additional nominations at the August and September meetings.

Without email addresses for all the members, we must notify them of the in-person meetings in writing. Since the October meeting will be the election, mail notice will inform the members of the "in-person" meeting and also the election. The Sub-Chapter will arrange for Thomas' to cater the meal as previously. We are looking at being able to continue zooming meetings for those members living out of state or out of the immediate area. We're not sure how it will work, but are looking at it.

Brother McCall brought up the fact that he had called a number of retirees to help them with the "proof of life letters" and had been able only to reach a couple because of disconnected phone numbers.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, 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 \$137,361.40 in cash and investments as of June 30, 2021. There are 1,383 current members with 166 participating in the PEOPLE Plan and (67) members lost this year. Current membership is 392 more than budgeted.

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 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. On July 9, 2021, the AFSCME attorney reported that the arbitrator had not issued an opinion

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 July 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, 2019, 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 to be followed by adoption by the County Commission. 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.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PEOPLE Committee:

Sister Bauman reported that petitions are being currently circulated for Gretchen Whitmer's, candidacy for Governor in 2022. Sister Kreklau also has those petitions for Monroe County.

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

Chapter 255:

The rooms reserved for the Convention October 15 and 16 are at the St. Regis and the room costs are \$159 per night. The Convention call should be out by August 23, 2021. The Reception on Friday night and there is no cost for that. The Convention is Saturday and has a cost of \$15 per person. The Convention will be at the Laborers' Hall at 2161 West Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI. Information is also available on the website at: www.AFSCME255mi.com

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to ratify the action taken this date by the Executive Board, to purchase a full-page advertisement in the Program for the Chapter 255 Convention at a cost of \$200. The motion carried.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to ratify the action taken this date by the Executive Board, to purchase up to thirty (30) Chapter 255 Convention tickets at a cost of \$15 each with the stipulation that 12 tickets would be issued to Executive Board members and Trustees attending the convention and tickets set aside for Sub-Chapter members serving on Committees of the Convention and the remaining tickets to Sub-Chapter members who wish to attend the convention. The motion carried.

President Yee announced that he was re-appointing all current committee memberships and announced them all. He then called for any other members that would like to serve on a committee to contact him. A motion for this was not required as it is a Presidential decision.

GOOD AND WELFARE

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 pm.

The motion carried