



# WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

Ronald Yee  
President

September 14, 2021

Gilbert J. Cox  
Recording Secretary

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Richard Noelke  
Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by President Yee via ZOOM and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Etti Kreklau  
Recording Secretary

**PRESENT:** Bauman, Cairgle, Kreklau, McCall, Noelke, Sockolosky, Wadlin, and Yee

Julie Bauman  
Recording Secretary

**EXCUSED:** Cox, Pendracki and Smith

John McCall  
Recording Secretary

**ABSENT:** None

James Sockolosky  
Recording Secretary

**GUEST:** None

Douglas Wadlin  
Recording Secretary

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Sister Cairgle made the motion, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept the roll call of officers. The motion carried.

Earth Cairgle  
Recording Secretary

**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.**

Paul Pendracki  
Recording Secretary

Jerry Smith  
Recording Secretary

## CORRESPONDENCE

1. MiARA The August 2021 newsletter that included an article discussing the recently passed federal “Infrastructure, efforts to lower prescription costs plus articles in remembrance of AFL-CIO President Trumka and retired Senator Carl Levin and congratulating the newly elected AFL-CIO officers. No Membership meetings have been scheduled. Receive and File

Motion by Brother Wadlin, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to receive and file. The motion carried.

## READING OF MINUTES

Motion by Brother Wadlin, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of August 10, 2021, as corrected, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Membership meeting of August 10, 2021, as corrected, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

### **President:**

Medicare open period is coming up and Senior Benefits Group, which is a company that has worked with a number of our members over the past, is sending out letters to the members they have dealt with for information to review their current plans.

It appears that the supplemental Medicare stipend we had sought from the County will not be taken up for the 2022 budget year. The Ways and Means Committee will not take it up. They are looking at hiring new employees and filling current vacancies.

They say they will look at setting up a Committee to look at this and if they do, the Sub-Chapter will have a seat on the Committee.

In addition, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, if the County negotiates a wage increase of 2.5% or more for current employees, the stipends that apply to County Retirees will also be adjusted by 2.5% monthly. Therefore, an increase in the Medicare stipend should be applied effective January 1, 2022.

Hopefully most of you have received a letter from the County Management and Budget – not on letterhead and unsigned – discussing the move from TASC to MERS. This move will be beneficial for class members as the plan is a better plan and has been used by many Michigan public employers and retirees successfully.

Motion by Brother Wadlin, properly supported by Sister O’Leary-MacGillis, 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 \$139,513.44 in cash and investments as of August 31, 2021. There are 1,268 current members with 174 participating in the PEOPLE Plan and (84) members lost this year. Current membership is 107 more than budgeted.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to accept the Treasurer report as presented. The motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PEOPLE Committee:**

Sister Bauman reported that Candidate Screening was done on August 24 and 25 with 12 candidates requesting endorsements and ten (10) candidates receiving endorsement. The majority of the Screening Committee was Sub-Chapter 38 members. The list of endorsed candidates was sent to Council 25

PEOPLE and will be included in the newsletter that is being mailed out. Sister Bauman thanked the Sub-Chapter members to volunteer their time to participate in this candidate screening event.

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

### **Chapter 255:**

Sister Bauman also gave the report for the Chapter 255 Convention. The reception that will be held on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Laborer's Union Hall, from 6-8 pm is where all the vendors will be. That's where the "goodies" will be given out. Masks and hand sanitizers are two of the items that were mentioned. There is a parking lot right next to the building that is fenced in and secured.

They are still looking for ads for the booklet. The cut-off is September 30<sup>th</sup> for the ads.

Brother McCall added to the report by informing the Membership that President Yee's recommendations for the various committees has been turned over to Sub-chapter member and Chapter 255 President, Henry Lykes.

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **REPORT, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Presented by Brother Macdonald)**

#### **Pending Arbitration Case**

The Arbitration contesting the Wayne County discontinuance of **Medical Insurance for Disability** Retirees was heard in October 2019. The arbitrator has yet to issue 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 September 2021 reconciliation of non-Medicare eligible stipends found no new problems.

The Medicare eligible stipend program is another story. 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".

Since the arbitration award, the Sub-chapter and its legal counsel have met numerous times with the County seeking a reliable stipend payment process that is both tax free and user friendly. The solution reached is the replacement of TASC with the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS). This

change would maintain tax-free status for the stipends and more flexibility with a user friendly website and help desk.

As you may recall, the stipend program is the result of a class-action lawsuit filed by the Sub-Chapter with a court order in 2015. As a result, the Grievance #8 settlement agreement approved by the Sub-chapter and Wayne County must also be approved by the courts. On September 7, 2021, the Wayne County Circuit Court ordered that a notice be mailed by Wayne County to all class members explaining the Grievance #8 settlement notwithstanding Sub-Chapter's objections to the content of the notice. The order requires the notice be mailed by September 15, 2021, and that class members objecting to the settlement do so by September 29, 2021. A hearing for final approval of the settlement is scheduled for October 1, 2021. In the meantime, the documents necessary to implement the switch to MERS are drafted ready for final approval. The targeted implementation date is the December 1, 2021, stipend payments.

President Yee through our legal counsel has put Wayne County on notice that the Medicare eligible stipend recipients are entitled to a 2% increase (approximately \$2.75 per month) in tier stipend effective with the January 1, 2022 stipend payment. At this time, there is no reason to expect a problem with implementing the stipend increase.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Brother Macdonald brought up the fact that Sub-Chapter is entitled to seven (7) delegates to the Convention and at this time, we only have six (6) delegates that are able to attend so we do need another member of Sub-Chapter to attend the convention as a delegate.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Brother McCall, to appoint Sister Kim Curry-Smith as a delegate to the convention. She accepted the appointment. The motion carried.

President Yee also asked any other member who wishes to attend to contact him immediately. We have about 11 people going now and have authorization to pay for up to 30 members to attend.

#### **GOOD AND WELFARE**

Brother McCall informed the group that Brother Charlie Parker has had another small stroke. Brother McCall also informed the Membership that the Veterans' Affairs has added a number of medical conditions to automatic disability for benefits. He would like to have someone come in to a meeting and discuss this.

There are out of state and homebound members that want to try and continue to have the Sub-Chapter membership meetings available on Zoom when regular meetings start again in October 2021.

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Brother Wadlin, properly supported by Sister Cairgle, to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 pm. The motion carried