



WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

Ronald Yee
President

Gilbert J. Cox
Vice-President

Richard Noelke
Secretary Treasurer

Mary Etta Kreklau
Recording Secretary

Julie Bauman
Sergeant-At-Arms

John McCall
James Sockolosky
Douglas Wadlin
Executive Board

Faith Cairgle
Paul Pendracki
Jerry Smith
Trustees

October 12, 2021

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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

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

EXCUSED: Cox

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.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. MiARA The September 2021 newsletter that included an article discussing "American Rescue Plan", the lawsuit to protect against the Texas voting rights legislation, COVID booster shots eligibility and the Social Security Administration efforts to engage the public by way of social media and the internet web. No Membership meetings have been scheduled. Receive and File

Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Brother Noelke, to receive and file this item. 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 September 14, 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 September 14, 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 explained the potential move from TASC to MERS for the Medicare stipend retirees; covered the letter Wayne County sent to affected retirees. The Sub-Chapter is hoping for a January 1st effective date, but that hasn't been confirmed. TASC will continue to be the administrator until all the necessary paperwork has been completed. Health Insurance Specialists (HIS) will still be working for our membership. Those representatives are Mike Jasiniski and George Molnar.

In accordance with the terms of the court agreement, there will be a monthly increase in the Medicare stipend to group retirees of 2% effective January 1, 2022 since the County has negotiated a raise for AFSCME employees of at least 2.5%. The other increase the Sub-Chapter had secured in previous years of \$15 per month for all eligible retirees is a no-go for 2022. The County Commission may form Committee to review this for a future year with the intent of it being a permanent change.

The Chapter 255 Biennial Convention is Saturday, October 16th. The Sub-Chapter has purchased a limited number of tickets for our members to attend. There will be a welcome reception on Friday from 6-8 pm for anyone that may wish to attend. Parking is available.

We are looking at continuing Zoom meetings for our out-of-state members. It may require us buying some equipment to do this, but the Wi-Fi here at the UAW Hall will be available to be used.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, 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 \$136,425.41 in cash and investments as of September 30, 2021. There are 1,366 current members with 173 participating in the PEOPLE Plan and (74) members lost this year. Current membership is 107 more than budgeted.

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

Brother Noelke presented the recommendation for the 2021-22 Annual Budget for consideration. The recommendation was for a budget based on a membership of 1300 with the budget of \$120,612.60.

Motion by Sister Cairgle, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to accept the 2021-22 Budget recommendation as presented. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Report: Sister Cairgle presented the Trustee Semi-Annual Audit report through September 30, 2021. The audit found no issues and the books were found to be in order with cash balance of \$9,249.53 plus investments of \$127,175.88 for a total of \$136,425.41. Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Sister Bauman, to accept the Trustee Audit 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 14th 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. The Committee has worked hard on the reception so it would be nice to have a good showing.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

Medical Insurance for Disability Retirees

The Arbitration case contesting the Wayne County discontinuance of **Medical Insurance for Disability Retirees** was heard in October 2019. And the arbitrator has issued an Opinion and Award. The award found that "The County violated the collective bargaining agreement when it made changes to healthcare benefits for newly approved duty and non-duty disability retirees who were improperly denied healthcare benefits after 2010 by virtue of the fact that they did not meet the age and service requirement for "normal retirement". This award applies only to AFSCME disability retirees who retired after the personnel order was issued. Those disability retirees who retired prior to the order did not have their health care benefits stopped. As of yet, the detailed process of making the affected disability retirees **whole** has not been determined. It does appear that there are sixty-one (61) disability retirees of which ten (10) have passed away that must be made **whole** pursuant to the award.

PRESCRIPTION CO-PAY SETTLEMENT

Payments by Wayne County of Non-Medicare eligible stipends appear to be consistent with the settlement agreement. The October 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). The Sub-Chapter prevailed at arbitration with the award requiring the parties to develop an acceptable replacement program. A grievance settlement providing for a modified HRA program was reached and presented to the court for approval. Wayne County sent a "scare" letter to all non-Medicare stipend recipient class members and non-class members offering an opportunity to object to the revised HRA program. When no one objected to the new program, the settlement was approved by the court on October 1, 2021. With the approval of the Court in place, the final implementation agreements can now be completed

and the new program should be implemented with the January 2022 stipend cycle. The Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) will be administering the stipend reimbursements. All Medicare stipend recipients should receive an “enrollment package” from MERS by mid-November 2021 with a complete explanation of how the program works with all of the forms that one could possibly need, a new debit card, and contact information. Your representatives will continue to monitor and guide this process to its conclusion.

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 Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to accept Brother Macdonald’s report. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The group monitoring the health insurance has filed Grievance No. 10. We found a lady who retired in 2004 and the County has refused to pay a stipend to her husband for the past six years. When we inquired with the County regarding this, the answer was “have her call us”, so we filed a grievance on October 1, 2021. The settlement agreement allows ten (10) days for a response and if no response, a demand for Arbitration may be filed. We are requesting authorization to proceed with that demand for arbitration should the County fail to respond to the grievance.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to authorize the Demand for Arbitration for Grievance No. 10 should it is needed. The motion carried.

GOOD AND WELFARE

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Sister Bauman, to adjourn the meeting at 12:09 p m. The motion carried.