



WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

Ronald Yee
President

October 12, 2021

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM 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: None

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Brother Pendracki made the motion, properly supported by Brother Macdonald, 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 Macdonald, to receive and file. The motion carried.

READING OF MINUTES

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Macdonald, 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 Macdonald, 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 Jasinski and George Molnar. One of them will be present at this meeting later on. None of this involves mirrored retirees since the current collective bargaining agreements cover their medical.

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 from 8am to 5 pm at the Laborers' Union Hall, West Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI. 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 Brother Hubert, 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 Brother Macdonald, to accept the Treasurer report as presented. The motion carried.

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.

Brother Noelke submitted the proposed Budget for fiscal 2021-22 for consideration and approval. The proposed Budget, as approved by the Executive Board, is based on a membership

of 1,300 for a total of \$120,612.60, with the largest expense being legal fees due to the continual battles with the County.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to approved the proposed budget as presented. The motion carried.

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 Curry-Smith, to accept the Trustee Audit report as presented. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chapter 255:

Brother McCall reported on the Chapter 255 Constitutional Convention with a reception Friday night. We have not had great participation so far since only 13 members have indicated a desire to attend.

Sister Bauman gave a 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 at 2161 West Grand Blvd. which is just east of I-96. 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. The Committee has done a great job putting this reception together.

We have members of the various committees as follows: Constitution Committee, Hugh Macdonald; Rules Committee, Kim Curry-Smith, Election Committee John Hubert and Richard Noelke, Resolution Committee, James Sockolosky, and Sgt at Arms Committee, Nicole Parone – Chair; and John McCall.

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

ELECTION COMMITTEE:

Brother Richard Johnson, Chair of the Election Committee, announced the election of one Trustee position for the term October 2021 through September 2024. The current Trustee, Paul Pendracki, was completing the term originally held by Charles Parker. Brother Johnson opened the floor for nominations for Trustee. Brother Macdonald informed Brother Johnson that the Executive Board had nominated Brother Paul Pendracki for the office of Trustee at the August 2021 meeting. Brother Johnson called for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Motion by Brother Macdonald, supported by Brother Wadlin to close nominations. The motion passed.

Brother Johnson asked Brother Pendracki if he accepted the nomination and he indicated he would. Brother Johnson then moved on behalf of the Election Committee to accept the nomination and election of Brother Paul Pendracki as Trustee by acclamation, properly supported by Brother Macdonald. The motion carried.

Mike Jasinski of Health Care Services addressed the membership. He has been working as a sub-contractor of AMWINS since 2015 and will also be working with MERS after the transfer has taken place. He stressed it's important to still work with TASC for current expenses and to submit receipts and necessary forms for unreimbursed expenses for 2020 and 2021.

His phone number is 248-406-7339.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Brother Richard Johnson administered the oath of office and swearing in for Brother Paul Pendracki.

Sister Janet Wiktor reminded members that today's luncheon was furnished by the Sub-Chapter since there was an election. However, we do need sign-ups for the luncheon in November and forward. The clipboard is in the back of the hall near the sign-in sheets.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Sister Bauman announced she had petitions for Gretchen Whitmer for Governor in the back of the hall for interested persons.

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

ATTENDANCE DRAWING

\$20 - #8 – Faith Cairgle

\$10 - #11 – Richard Johnson

\$10 - #9 – Beverly Lumzy

There were 59 members present.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Cairgle, to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 pm. The motion carried