



WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

Ronald Yee
President

November 9, 2021

Gilbert J. Cox
Vice-President

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Richard Noelke
Secretary Treasurer

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

Mary Etta Kreklau
Recording Secretary

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

Julie Bauman
Sergeant-At-Arms

EXCUSED: Bauman and Cox

John McCall
James Sockolosky
Douglas Wadlin
Executive Board

ABSENT: None

GUEST: None

Faith Cairgle
Paul Pendracki
Jerry Smith
Trustees

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

Sister Vivian Ramsey was appointed Sergeant of Arms in the absence of Sister Bauman.

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 October 2021 newsletter reporting that Social Security recipients will receive a 5.9% increase in January 2022, an obituary for former congressman Dan Kildee (uncle for current Rep. Kildee) plus a discussion of voting rights protests and pending legislation. No Membership meetings have been scheduled. Receive and File

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, 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 October 12, 2021, 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 Pendracki, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Membership meeting of October 12, 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 reported that the Chapter 255 Biennial Convention was Saturday, October 16th. It was really not well attended. Many of the regions failed to send any representatives. Our group made up almost 50% of the attendees. Brother Henry Lykes was re-elected President as well as Brother John McCall was re-elected to the Executive Board and Sister Faith Cairgle was re-elected Trustee.

Our move from TASC to MERS is still awaiting the County's signature and processing of the paperwork. We have asked them to inform us of the progress of this but they have not responded.

Once the paperwork is completed, MERS will be sending out paperwork to all eligible retirees and we are urging everyone to fill out the forms – we don't know exactly what they will look like, but, as you know, Wayne County and TASC have not shown they are very competent in transferring data from one computer to another. TASC is telling anyone that calls them now that they are no longer handling the stipends and if anyone has any questions, they are directly questions to President Yee's personal phone number without giving out President Yee's name.

There will be a 2% increase in the Medicare eligible stipends effective January 1, 2022.

President Yee has contacted Zoom regarding the equipment that would be needed to continue our Zoom meetings for our out-of-state members. We're still waiting to find out what hardware and/or software would be needed to do that.

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 \$135,992.98 in cash and investments as of October 31, 2021. There are 1,244 current members with 172 participating in the PEOPLE Plan and (96) members lost this year. Current membership is 105 more than budgeted.

The Sub-Chapter did receive this month (November 2021) \$50,000 through Miller-Cohen from the Grievance #8 County settlement. Miller-Cohen kept the other half of the \$100,000 settlement on retainer.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Sosin, 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 found the County violated the collective bargaining agreement when it made changes to healthcare benefits for newly approved duty and non-duty disability retirees. The County must rescind Administrative Personnel Order 1-2010 and make whole the duty or 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 requirements 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 healthcare benefits stopped. It appears that there are sixty-one (61) disability retirees of which ten (10) have passed away that must be made whole pursuant to the award. The attorney for AFSCME has repeatedly requested that the County provide its “make whole” plan and has not received a response from the County.

PRESCRIPTION CO-PAY SETTLEMENT

Payments by Wayne County of Non-Medicare eligible stipends appear to be consistent with the settlement agreement. The November 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 the Sub-Chapter is still receiving calls about the letter. With the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) supposed to assume the Medicare eligible stipend payment administration on January 1, 2022, the Sub-chapter is pushing Wayne County to complete all of the necessary paperwork and have MERS get the annual enrollment documents to everyone in a timely manner. Also, all Medicare eligible stipend recipients should receive, with the “enrollment package”, from MERS, a complete explanation of how the program works along with all forms 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 although Wayne County has yet to process the required MERS agreement modification.

The Sub-Chapter has filed a Grievance #10 on behalf of a Medicare eligible retiree for whom Wayne County has denied the stipend for her eligible spouse, without explanation, since 2015. When the County did not respond to the grievance within the proscribed time limits, the Sub-chapter demanded immediate arbitration. Recently the County has shown an interest in resolving the issue.

The annual luncheon sponsored by the Sub-chapter for WCERS staff is scheduled for December 1, 2021.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chapter 255:

Brother McCall reported on the Biennial Constitutional Convention. The Convention was not well attended by the other regions. Regions 1 and 2 were there. Reports were received from all the required Committees which all had Sub-chapter representatives participating. The reports were all approved. The dignitaries that were there and spoke included Supreme Court Judge Cavanaugh, Stephanie Young, Congressperson Debbie Dingell and Council 25 Secretary-Treasurer, Robin Price.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS:

Brother Macdonald reported that Health Insurance Services had indicated they would be present today, but they're not here. They are the connection between Sub-Chapter members and AMWINS currently and will also have this responsibility with the transfer to MERS. Sub-Chapter representatives have worked with AMWINS and Health Insurance Services have gone out and looked at group health care for eligible retirees in order to offer a group plan. When the paperwork is sent to you, look seriously at the plan since it offers better coverage at a significantly lower premium than is available presently.

Sister Sandy O'Leary-MacGillis brought up Senior Benefits Group as an option also. The two representatives for that group are Paul Sizeland at 810-724-2660 and Jim Niel at 734-657-4798. Senior Benefits offers information on various plans that are available for Medicare eligible retirees by looking at what the needs of the retiree are in the way of health care and prescription coverage.

The Medicare open period ends December 7th and while you can change your Medicare coverage anytime, you cannot change your prescription plan after that time.

A reminder is that mirrored retirees are included with the contracts with current employees. If a mirrored retiree opts out of the group coverage they can go back in by requesting to opt back in with the County.

We are attempting to get this in writing from the County, but haven't succeeded in that.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Brother McCall asked for a minute for everyone to be thankful for their lives as many have lost their lives this year. He introduced two co-workers from WC Roads who both had COVID and have recovered.

President Yee announced that someone is needed to schedule the monthly luncheon volunteer. This person would be responsible to keeping the clipboard with the monthly schedule and requesting people to sign up and reminding those that do sign up, a few days before the meeting. Sister Wiktor is stepping down from handling this. If you are willing to do this task, please contact Brother Sockolosky. There isn't anyone signed up for any of the future meeting dates to handle this.

Brother Yee announced that the GAA/WCERC annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on November 30th at Deluca's Restaurant which is at the corner of Inkster and Warren Roads in Westland at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$25. If you are interested in attending, please contact Brother Yee or Sister O'Leary-MacGillis.

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

ATTENDANCE DRAWING

\$20 - #6 – John McCall

\$10 - #15 – L. Barnard

\$10 - #9 – Faith Cairgle

There were 41 members present.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brother Noelke to adjourn the meeting at 1:42 pm. The motion carried