



# WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

## WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

**Ronald Yee**  
*President*

December 14, 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:** Bauman, Cairgle, Kreklau, McCall, Noelke, Pendracki, Sockolosky, Wadlin, and Yee

**Julie Bauman**  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**EXCUSED:** Smith

**John McCall**  
**James Sockolosky**  
**Douglas Wadlin**  
*Executive Board*

**ABSENT:** None

**GUEST:** None

**Faith Cairgle**  
**Paul Pendracki**  
**Jerry Smith**  
*Trustees*

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Brother Wadlin 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      MiARA      October 2021 newsletter reporting the passage of the Infrastructure Law and the GOP attempts to limit voting in Michigan.      No membership meetings have been scheduled.      Receive and File

Motion by Brother Noelke properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to receive and file this item. The motion carried.

### READING OF MINUTES

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of November 9, 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 Sister Cox, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Membership meeting of November 9, 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 Wadlin, to waive the regular order of business at 1:15 pm in order for the speakers from various agencies involved with the Medicare Stipend change of administration to speak. The motion carried.**

President Yee introduced George Molnar from Health Insurance Specialists, who will be the emcee of this presentation.

A review of the important dates are: 12/12 – cut off on claims through TASC. It begins a black-out period of 17 days. 1/1/2022 MERS takes over the program. Some of the action items are: a) Can start setting up your account now; b) Monies are not transferred yet; c) if you have balances over \$1,000, review investment options; d) ALERIS – will be the recordkeeper for MERS. On the website you will be able to set up a recurring form for Medicare Part B reimbursements; 2) name beneficiaries 3) Setup a Direct Deposit account for recurring payments (i.e. Medicare reimbursement).

The website for MERS is: [www.mersofmich/WayneCounty](http://www.mersofmich/WayneCounty)

It's important that when you are setting up your account – EVERYONE'S DATE OF EMPLOYMENT MUST BE **01/50**. It's a field that must be filled in but is not used for anything in our program.

Two (2) debit cards will be issued to each enrollee. Those are being mailed by MERS directly to each participant. These debit cards may be used (as the TASC debit cards were) for payments directly to providers. You should keep your detailed receipt as it will probably be required to be submitted.

AMWINS clients will be handled differently than what is done currently. AMWINS will bill the client and you will need to pay the entire AMWINS payment. ALERIS will then reimburse you directly for the amount you qualify for which is the opposite of what happens now.

**Motion by Brother Noelke, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to return to the regular order of business at 3:04 pm. The motion carried.**

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

### **SECRETARY-TREASURER:**

#### **Financial Report:**

November 30, 2021. There are 1,358 current members with 171 participating in the PEOPLE Plan and (98) members lost this year. The current membership is 233 more than originally budgeted.

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

**REPORT, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Presented by President Yee in Brother Macdonald' absence)**

**Medical Insurance for Disability Retirees**

The arbitration case contesting the Wayne County discontinuance of health care insurance coverage 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 nonduty disability retirees. The County must rescind Administrative Personnel Order 1-2010 and make whole the duty and/or nonduty 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 only applies 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 stopped. A quick check of the records found sixty-one (61) disability retirees impacted by the award of which ten (10) have passed away. Repeated requests by the AFSCME attorney for a Wayne County “make whole” plan have received excuses but no plan.

**Prescription Co-Pay Settlement**

The payments by Wayne County of non-Medicare eligible stipends appear to be consistent with the settlement agreement through the payment due December 1, 2021.

The Medicare eligible stipend program is another story. The Sub-Chapter filed its Grievance #8 on April 15, 2020, about the many problems with the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) at TASC (formerly Genesis). The arbitrator’s award required the parties to develop an acceptable replacement program. The replacement program moves administration of the Medicare eligible stipend program to the Municipal Employees Retirement Systems (MERS) effective January 1, 2022. Am-Wins will continue to offer Wayne County sponsored group health care plans to retirees receiving Medicare eligible stipends. MERS and AmWins have indicated that direct mailing to all effective retirees is in process and in-person meetings during Sub-Chapter membership meetings in December and January as scheduled.

Wayne County has agreed to pay a 2% Medicare eligible stipend increase, pursuant to the settlement, that President Yee notified Wayne County was required to be added to the existing stipends beginning in January 2022.

The Sub-Chapter filed its Grievance #10 on behalf of a Medicare eligible retiree for whom Wayne County has denied the stipend for her eligible spouse since 2015. A resolution to the grievance has been reached pending Wayne County’s paying the stipends retroactive to 2015, in the January 2022 stipend cycle.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Filling of Vacant Positions on the Executive Board:**

President Yee announced that with the death of Brother Gil Cox, who was Vice-President, the Executive Board had taken action at their meeting today and announced the changes of Brother Doug Wadlin as Vice-President, Sister Julie Bauman appointed to the Executive Board, and Sister Faith Cairgle appointed to Sergeant of Arms, with all these appointments taking effect today for the remainder of the original terms that being October 2023. This leaves one resulting vacancy of Trustee with a term ending October 2022 to be filled.

Brother Yee asked for nominations to this vacancy and the only person who responded was Kim Curry-Smith, who volunteered to replace Sister Cairgle as Trustee with a term ending October 2022. This will be considered at the next Executive Board meeting.

**2022 Calendar of Meetings**

As required by our Constitution, a Calendar of Meetings has been prepared for calendar year 2022. The meetings are scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of November 2022. Since the regular meeting would fall on the same day as the General Election for state offices, the meeting has been moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, November 15, 2022.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Hubert, to accept the proposed Calendar for Meetings for 2022. The motion carried.

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

**There was no attendance drawing this month**

There were 213 attendees that signed in.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Hubert, to adjourn the meeting at 3:16 pm. The motion carried