



# WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

## WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

**Ronald Yee**  
*President*

**Douglas Wadlin**  
*Vice-President*

**Richard Noelke**  
*Secretary Treasurer*

**Mary Etta Kreklau**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Faith Cairgle**  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**John McCall**  
**James Sockolosky**  
**Julie Bauman**  
*Executive Board*

**Pamela Hyde-Shelton**  
**Paul Pendracki**  
**Jerry Smith**  
*Trustees*

April 12, 2022

### 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:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**GUEST:** None

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Brother Pendracki made the motion, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, 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.**

**Motion by Brother Wadlin, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to suspend the Agenda at 1:01 pm to allow for a special speaker, Walter Epps, candidate for Wayne County Sheriff, to address the Membership. The motion carried.**

**Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to return to the regular order of business at 1:14 pm. The motion carried.**

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. MiARA The March 2022 newsletter with an article on the different petitions that are circulating with support for the Promote the Vote petition drive and opposing the signing of the "DeVos Pro-Voucher Anti-Public Education petition drive...  
Receive and File

Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Sister Bauman, 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 March 8, 2022, 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 March 8, 2022, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

**President:** President Yee reviewed five (5) issues that were discussed via a Zoom meeting on March 29, 2022 with members of the County, the Committee on Health Care, and MERS representatives. The items discussed were:

- 1) Fees are being assessed on accounts under \$1,000. Under TASC, the County paid those fees and has agreed to pay them going forward. They will reimburse any retiree accounts that were charged those fees and will be invoiced by MERS going forward. Accounts with balances over \$1,000 will be charged for any investment fees associated with their investment options.
- 2) Under MERS, the accounts under \$1,000 go into their Strategic Fund and twice a month is automatically swept into the Money Market account. This exposes the funds to market volatility and has caused affected retirees to a small loss or gain. MERS has changed their policy for Wayne County to do the sweep manually which will still expose the funds to market volatility, but only for a few days. MERS and the County wanted the Committee to decide if we wanted to agree to the new policy change or in order to prevent any market exposure, to change the Plan from a “retiree active investment plan” to an employer directed plan. The employer directed plan would only have the Money-Market option available so there would be no exposure to market volatility. However, for retirees with an account balance over \$1,000, there would only be a Money Market option, so they would lose all of the other investment options they currently have. After, discussion among the Committee members, it was decided to leave the new MERS policy in place which would have the monthly contributions invested in the Strategic Fund for a few days and then be manually swept to the Money Market Fund understanding that there could be a small loss or a small gain to those new funds.
- 3) An issue for retirees who have filed for a recurring monthly reimbursement, but are not receiving the full amount of their monthly stipend. It has come to our attention that their debit card has been inactivated and they are required to file for any additional costs with a monthly reimbursement request. We requested that this issue be resolved by reactivating the debit card, but MERS said the deactivation of the debit card was an industry standard. However, MERS said this was not an easy fix and while they looked into it, they suggested that a) the retiree file for a recurring monthly reimbursement using the Medicare Part B premium of \$170.20 which would use the entire monthly reimbursement amount; b) the retiree would continue to file for any additional reimbursement requests each month; or, c) that the recurring monthly reimbursement be turned off and the debit card would be active. We made it very clear that shutting of the recurring monthly reimbursement for all retirees was not acceptable. We wait to see how MERS resolves this issue.

4) Some retirees are having a problem accessing their online accounts that have a zero balance. MERS feels this is an individual issue and that those retirees either have not set up their online account, or have provided incorrect information and are unable to set up their account. All parties agreed to have the affected retirees contact MERS or Alerus directly to resolve these issues.

5) Finally, 226 retirees received several reimbursements for the month of April totaling more than their approved monthly stipend. MERS said this was an administrative error and that those individuals will be notified about this overpayment by mail and no additional reimbursements will be paid until the overpayment has been recovered. We notified MERS that we had no issue with this resolution.

Letter to Commissioner Alisha Bell. President Yee has sent a letter to Commissioner Alisha Bell, Chair of the Wayne County Commission, regarding an increase in the monthly healthcare stipend. She responded that she will bring it up during the upcoming budget deliberations and will keep us apprised. I had requested that an Ad Hoc Committee be established to discuss a way that an increase could be included annually without the Sub-Chapter having to request an inclusion in the budget every budget year. She did not seem to be open to that option. I will continue to follow-up with her and possibly contact other Commissioners regarding this issue.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister O'Leary-MacGillis, to accept the President's report as presented. The motion carried.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Brother Wadlin informed us that the Wayne County Labor Coalition meeting for March has been moved to April 20, 2022. Brother Wadlin is unable to attend, but Brother Macdonald will be in attendance.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to accept the Vice-President's report as presented. The motion carried.

**SECRETARY-TREASURER:**

**Financial Report:**

Brother Noelke reported that the Sub-Chapter has \$228,211.00 in cash and investments as of March 31, 2022. There are 1,292 current members with 173 participating in the PEOPLE Plan and (73) members lost this year.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept the Treasurer report for March 2022 as presented. The motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PEOPLE Committee**

Sister Bauman reported there will be a screening tonight for the two individuals running for Wayne County Sheriff. There will also be screenings on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for candidates with

August primaries. May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for submission of the candidate screening questionnaire to Steven Rzeppa for AFSCME endorsements.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept the PEOPLE Committee report. The motion carried.

**Chapter 255:** Brother McCall reported that Chapter 255 has decided on a picnic on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Nankin Mills from 11 – 4 pm for the get together this summer. They are looking for Vendors to donate food and other items and volunteers to help with the picnic.

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

**AUDIT Report:** Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to pass this item for the day. 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 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. A request by the AFSCME attorney in November 2021 for a Wayne County “make whole” plan have received excuses. As a result, Council 25 is considering taking legal action to require Wayne County compliance with the award.

**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 April 1, 2022.

The transition from TASC to MERS as the paying agent for Medicare eligible stipends experienced some problems. The known problems were discussed with Wayne County and MERS/Alerus on March 29, 2022. The Sub-Chapter written responses to the Wayne County and MERS proposed solutions to those problems was forwarded on March 31, 2022. To date, we have heard nothing further from them. Wayne County is providing monthly reports of stipend

amounts transferred to MERS. Wayne County also provided the tabulation of retiree account balances that were moved from TASC to MERS

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Yee requested support to reappoint all current committees and to reappoint all current members of those committees with the exception of the Membership and Entertainment Committee. Sisters Wiktor and Like have requested to be removed from this Committee. Sister Kreklau and Brother Sockolosky have volunteered to replace them on the committee.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to approved the extension of 6 months for the standing committees with the changes as presented. The motion carried.

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

There were 46 attendees that signed in.

**Regular Attendance Drawing:**

\$20 - #46 – Betty Bishop      \$10 -#7 Mary Etta Kreklau      \$10 - #37 – Walter Epps

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 pm. The motion carried.