



WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

Ronald Yee
President

August 16, 2022

Douglas Wadlin
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

Faith Cairgle
Sergeant-At-Arms

EXCUSED: Hyde-Shelton

John McCall
James Sockolosky
Julie Bauman
Executive Board

ABSENT: Smith

GUEST: None

Pamela Hyde-Shelton
Paul Pendracki
Jerry Smith
Trustees

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: MiARA notice for July 2022 announcing the resumption of in-person meetings beginning August 17, 2022.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister O'Leary-MacGillis to receive and file the correspondence. 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 July 12, 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 Sister Curry-Smith, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Membership meeting of July 12, 2022, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

- 1) The County is working on a replacement health insurance plan for retirees who are currently offered AMWINS. This will not affect retirees that purchase their own plans and/or supplemental plans. As more information is available, it will be given to you.
- 2) A few months ago, a number of retirees had questions about current life insurance policies that were offered by Wayne County through the benefits programs. There were questions as to whom the carriers were, contact information needed, etc. President Yee contacted Olivia Calderoni who directed him to the Benefits Department of Wayne County. Supposedly, they will be able to tell retirees who their life insurance carrier is and how to contact them. The phone number for the Benefits Division of Wayne County is 313-224-5157 or email at olivia.calderoni@waynecountymi.gov. He will put the information on the Sub-Chapter 38 website which is wcschapter38.com
- 3) Mirrored retirees were asking how they can get their retiree benefits improved. This must be done through the active employee bargaining groups and not Sub-Chapter. Information is now available about whom to contact for this information and if you are interested, please contact President Yee after the meeting for the information. It will also be posted on the website.
- 4) With regards to Medicare stipends for retirees in the Class, we have contacted Commissioner Elona Varga and at that time, she said there was a lot of support this year for an increase. President Yee sent information to the Fiscal Officer with the numbers of persons it would affect; how we had lost our health care through the County, how we are now taxed on our pensions by the State, and have lost our cost-of-living payments; while all active employees in the County, have now been "made whole" with benefits and salary increases previously taken away. In the last 16 years that we have had benefits taken away from us, the County has had budget surpluses for 15 of those years, and the County saved over \$1 BILLION dollars in unfunded liabilities by eliminating our health care putting it in a much better financial situation; in addition, twenty million a year was saved by eliminating our health care. It appeared this was something that would be accomplished this years and not just for low income retirees, but for all retirees in the Class. However, I was informed last week that now the County is concerned with retaining their current employees and recruiting new employees so now it appears there is any support for anything for retirees. We will continue to work on getting something through but it will be a very tough fight.
- 5) President Yee announced he is running for Wayne County Retirement System Board Trustee as is Brother Macdonald. Petitions are in the back of the room. There are also three (3) others running for this Retiree representative.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to accept the President's report as submitted. The motion carried.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Vice-President Wadlin along with Brother Macdonald attended the Wayne County Labor Coalition meeting on August 10, 2022. Brother Wadlin had asked AFSCME retirees that have expressed a desire to withdraw from AFSCME as mirrored employees, to attend this meeting; as

they were asked to attend the July 12, 2022, meeting. If there is no response from these retirees, they will not be asked again.

The next meeting of the Labor Coalition is September 21, 2022. Both Brother Macdonald and Brother Wadlin agreed the WCLC has finally turned the corner and are listening to us and sharing information.

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

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Financial Report:

The Sub-Chapter has \$231,308.10 in cash and investments as of July 31, 2022. There are 1,265 current members with 167 participating in the PEOPLE Plan and (104) members lost this year.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PEOPLE Committee:

Sister Bauman reported that there are screenings at 5:00 pm tonight and the members have been sent the links. The Michigan Democratic Party Convention is going to be held this weekend. Participants must register in advance to attend the convention or to vote in the convention. The Primary elections turnouts were lower than expected. Every County in southeast Michigan had lower participation in the primary than in the last two (2) elections – very disappointing.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Brother Macdonald's Report:

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 2020 and the arbitrator found that **"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 or nonduty disability retiree who was improperly denied healthcare benefits after 2010 by virtue of the fact that they did not meet the age and service requirements for "normal" retirement."**

The 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 status changed.

In response to a motion by our attorneys, on July 8, 2022 Judge Susan Hubbard issued an “Opinion and Award” ordering Wayne County to implement the arbitration award within 30 days and, also, that the court would retain jurisdiction until the award was implemented plus that the court **shall assess a penalty for failure to timely implement the Arbitration Award**. Wayne County has filed a motion for reconsideration claiming that Judge Hubbard erred in all of her conclusions in the order. That motion is still pending. In the meantime our attorneys are seeking a “make whole” plan from the County consistent with the arbitration award.

HEALTH CARE INSURANCE SETTLEMENT (STIPENDS)

The payments by Wayne County of non-Medicare eligible stipends are consistent with the settlement agreement through the payment due August 1, 2022. Wayne County is providing monthly reports of stipend amounts transferred to MERS/Alerus.

The Sub-Chapter leadership is currently working with Wayne County to find a group health care plan for the Medicare eligible retirees that provides expanded benefits at a significantly lower premium while giving retirees the option to enroll in a plan of their own choosing. It is hoped that this new group health care plan can be implemented for 2023.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister O’Leary-MacGillis, to accept Brother Macdonald’s report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD AND WELFARE

There was a moment of silence for deceased

A thank you was given to Sister Maureen Cosgrove for providing the luncheon today. Members were reminded that those providing lunch are fully reimbursed by the Sub-Chapter and there is a need for volunteers for lunch in the coming months.

There were 37 attendees that signed in.

Regular Attendance Drawing:

\$20 -#20 Jerry MacGillis \$10 -#13 – Doug Wadlin \$10 - #2– Paul Pendracki

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brother Wadlin, to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 pm. The motion carried.