

AFSCME LOCAL 517

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2010

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.
2. Treasurer's Report (Barb Christianson): The January Financial Report was distributed for review. There was a motion to approve. M/S/C.
3. Secretary's Report (Kathy Cunnien): There was a motion to approve the January meeting minutes as posted on our website at www.local517.org. M/S/C.
4. Chief Steward's Report (Jeff Birttnen):
 - There are 14 signed up for Day on the Hill (February 17). The deadline was yesterday but Council 5 is still accepting fax sign-ups. Our Local will be paying for your time off (you can either take PTO/Vacation or use Code 937-Union Leave w/o Pay w/Benefits). The fee is \$20 but can't be paid by our Local as we aren't allowed to pay for any political activities. The fee includes lunch (meatless will be available as it is Ash Wednesday) and a reception in the evening. Registration will be from 7:30-10:00 a.m., followed by a general session and lunch. Buses will transport everyone to the Capitol Rotunda from 12:00-12:30 p.m. for a rally. After the rally you will meet with your respective legislators. If this is your first time attending, you will need to provide Barb Christianson with a W-4, I-9 and a copy of your hourly rate of pay.
 - There has been one discipline, a Step 3 yesterday (waiting to hear back) and a settlement on a Step 3.
5. Field Rep's Report (Scott Grefe):
 - We're entering a very important time period from now to September. We're supporting Tarryl Clark for the 6th Congressional seat as she is a worker-friendly candidate (that seat is currently held by Michele Bachmann, voted by CNN as wing nut of 2009). We also have three Washington County Commissioners up for re-election. We're not asking everyone to become political junkies, but at least be politically aware of how choices affect our paycheck.
 - Judy Wertheimer reported there is a bill to permanently move the primary to the second Tuesday in August. Governor Pawlenty is expected to sign. The filing period for candidates will be May 18-June 1.
6. President's Report (Judie Atkins):
 - Today is the day to call Senators Klobuchar and Franken and ask them to support the main street jobs bill.
 - The AFL-CIO Retiree's Fundraiser is Saturday, May 1, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall on Cope Avenue in Maplewood.
 - Empty Bowls – This is a fundraiser hosted by Youth United Way of Washington County and will be March 9 in Stillwater from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Local restaurants will be donating soup and bread. The minimum suggested donation is \$20.
 - The Nellie Stone Johnston Dinner is March 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Prom Center in Oakdale. This is an annual fundraiser for scholarships for minority union members and their families. There was a motion to purchase two tickets @ \$65/each. M/S/C. Judy Wertheimer and Judie expressed interest in attending. If anyone else is interested, they should contact Judie.

- There are many scholarship opportunities available for members and their families. Information can be found on Council 5's website at <http://afscmemn.org>. If you have an AFSCME credit card, they also have scholarships.
 - The AFL-CIO is taking applications for anyone interested in serving on the MnSCU Board.
 - There is a Field Rep position open at Council 5.
 - The next Steward Training is March 16-17. We are in need of Stewards and Chief Stewards. With Jeff retiring at the end of the year, we will be losing a wealth of knowledge and experience. We need two people for the Chief Steward positions so there is time for them to be mentored by Jeff. Ideally we would like one from each unit (Exempt and Non-Exempt), but they can both be Non-Exempt.
7. New Business: Brian Huffman has agreed to Chair the Nominations Committee. Today we will open with nominations and they will stay open up until elections at the next meeting on March 10. To be eligible for nomination, you must be a full paying member for the six months prior. Below are the open positions along with those nominated (additional nominations can be emailed to Brian):
- President – Christine Main
 - Vice President – Barb Lunn
 - Recording Secretary – Kathy Cunnien
 - Treasurer – Barb Christianson
 - Chief Steward (2 positions) – Jeff Birttnen
 - Trustee (There are 3 Trustees but only 1 position is open as they are staggered over three years) – Barb Cysiewski, Jane Ball
 - Executive Board (3 positions) – Patricia Harding, Deb Myrvold, Jacque Boever, Judy Wertheimer, Judie Atkins
 - Reporter/Newsletter Coordinator – This is an appointed position. This person would attend union functions, take pictures and write articles. They would also be responsible for coordination of our newsletter, Greenpiece.
- It was asked whether there were job descriptions available for these positions. There are and they will be posted on the website.
8. Old Business:
- There were concerns raised regarding Blue Cross Blue Shield. Their drug program is not the same as HealthPartners and a lot of drugs are not covered. Scott stated there was supposed to be a transition of three months, but members said that is not happening. Benefit Explanations have also not been on-line and their interpretation of coverage is different (an example was paying for lab tests rather than a co-pay). Terri Lutz should be contacted first regarding any issues, then our local Insurance Committee members, Jeff Birttnen, Judie Atkins, and Scott Grefe. It will be another three years before health insurance goes out for bid.
 - Annie Walton requested reimbursement of \$41.79 for green arm bands purchased during contract negotiations. There was a motion to reimburse her for the full amount. M/S/C.
9. Good and Welfare: Jerry Serfling just retired from Council 5 (he was the Metro Area Field Director). Jerry was our Field Rep here when Judie first started 30 years ago. Jerry has held many positions in AFSCME, the AFL-CIO, and the St. Croix Valley Regional Labor Federation. We will miss Jerry and his great knowledge and experience in the union.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cunnien