

AFSCME LOCAL 517
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2009

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.
2. Secretary's Report: There was a motion to approve the January minutes. M/S/C.
3. Treasurer's Report: Copies of the January Financial Report were distributed for review. A \$16,550.22 CD matured in January and was cashed in and redistributed as follows: \$6,550.22 deposited into checking, \$5,000.00 deposited into a CD with a maturity date of 7/6/09, and \$5,000.00 deposited into a CD with a maturity date of 2/1/10. There was a motion to approve the report. M/S/C.
4. President's Report:
 - There are many scholarships available. If you go to our website at www.local517.org and click on "Calendar of Events," you will see the application deadline for each scholarship plus a link to click on for additional information. You can also go to the AFSCME and AFL-CIO websites for more information (you can find the links on our website).
 - There will be a phone bank on February 17 at Council 5. We will be calling members about the state budget and Day on the Hill.
5. Chief Steward Report:
 - A 5-day suspension has been settled to 1-day with reinstatement after a year.
 - Reminder: Your computer is county property. You should not have personal photos or software and should not even check your home email during your lunch (there is concern about viruses). The email system should be used for business only. If you do browse the internet during your own time, do not make any purchases.
 - This coming Monday bi-partisan committees will be splitting up and talking about the Governor's budget proposal around the state. The Woodbury meeting is Feb. 23 at 6:00 p.m. and the Forest Lake date and time has not yet been set.
 - Day on the Hill (March 10-11) – Jeff is on the planning committee and everything is coming along well. Council 5's goal is to have 1,000 members at the Capitol rally on the second day.
 - The Insurance Committee has their first meeting on March 9 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Each bargaining unit is represented. This year health insurance will be going out for bid. It is important that we have members' home email in order to keep them informed about developments.
6. Business Rep Report:
 - Scott brought "For the Common Good" posters. This campaign originally started as a prelude to contract negotiations for state employees. It will now spread state-wide to raise public awareness of the important services we provide. The Governor wants less government at a time when more people are looking for assistance during these tough times. March 3 is the next budget forecast and it could be worse – another \$1 billion. So why campaign? Local Government Aid is a target and any reductions in aid could result in loss of jobs. The Federal stimulus package would provide some assistance for health and human services but the amount is unknown. There is also a bill in the Senate proposing a two-year wage freeze for ALL government employees, and since we are in the last year of our contract, it is important to campaign against this as it takes away our

right to negotiate. What happens at the state level will flow down to the counties and cities, and that's why we need members to contact their legislators to not let this bill pass.

- Day on the Hill – If you can only attend one day, the second day is the most important. The rally at the Capitol Rotunda is going to be at 1:00 p.m. on March 11, and Council 5's goal is 1,000 people (family and friends are also encouraged to show up).
- The regional committee has been set up and had their first meeting February 5. The committee is comprised of all AFSCME locals, and there are many union members living in Washington County. Members who attended this meeting will be going to the next River Valley Action Group (Thursday, February 12, 6:30 p.m. in Room 20 of the Government Center) to see if there are common issues we can work on together.

7. New Business:

- Nominations for Chair Officers and E-Board:

President – Judie Atkins

Vice President – Barb Lunn

Recording Secretary – Kathy Cunnien

Treasurer – Barb Christianson

There was a motion for a unanimous ballot for the chair officers, M/S/C.

Nominations for Chief Steward (2 openings):

Jeff Birtnen

There was a motion to appoint Jeff to Chief Steward and to leave the other position open. M/S/C.

Nominations for Executive Board:

Judy Wertheimer

Deb Myrvold

Bob Jaqua

There was a motion for unanimous ballot, M/S/C.

Nominations for Trustee (1 opening to replace Deb Burkhardt):

Brian Huffman

There was a motion to appoint Brian as a Trustee. M/S/C.

The Reporter position is open. Judie is checking to see if Karen McCarthy is still interested in continuing in that position. Scott will swear in all officers at the Executive Board Meeting on February 23.

- Day on the Hill – There was a motion to send up to 21 members. M/S/C. Lost time will be paid for the second day but only for the first day if you are a first-time attendee (so far there is one person attending the first day and everybody else the second). In addition, mileage and parking will be paid. Parking vouchers will be available for \$7.00 for the Crowne Plaza and the ramp across the street (to the east). Members are responsible for paying the cost of the second day (\$15.00). Our local cannot pay this as the money goes to the AFSCME PEOPLE fund. Checks should be made payable to AFSCME and given to Judie. Barb Christianson reminded everyone that she needs a copy of your current wage. If you have not received lost time before, then you need to submit an I-9 and W-4. If you don't want any Minnesota tax deducted, she also needs to know that. The current mileage rate is \$.55.
- Report on February 5 (the first AFSCME Regional Meeting) – Covered in Business Report above.
- AFL-CIO Women Leader's Conference – This is being held April 22-24 at Ruttger's Bay Lodge. The registration fee is \$335.00 per person for a double. Judie would like to send at least one person and talked to the Central Labor Body about paying half the fee. There was a motion to send Barb Cysiewski and pay the registration fee. Lost time and mileage will be discussed at our next E Bd meeting, M/S/C.

- Eight legislators will be at the Guardian Angels Church on Sunday, February 22, from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the Peter O'Neill Hall ("Breakfast with Your Legislator"). The legislators are: Sen. Chuck Wiger, Sen. Kathy Saltzman, Sen. Ray Vandever, Rep. Matt Dean, Rep. Nora Slawick, Rep. Julie Bunn, Rep. Marsha Swails and Rep. Leon Lillie. The meeting is open to all and is a good opportunity to talk to your representatives about the state budget. Continental breakfast will be provided.
- Allison Munch asked about the effect of having staggered contracts. Scott stated that it can have an effect but would have a greater impact in any other year except this one. We think that because some of the other bargaining units have 2010 amounts bargained at 3% increase, we should be able to get the same, unless they agree to open up their contract for renegotiations which is unlikely. We should be able to get the 3% also and after that it's going to be very hard to get anything. That's why it's so important to stay strong and solidarity must prevail.

8. Old Business: Ran out of time.

9. Good and Welfare: Ran out of time.

There was a motion to adjourn at 1:10 p.m., M/S/C.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cunnien