

**AFSCME LOCAL 517**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 10, 2010**

---

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.
2. Treasurer's Report (Barb Christianson): The February Financial Report was distributed for review and there was a motion to approve. M/S/C.
3. Secretary's Report (Kathy Cunnien): There was a motion to approve the February meeting minutes as posted on our website at [www.local517.org](http://www.local517.org). M/S/C.
4. President's Report (Judie Atkins):
  - Judie thanked the membership and E-Board for their past 16 years of support. She was grateful for the opportunity and learned a great deal.
  - There will be special meetings in April and May regarding progressive dues. They will be held after work to allow the cities to attend as this affects them as well.
5. New Business: Brian Huffman, Chair of the Nominations Committee, announced that Patricia Harding withdrew her nomination for the Executive Board. Brian then asked if there were any additional nominations, seeing there were none, nominations were closed. Ballots were then handed out to full dues paying members. The results are as follows:
  - President: Christy Main
  - Vice President: Barb Lunn
  - Treasurer: Barb Christianson
  - Secretary: Kathy Cunnien
  - Executive Board: Judy Wertheimer, Deb Myrvold, Jacque Boever
  - Trustee (1 opening): Jane Ball
  - Chief Steward (2 openings): Jeff BirttnenJudie swore in the new officers. A change of officers form will be completed and sent to Council 5. Kathy C. will update the website information and new employee packet.
6. Chief Steward's Report (Jeff Birttnen):
  - There were 700 registered for Day on the Hill (February 17) and 950 showed up. The theme this year was to apply pressure on the legislators to get a backbone and raise revenue by having the wealthiest Minnesotans (those earning more than \$250,000/year) pay their fair share of taxes. They pay 9.6% while the rest of us pay 12.4%. It was asked whether the legislators were happy about our presence. The ones that are worker-friendly were glad to see us. The rest don't always take the time to meet with us, even though meetings are scheduled ahead of time. Matt Dean said he would fill out the questionnaire and return, but we are still waiting for a response.
  - Screenings were held for State Auditor and Secretary of State. Randy Gilbert, Pat Awada-Anderson and Rebecca Otto are running for State Auditor and came to the screening. For the Secretary of State screening, one did not show but Mark Ritchie did. Mark has always defended AFSCME. Endorsement decisions will be made by the Council 5 Executive Board next Thursday.
  - The AFSCME bus, which is a full-size Metro Transit bus wrapped in AFSCME colors, will be running along University Ave. between downtown Minneapolis, the U of M, and downtown St. Paul. The bus promotes our mission of excellence in public service, dignity in the workplace, and prosperity and opportunity for all workers. Council 5 is also advertising inside light-rail cars and at the Gov't Center LRT station in Minneapolis.

- Union dues are not allowed for political activities, but there are a couple ways you can contribute if you wish. Locals can contribute to the Council 5 media fund, which works to produce ads for radio and television regarding AFSCME services (the AFSCME bus above is an example). Another way is to contribute to the PEOPLE fund, which financially assists worker-friendly candidates running for office. We now can make contributions through payroll deduction for as little as \$1 per paycheck. The percentage of members contributing has been slowly increasing, which is especially important given that our next contract negotiations will be next year.
- AFSCME has endorsed Mark Dayton in the Governor's race as he has met all of our criteria (this is set a few months ahead of screenings). Mark values public employees and does not want to see any more layoffs.
- There will be an east metro all-AFSCME family picnic at Battle Creek Park on July 17.

7. Old Business: None.

8. Good and Welfare: None.

9. Other: The Trustees will be conducting an audit of our books the evening of Tuesday, March 16. There was a motion to provide dinner. M/S/C.

10. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cunnien