

AFSCME LOCAL 517 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES May 12, 2010

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.
2. Treasurer's Report: The April Financial Report was distributed for review. There was a motion to approve. M/S/C.
3. Secretary's Report: Last month's meeting minutes were posted on the website. Barb Lunn had one correction to the minutes for the evening meeting. The Vice President's monthly pay was listed at \$25, but it should be \$20. There was a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. M/S/C.
4. Chief Steward's Report: There hasn't been much activity in disciplinary actions. One important thing to note is that the Board passed an update to the policy regarding medical evaluations. The policy now states that frequent absenteeism may require a health assessment. It was asked what constitutes excessive time off and who makes that decision. It varies by department and could be made by the supervisor or department head. This is concerning because the decision will not be consistent throughout the county and each employee's personal situation is unique. If an employee needs an extended period of time off, he/she should consider applying for FMLA.
5. President's Report:
 - 2010 MN AFL-CIO Community Services Awards – The MN AFL-CIO sponsors two community service awards which are presented during their biennial Constitutional Convention (this year it is Sept. 26-28 in Bloomington). The Bea Kersten Community Services Project Award honors groups that have made unique contributions to their communities through volunteer service. The Terrel D. Merriman Community Services Award honors individuals who made unique contributions to their communities through volunteer service. The Youth Volunteer Award honors young union members or dependents of union members (ages 17-21) who made unique contributions to their community through volunteer service. If wish to nominate someone, you can complete the attached form and return it to the MN AFL-CIO by May 28.
 - 2010 MN AFL-CIO Labor Leadership Grants – There are two separate grants (the Tobey Lapakko Labor Leadership Grant for women and the Charles McKenna Leadership Grant for men) available for members seeking to develop their abilities and skills as union leaders. A total of \$1,000 will be awarded from each grant to help defray the cost of classes, programs or conferences sponsored or endorsed by the AFL-CIO or affiliated organizations. This does not come out of our budget.
 - Grassroots Lobby Alert – Protect Your Pension! If you're concerned about protecting your retirement and preventing your benefit being changed from defined benefit (guaranteed retirement income) to defined contribution (401K type that may not include an employer match), then call your state legislators now! Ask them to remove the Kiffmeyer amendment from the Omnibus Retirement/Pension Bill, and that AFSCME opposes her study to replace our defined benefit pensions with defined contribution plans.
 - St. Paul Regional Labor Federation Per Capita Tax Withholding Form – The Council 5 Executive Board voted unanimously to demand the resignation of President Bobby Kasper. Prior to his election, he was caught in a prostitution sting and also thrown out of Canterbury Park for cheating (he was not charged but did admit to this). This information came out after he was elected. There was a motion to withhold per capita tax (\$1.25 per person per month). Council 5 will hold those deductions in escrow. M/S/C.

- Local 517 Reporter – We are in need of a volunteer for our Local. This person would be responsible for taking pictures at functions and writing articles. Judie Atkins said Kathleen O’Toole would do it if nobody volunteered. Since nobody did, Christy will talk to Kathleen about assuming the position. Council 5 also provides training which is available either June 4 or 11.
- Chief Steward Training is available July 21 for anyone interested (you need to be a current Steward). Lost time would be paid.
- AFSCME has endorsed Mark Dayton for Governor. Christy will be receiving information on volunteering opportunities if anyone is interested.
- Christy has pledge cards available that state you’ll make sure we have a Governor who supports the services we provide and that you’ll vote in the August 10th Primary Election and November 2nd General Election. Contact Christy if you would like to sign a card.

6. New Business:

- East Metro Picnic (for members and their families of all AFSCME Locals). Barb Lunn stated they are looking for contributions from Locals, and we could do something such as donating pop which we do for the St. Croix Valley Labor Assembly picnic every June. Since the East Metro Picnic is new and attendance is unknown, it would be hard to determine how much product to purchase. There was a motion to approve a \$50 donation and have our budget for the Holiday Party reduced by this amount. M/S/C.

7. Old Business:

- Christy provided an update on the Progressive Dues Committee being assembled. Her goal is to have 10 members and she is waiting to hear back from a prospective committee member. There will then be one or perhaps two meetings, and will probably be held after work in Forest Lake. Lori Simon asked if the purpose of the committee was to decide whether to bring the 1.1% proposal to the membership for a vote. Christy said the purpose is to look at other formulas, and asked Lori if she would like to be on the committee. (Lori later emailed Christy and said she would be on the committee.)
- Lori asked what happened with the request for money last month. The request was from Carole Gerst, who is the Field Rep for the Stillwater Library and Cities of Stillwater, Oak Park Heights, Cottage Grove and Forest Lake. They belong to and pay dues into our Local, and Carole had requested \$500 to help cover expenses for the International Convention. There was a motion to not contribute. M/S/C.
- There was discussion regarding sending five delegates to the Convention and where this was stated in the minutes. The April General Membership Meeting Minutes-Noon Meeting covered the election of five delegates to the Convention, with three alternates in the event a delegate could not attend. The cost to send five delegates was already built into the budget.
- There was discussion regarding changing our meetings from Noon to 5:00 p.m. Several members felt we would have better attendance. There was a motion to change the monthly meetings to 5:00 p.m. at the Government Center. M/S/C.
- Lump Sum Payment – A question was asked as to when we would see this payment. It will be the first pay period after July 1. It will not be a separate check, so if you want to minimize your tax impact you can change your deductions prior.
- New Employee Orientation – A question was asked as to how new employees receive union information. Barb Lunn said she gives a presentation at the new employee orientation. If the orientation is cancelled, then Jeff or a steward contacts the new employee. Barb has been doing these presentations for 16 years, but is willing to step aside if someone else would like to assume this responsibility.
- Bulletin Boards – Members would like to see agendas and minutes posted. Jeff has contacts in each department that should be handling this, but needs to know if there are boards not being updated.

- There were concerns about our last meeting and our representation. Christy will look into this further.
8. Good and Welfare: There was none.
 9. Adjourn: There was a motion to adjourn at 12:56 p.m. M/S/C.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cunnien
Recording Secretary

2010 Minnesota AFL-CIO Community Services Awards

UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FORM

(Application Deadline: May 28, 2010)

The Minnesota AFL-CIO sponsors two community service awards which are presented during the Minnesota AFL-CIO's biennial Constitutional Convention.

Recipients will be selected by the Minnesota AFL-CIO Community Services Committee.

Union members and local unions may make nominations for the awards honoring volunteer activities.

Select One:

BEA KERSTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARD

(To be awarded to an AFFILIATED UNION)

Bea Kersten had a long and rich history of serving the community through her volunteer contributions. She was a member of IBEW Local 1139. This award was established in 1986 to honor an *affiliated union* who made unique contributions to their communities through volunteer service and to focus public attention on these outstanding and innovative volunteer efforts.

TERREL D. MERRIMAN COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARD

(To be awarded to an INDIVIDUAL union member)

During his life, Terrel Merriman, a member of CWA 7200, championed the rights of the little person and support to anyone in need through his volunteer activities. This award was established in 1988 to honor an *individual* who made unique contributions to their communities through volunteer service and to focus public attention on these outstanding and innovative volunteer efforts.

MINNESOTA AFL-CIO YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD

(To be awarded to a young union member or dependent of a union member, age 17-21)

This award was established in 2003 to honor a young union member or dependent of a union member, who made unique contributions to their communities through volunteer service and to focus public attention on these outstanding and innovative volunteer efforts.

PLEASE MAIL ALL ENTRIES postmarked no later than May 28, 2010 to:

**Minnesota AFL-CIO
Community Services Awards
175 Aurora Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103**

(651) 227-7647 or 1-800-652-9004

~ OVER ~

NOMINATIONS
for
Minnesota AFL-CIO Community Services Awards

I. NOMINEE:

_____ Name of Union Project or Individual

_____ Name of Union/Contact Person

_____ Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip

Phone (____) _____

II. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY:

For the **Bea Kersten Project Award**, *only projects developed and coordinated by labor organizations are eligible for consideration*. What was the project designed to accomplish? How many members of the community benefited from this project? Describe the degree of participation by your union members. What makes this project unique? How will this project continue to develop in the future?

For the **Terrel Merriman and Youth Individual Awards**, describe the nominee's contributions to their community through volunteer service. List each activity including the number of volunteer hours per month and length of involvement. Describe how this volunteer's contributions are outstanding and innovative.

III. NOMINATOR/VERIFICATION: In order to qualify for consideration, a nominee must have a reference who may be contacted to verify the scope and extent of the nominee's volunteer activities. Reference should be a person familiar with the volunteer accomplishments for which the nominee is being nominated.

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Title and Union/Organization: _____

Address _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip

IV. NOMINATION:

I hereby nominate _____
Name of Union Project, Individual or Youth

Signature _____ Date _____

~ Nominations must be postmarked no later than May 28, 2010 ~

2010 Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Leadership Grants

APPLICATION FORM

Sponsored by the Minnesota AFL-CIO for members of affiliated unions seeking to develop their abilities and skills as union leaders.

Recipients will be selected by the Minnesota AFL-CIO Education Committee. The Committee will determine the grant amount.

Please submit ONE application only. Duplicate entries will be disqualified.

Select One Option Only:

I am applying for:

THE TOBEY LAPAKKO LABOR LEADERSHIP GRANT

(a total of \$1,000 in grants will be awarded)

Available to women who are union members in good standing to help defray the cost of classes, programs or conferences sponsored or endorsed by the AFL-CIO or affiliated organizations.

Tobey served as Consumer Affairs Director of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, and she was a former commissioner of the Department of Economic Security.

THE CHARLES McKENNA LEADERSHIP GRANT

(a total of \$1,000 in grants will be awarded)

Available to men who are union members in good standing to help defray the cost of classes, programs or conferences sponsored or endorsed by the AFL-CIO or affiliated organizations.

Charles McKenna served as Business Manager of Iron Workers Local 512, and served as a District Vice President of the Minnesota AFL-CIO from 1979 – 1982.

PART 1 – TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT: (Please print or type)

Name _____
Last First Middle

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Union: _____
Local No. Name of International Union

PART II – TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT: (Please print or type)

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Name of the class, program or conference you plan to attend: _____

Brief description: _____

Date(s) offered: _____

Offered or sponsored by: _____

Cost: _____ Amount requested: _____

GRANT SHOULD BE SENT TO:

Name of sponsoring organization: _____

To the Attention of: _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip

Phone: _____
Area Code

PART III – TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL UNION OFFICER : (Please print or type)

I certify that _____
(applicant)

is a member in
good standing of _____ Local No. _____
Name of International Union

and has held membership in this local union for a period of one year prior to the date of this scholarship application, and that **our local union is an affiliate of the Minnesota AFL-CIO.** (*NOTE: this is a requirement for the applicant's eligibility.*)

Our union is contributing \$ _____ toward the cost of this member's participation in the educational program described in Part II.

Local Union Officer _____
Name Title

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Signature of officer _____

Date _____ Phone (_____) _____

Mail this form, postmarked, to: **Minnesota AFL-CIO Education Committee**
175 Aurora Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103
(651) 227-7647 or 1-800-652-9004

