

AFSCME LOCAL 517
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2009

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.
2. Secretary's Report: There was a motion to approve the April minutes as posted on www.local517.org. M/S/C.
3. Treasurer's Report: Copies of the April Financial Report were distributed for review. There was a motion to approve the report. M/S/C.
4. President's Report: AFSCME is looking for volunteers to help staff the water station at the Minneapolis Marathon on Sunday, May 31. There are two shifts (7 a.m.-11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and volunteers receive an AFSCME T-shirt. You can find out more on the AFSCME Council 5 website: www.afscmemn.org.
5. Chief Steward Report:
 - One discipline has been completed.
 - Be careful with county computer use.
 - Respectful workplace policy – Be careful about your conversations with co-workers as there have been complaints. Employees are also concerned about disciplinary action if they've filed a complaint previously. We also need to be cautious about filing the same complaint. The Board changes to the policy do not affect us now as we're still working under our current contract.
6. Field Rep Report:
 - State employees have reached a tentative agreement which affects about 18,000 members. There will be no across-the-board or step increases the first year, but a step increase in the second. The Governor initially said he wanted to freeze wages for all government employees for two years. Insurance costs will not increase the first year but will go up 6% in the second for family coverage. With the \$125 benefit card that will be distributed, that will offset the insurance increase. There will be no furloughs, which would have equaled a 10% pay cut. Their contract will actually help with our negotiations. Normally we would start in July, but may want to move it up. We need to see what happens with the state budget and the RFP for health insurance. This is not a normal year, so we need to remember that as we approach negotiations.
 - We don't know when the next health insurance meeting will be. The RFPs have gone out and we expect to receive responses early June. We have a great experience rating which will help our rates and contract negotiations.
7. Elect Delegates to the Next Wave Conference (age 35 and under): Christine Main (Forest Lake Workforce Center), Bridgit Olson (Community Services), Blija Yang (Community Services) and Christine Indehaar (Property Records and Taxpayer Services) were nominated to attend. There was a motion to send four delegates and to pay for airfare, lodging for three nights (two double rooms), per diem, ground travel and one day of lost time. M/S/C. There is no registration fee for this conference.

8. New Business:

- Chris Cowen, a Council 5 Field Representative for St. Paul, gave a presentation. He has been on a special assignment to inform members about the state budget. Just this morning the Governor said there will be no increase in taxes or revenue. He's pushing out the problems to the future and wants to use bonds and tobacco money. The Senate has a \$2.2 Billion revenue increase in their budget and the House has \$1.2 Billion. The House has 87 democrats and need 90 to override a veto. There were 86 that voted no – they are planning to work on the one plus Republicans. The AFSCME campaign has been Fair Taxation. People at the top pay less taxes and you can help by contacting your State Senator and Legislators. Flyers can be customized to members so they know who to contact. Council 5 and International have also been doing phone banks. Scott said a common response he has heard is that budget cuts won't affect them because they have a lot of seniority and won't lose their job. While they may not lose their job, the cuts would affect them as they would have to do more with less.
- Jennifer from the City of Stillwater spoke about the issues they are facing. The Mayor wants to get rid of new revenue and outsource. Residents need to know how this will affect services. Jennifer passed out a sample letter which residents can send to the Mayor. We can also help by attending the City Council meetings which are held every first and third Tuesday. Jeff suggested a phone bank after the budget session to target other AFSCME members who live in Stillwater. It was also suggested that someone from the City try to attend the St. Croix River Valley Action meeting tomorrow here at the Government Center in Room 20 at 6 p.m.
- Judie will not be here for the Labor Management Meeting on Monday but will get out the agenda.
- Barb Lunn said that new employee orientation is this Friday if anybody wants to attend.
- At LULA (Local Union Leadership Academy), the E-Board outlined a mapping plan for forming a communications network. This network will be used to quickly communicate negotiations and other important information as it arises. We'll be looking for 50 members throughout the County, Cities and Libraries to help convey information.
- The St. Croix Valley Labor Assembly Picnic will be held Wednesday, June 24 at 5 p.m. in Valley View Park. Endorsed labor candidates have been invited.

9. Old Business: None.

10. Good and Welfare: None.

There was a motion to adjourn at 12:59 p.m. M/S/C.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cunnien