

AFSCME LOCAL 517 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES June 9, 2010

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. Christy Main was away at a conference so the meeting was conducted by Barb Lunn.
2. Treasurer's Report (Barb Christianson): The May Financial Report was distributed for review. There was a motion to approve the report as printed. M/S/C.
3. Secretary's Report (Kathy Cunnien): The May meeting minutes were posted on workplace bulletin boards and www.local517.org. There was a motion to approve as printed. M/S/C.
4. Chief Steward's Report (Jeff Birttnen):
 - There was one suspension for excessive internet use. Just a reminder that it is the county's computer.
 - There is an all AFSCME picnic on Saturday, July 17, from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at Battle Creek Regional Park in St. Paul. Additional information is available on the website.
 - Screenings for the House and Senate begin on Monday, June 14, for Districts 52, 56 and 57 at Council 5 in South St. Paul. If you're interested in attending, let Jeff know so they can make sure there is enough seating. Everyone is welcome to attend to see how the process works. Only the Council 5 Executive Board can vote, but you can give your opinion.
5. Field Rep's Report (Scott Grefe):
 - Get out and vote. There are reminder cards available for the primary and general elections. You fill in the card with your name and address and turn into Council 5. Prior to the primary (August 10) and general (November 2) elections, they will mail the card to you as a reminder to get out and vote.
 - Winning elections for a better Minnesota. There are sign-up cards available if you're interested in volunteering (phone banking, door knocking, putting up lawn signs, etc.).
6. President's Report (Barb Lunn):
 - First reading of the recommended progressive dues structure:
 - Article IV Membership and Dues. Section 3. The bi-weekly membership dues of the local shall be 80% of the individual hourly rate to be implemented as late as possible.
 - Scott said we can wait to insert a date until after the International Convention. Depending on the outcome of the vote, the implementation date will be either January 2011 or January 2013. Once a resolution is passed by our Local, it is then sent to International for approval and to ensure it meets the definition of "progressivity." A progressive dues structure is not designed to take in more money to fill our coffers. The total dollar amount collected remains the same – the way our dues are structured just changes.
 - It was asked when we would vote. It will be after the second reading in August (there is no July meeting) and will be by ballot. The amendment would then get sent to International for approval and to ensure it meets the definition of "progressivity."
 - It was asked what would happen if we vote not to accept the recommendation. The answer has not changed. It will default to 2% of gross pay. This is not a

mandate by International. It is the language that was included in the resolution which was passed by a majority vote of all locals at the International Convention in 2006. Scott stated he was never a fan of the language, but because it passed we need to work towards a progressive structure in order to avoid the 2%.

➤ It was asked what was being done to cut expenses. Scott stated that several staff positions have remained vacant and a director's position has been open for the past year. They're doing the same thing we are: doing more with less. With the sudden death of their lobbyist, Scott has also taken on some of those responsibilities. Council 5 and International set a budget just like every local does.

- Reminder: Chief Steward Training is Wednesday, July 21, for any current Steward interested in attending.
- PEOPLE Fun Run: Duane Gatzke from AFSCME Local 2829 (MPCA) is again running in the PEOPLE Fun Run at the International Convention (despite seven knee surgeries and being told he'd never run again). All donations go to the PEOPLE fund, which is used to assist worker-friendly candidates run for office (union dues are not allowed to be spent on political campaigns).

7. New Business: None.

8. Old Business: None.

9. Good and Welfare: None.

10. Adjournment: There was a motion to adjourn at 5:51 p.m. M/S/C.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cunnien
Recording Secretary