

AFSCME LOCAL 517
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2009

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.
2. Secretary Report: There was a motion to approve July's meeting minutes as posted on the website. M/S/C.
3. Treasurer Report: There was a motion to approve the June and July Financial Reports. M/S/C.
4. Chief Steward Report:
 - There are big suspensions and people are afraid to speak up because of retaliation and fear of disciplinary action.
 - An employee returned from bereavement leave and had her hours switched. She needs to file an accommodation with Human Resources in order change back to her original hours.
 - There is concern over treatment of returning veterans. Their job responsibilities have changed without proper notification and training, resulting in disciplinary action because of poor work performance.
 - There are no more insurance meetings as the consensus was to accept the Blue Cross Blue Shield proposal. Employees should start working with their doctors now if their drugs are not on the formulary. Jane Ball asked whether BCBS has a wellness program. Scott consulted with Council 5 health care experts to ensure we weren't losing anything. There is a statute that states there cannot be an aggregate loss when changing to a new provider. PHE needs to meet with BCBS to work out the wellness program details.
5. Field Rep Report:
 - Negotiations – The county wants to meet with representatives on Friday, September 18 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 21. Scott is ready to file the paperwork to start negotiations but needs approval first. There was a motion to move forward with negotiations. M/S/C.
 - A team needs to be assembled and meet prior to September 18. The team will include: Judie Atkins, Jeff Birttnen, Kathy Cunnien, Teri Bennis (Barb Lunn as an alternate), Deb Myrvold, and Scott. Barb Cysiewski and Jody Johnson are other possibilities.
 - Scott suggested distributing a questionnaire like last time. Judie will search for her electronic copy.
6. President Report:
 - Judie is waiting for confirmation for a visit to the City of Forest Lake the week of August 20th.
 - Next Wave Conference – Bliia Yang gave an overview of the conference. She said she learned a lot about what a union does, how to reach out to younger members, and using the internet as a communications tool (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Judie and Kathy C. will set up a lunch meeting with Bliia to discuss how technology can be integrated.
 - LULA Follow-up – Judie, Judy Wertheimer, Barb Christianson and Jeff will be attending with mileage to be paid.
 - River Valley Action Meeting – The next meeting is Thursday, August 13, at 6:30 p.m.

- River Valley Action Forum – This will take place on September 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Boutwell’s Landing. Molly O’Rourke will be talking about how the Governor’s unallotments will affect services and staffing levels.
- Council 5 Convention, October 8-10, Duluth – Delegates will be elected at next month’s meeting (September 9). The Budget Committee will meet prior to then to determine how many delegates we can afford to send.
- Council 5 Convention Candidate Forum – This will take place on October 9 during the convention. It won’t be a real screening but will give us a general idea of what we’re looking for in a candidate.
- AFL-CIO Political Conference, October 1-2, Bloomington – Judie and Jeff would like to attend this conference. The cost is \$60 each and Judie would need lost time. Scott said this is an important conference as it gives us a chance to voice where our money should be spent. We will revisit this in September after the Budget Committee has had a chance to review expenses.
- Progressive Dues – This will be put on hold as there is a workshop at the Council 5 Convention that could provide helpful information in laying out a plan. The Budget Committee will still meet to review the budget and determine convention expenditures. Barb Christianson will send an email to set up a meeting date. The Committee will consist of Barb, Judie, Kathy, Barb Cysiewski, Angie Plumbo and Barb Lunn.

7. Old Business: None.

8. New Business: The Holiday Party has been set for December 17 and will again be at the Bayport Legion.

9. Good and Welfare: None.

There was a motion to adjourn at 1:02 p.m. M/S/C.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cunnien