

AFSCME LOCAL 517 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES October 14, 2009

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.
2. Secretary Report: There was a motion to approve September's meeting minutes as posted on the website. M/S/C.
3. Treasurer Report: The September Financial Report was distributed for review. There was a motion to approve. M/S/C.
4. Chief Steward Report:
 - There are two Step 3's taking place. Jeff needs someone to meet with H/R at 4:00 today for a discipline.
 - October 22 is the next phone bank at Council 5. Calls will be made to union members in St. Paul regarding Chris Coleman for Mayor. It does not matter if he's a shoe-in – we still do the work. Jeff and Judie will be going for awhile and Judie offered to drive anyone else who is interested.
 - Almost 900 people were signed up for the Council 5 Convention this past week in Duluth. It was the largest group of attendees ever.
 - Day-on-the-Hill is on February 17. It actually falls on Ash Wednesday, so they're looking at bringing someone in to administer ashes.
5. Field Rep Report:
 - The gubernatorial screening is October 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront in St. Paul. You need to confirm if you are attending as box lunches are being provided.
 - The Negotiations Committee had their opener with the County on October 12. We expected a counter-offer, but the County came back with comments only. Because of current economic conditions, we are trying to expedite the process by avoiding a lot of language issues. Our focus is on benefits and wages. We do not know what the contribution for health insurance will be even though it was listed on the open enrollment forms. We are making it known that this is supposed to be a *negotiated* item. Our next meeting with the County will be on October 28.
 - The St. Paul Regional Labor Federation meeting is tonight at 411 Main St. in St. Paul. There will be a caucus at 5:30 and meeting at 6:30. A President will be elected this evening to replace Shar Knutson, who left to become the first woman President of the MN AFL-CIO. AFSCME is endorsing Bree Halverson as her replacement.
6. President Report:
 - Judie would like to reiterate the phone bank on October 22. If you can't make the phone bank, there is a District 52 barn dance fundraiser in Marine on St. Croix.
 - There is a fundraiser for Taryl Clark on Sunday, October 25, in St. Cloud. She has a lot of support from St. Cloud as that's where she's from, but will need help down here. She is endorsed by Councils 5 and 65 as well as several other unions. She is running for the Senate District 6 seat.

- A meet-and-greet is scheduled for November 5 at the City of Stillwater from 12:00-1:00. Judie and John Ewaldt were scheduled to attend, but now there is a Local Presidents' meeting that day that they both need to attend. This may be rescheduled.
- Progressive Dues – AFSCME International is requiring all locals to adopt a progressive dues structure by 2011. Judie received an earnings report from H/R so we can start our analysis process. She will appoint a committee to develop various cost scenarios. Jeff suggested putting an article in Green Piece to start the education process.

7. Council 5 Convention Update – Comments from attendees:

- Christie Main enjoyed the conference. She said the seminar for first-time attendees was very helpful, but wished she had the opportunity to attend some of the others.
- Kathy C. enjoyed the political forum. It was also great getting to know our new attendees and have fresh blood involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cunnien