

AFSCME LOCAL 517
SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2009

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.
2. Insurance Update:
 - All HealthPartners (HP) and Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) plans are open access.
 - BCBS does have mail order pharmacy (three months for the price of two co-pays). They also have select pharmacies where you can purchase three for two. Judy W. called BCBS and they told her not all select pharmacies are authorized to sell a 90-day supply. This needs to be brought back to the Health Insurance Committee.
 - Covered drugs are listed on the Formulary List. If you take a brand name drug that has a generic available, you will be provided the generic. You have to go through an appeal process in order to take brand name drugs.
 - BCBS picked up the whole HP network. Judy W. expressed concern about this as she called BCBS and was told her spouse's specialized doctor was not on the list. This needs to be brought back to the Committee.
 - BCBS provides better coverage for MRI's and CT's, and also provides 100% coverage for retail health clinics (such as Minute Clinic). HP provides better coverage for home health care.
 - The health plan will be a three-year commitment. The caps are not negotiable.
 - The question was asked why we can't pool with the state or other counties. Scott replied that it would have to be passed by the legislature. It was previously proposed and was shot down. The state is also self-insured.
 - The County Board voted that supplementary voluntary insurance would only be offered if 10% of the employees signed up for it.
 - The Committee meets on July 30 and we need to submit our Local's recommendation.

There was a motion to accept the BCBS proposal. M/S/C.

3. Ray Waldron Retirement: Ray is the President of the AFL-CIO and is retiring. There is a luncheon on Monday, August 24, and the tickets are \$55 each (part of that goes to a scholarship fund). There was a motion to purchase four tickets (Judie Atkins, Judy Wertheimer, Barb Cysiewski and Jeff Birttnen). M/S/C.
4. AFL-CIO Convention in Pittsburgh: Judie found out that there is one seat available and they are sending Shar Knutson, President of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation.
5. Local Union Leadership Academy (LULA) Follow-up: There is a one-day follow-up meeting on Saturday, September 12 at the St. Cloud Civic Center. Judie would like to see those who attended the training to also attend the follow-up. There was a motion to pay for mileage. M/S/C. There will also be carpools forming.
6. Volunteers for Phone Banking July 28: Judie is looking for volunteers to help out at the Council 5 phone bank. Volunteers would be calling other members and asking them to call Amy Klobuchar to ask for her support for a public health insurance option. Barb Cysiewski, Angie

Plumbo, Jeff Birttnen, Deb Myrvold and Judie have volunteered. It was asked whether form letters could be sent. Scott stated that they would only be effective for the first couple of letters, then the rest would go in the trash. A phone call or handwritten letter would be more effective. Bob asked how it was determined by AFSCME that this issue be supported. Scott explained that we're in a health care crisis and something needs to be done now. We're the only industrialized nation that does not offer a public option. Council 5 has also had conversations with Senator Klobuchar and now it is time for her to hear from AFSCME members.

7. State Fair Volunteers August 27-September 7: If you are interested in volunteering at the AFSCME booth, contact Michael at Council 5 (651-287-0537) to find out available dates and timeslots (9-1, 1-5 and 5-8). You will be provided free admission and a t-shirt.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m. M/S/C.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cunnien