

# AFSCME LOCAL 517

General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2023 - 12:00-1:00 pm

WebEx



**Attendees:** Anne Conway, Ryan Olson, Lynne Freezy, Katie Wallner, Julie Hanson, Morgan Miron, Paul Schwarz, Adam Snegosky, Amanda Abrego, Denise Garner, Ben Henry, Hailee Hennessy Dhein, Danielle Johnson, Angela Plumbo, Alexea Cheatem, Jane Fellerer, Tyler Elms, Gina Solomon, Pamela Al-Shabazz, Tracy Howe, Lori Bratulich, Sara Welle, & Ashley Marston

- Call to Order - 12:01 pm
- Treasurer's Report
  - **Motion** to approve September's report - Ashley; Second - Heather
- Secretary's Report ([link to minutes on website](#))
  - **Motion** to approve September's minutes - Heather; Second - Shannan
- President's Report
  - Special Union Meeting - Negotiations Update
    - **Thursday, 10/19**
    - 12pm-1pm via WebEx - will use same meeting link as general meetings
  - Benefits update
    - Increase in employer HSA contribution for \$4000 HDHP
    - Increase in employee monthly cost for all plans
      - Employer contribution towards increase will not be known until labor contracts are in place
      - AFSCME asked employer to share tentative numbers when available
    - Make sure to elect a plan or decline coverage before the end of open enrollment
      - If no election is made, you will be placed on \$4000 HDHP and forfeit the employer contribution to your HSA
- Business Rep's Report
  - Redlining current AFSCME contracts with suggested changes for negotiations
    - Asking for 12 weeks parental leave like the state contract
    - Language to address adequate staffing levels
    - General adjustment and annual performance increases
  - Sent the county a request for followup on past meet and confer. AFSCME has seen a lack of movement by county to address issues discussed. Additional mental health care for 2024 is not enough, employees need help now
- Old Business
  - Council 5 Convention Update
    - Great chance to meet with members
    - St Paul Regional Labor Federation contact - regularly holds meetings and opportunities to screen candidates for local offices
- New Business
  - Negotiations begin **Friday 10/13** and continue on **Wednesday 10/18**
    - **Wear green to show your support**
      - Contact Ashley Marston - [afscme517secretary@gmail.com](mailto:afscme517secretary@gmail.com) to request green wrist bands
      - Contact Lynne Freezy - [afscme517president@gmail.com](mailto:afscme517president@gmail.com) to request a t-shirt
    - We may want to rally if HR doesn't come back with realistic numbers

- Even though membership is under 40%, a 40% walkout would be huge for our already limited workforce
  - Social Media - Public Page
    - Proposal to develop a public Local 517 social media page in addition to current members-only page.
    - We would need some to manage the site
    - Policy for deleting posts, making posts, respectful language, etc. should be developed
    - Several members provided support for page
    - Alexea Cheatem volunteered to help manage
    - WashNet would be the best platform if county would allow us to setup
      - Ashley will reach out to Lisa Peterson to obtain language about requirements to allow unions access to a virtual platform
- Good & Welfare
  - Gift Card Drawing
    - Winner - Tyler Elms
- Adjourn
  - **Motion made** - Shannan; Second - Tyler

**Questions about the union or membership?** Fill out our [contact form](#) and a local union member will be in touch.

**Get involved!** Visit the [Local 517 website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

**Executive Board:**

President: Lynne Freezy  
 Vice President: Vacant  
 Treasurer: Shannan Hendricks  
 New Member Secretary: Heather Vandenhuevel  
 Recording Secretary: Ashley Marston  
 Chief Stewards: Lisa Peterson (non-exempt) and Vacant (exempt)  
 AFSCME Business Representative: Paul Schwarz

**Contact AFSCME Council 5:**

Phone: 1-800-652-9791  
 MAC Line: 651-450-4990  
 300 Hardman Ave S  
 South St Paul, MN 55075