

AFSCME LOCAL 517
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
4/30/2025
WebEx Meeting



Attendees: Lisa, Alexea, Ben, James, Shawn, Shannon, Carrie, Alex

- Call to Order: 12:03pm
- New Member Secretary's Report
 - New Member Secretary absent- family emergency
- Communication Liaison's Report
 - Shoutout to Ben for updating union matters on the Facebook group
 - Follow up for discussion with Hennepin County's AFSCME strategy
- Business Representative's Report
 - No report
- President's Report
 - Topics to be discussed in New Business
- Old Business
 - Discussing member recruitment strategies & methods of motivation
- New Business
 - New Employee Orientation (& Recruitment) Brainstorming
 - Start with acknowledgement and appreciation of current members
 - Postcard writing! Kaitlyn will get logistics planned for this:
 - Date and time
 - Open to family as well, or even other members?
 - Where to get cards and materials- afscme or general thank you cards?
 - Pre-print mailing labels
 - Shawn will contact workerorganizing.org
 - Kaitlyn will get NEO scheduled sign-ups and send to e-board as a reminder
 - Next NEO will be Lisa, Carrie, and potentially Heather, on May 14th at 11:30am in Stillwater.
 - Negotiations Team Planning
 - Lisa will get with Paul to schedule one or two dates to hold the Negotiations Team training
 - Other unions at Washco are waiting on us since we are the biggest group
 - Discussion around negotiating potential policy on Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs)
 - AFSCME Washco Concerns Gmail
 - Ben created a new email for employees to privately send concerns
 - We can potentially market this via social media, especially reels as a personalized video from Ben
 - Additional discussion about a better way to reach current members than Facebook, since FB has its own set of issues in terms of visibility, notifications, algorithm, access, etc
 - Union Negotiations Survey
 - Kaitlyn to send prior survey to team for discussion and feedback
 - Ideas for questions to add to survey if not already there:
 - Obviously money and benefits at the top
 - Non-financial issues throughout the work day
 - "What would help you get more involved?"
 - One for members, one for non-members, or a communication to non-members letting them know that negotiations ARE coming up and they ARE being represented by us, but that they can have a direct voice by joining.
 - Idea for pop up strategic meetings for people, potentially in person surveys?
- Adjourn: 1:17pm

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: Lisa Peterson

Vice President: Ben Henry

Chief Stewards: Carrie Genereux (non-exempt) and (exempt) Vacant

Treasurer: Shawn Carpenter

Recording Secretary: Kaitlyn McCarthy

New Member Secretary: Heather Vandenheuvel

Communications Liaison: Alexea Cheatem

AFSCME Business Representative: Paul Schwarz

Contact AFSCME Council 5:

Phone: 1-800-652-9791

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