

AFSCME LOCAL 517
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
2/10/2016

February General Membership Meeting Minutes

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February 10, 2016

In attendance: Kristie Campeau-Perlock, Jody Johnson, Steve Despiegelaere, Debbie Myrvold, Nate Arthur, Angela Plumbo, Adam Snegosky, Christine Main, Robbin Ann Rosén, Barb Christianson.

Meeting called to order at 12:03 p.m.

1. VP, Nate, running the meeting since president, Lynne, is still out on medical leave.
2. Council 5's political organizer, Jose David Gallardo, and Alex, from the international union, were here to talk to us on phone banks for elections. They are looking for volunteers to run the phone banks for the caucuses on March 1.
3. Treasurer's Report:
 - The monthly financial report was handed out.
 - M/S/C by Christy and Jody to approve the monthly financial report.
 - Christy talked how the audit of the financial records by Jane, Heidi, and her went well. Kudos to Barb.
 - Barb gave a reminder to save all receipts related to the union; even food receipts.
4. Secretary's Report:
 - Kristie corrected the minutes (an extra \$ sign) from 11/12/15 and reposted on the website via Barb's request.
 - A change of removing the extra line of text (M/S/C by Ryan and Steve to approve) at the end of the 1/13/16 Treasurer's report was requested to Kristie.
 - M/S/C by Christy and Robbin to approve 1/13/16 meeting minutes with the change noted above.
5. Council 5 Jose continued:
 - Jose is filling in for political organizer Laura.
 - The phone banks are a way to help members turn out for the caucuses by reminding them of the caucuses on March 1.
 - Jose can help bring a phone bank to us. Council 5 would provide dinner for the volunteers running the phone bank.

- Jose has committed to send caucus cards.
- Sending cards to all members.
- Caucuses are in Minnesota; Wisconsin has general vote.
- Members can go online to get more info. like the location of your caucus.
- Caucuses are where members can bring topics/issues they want candidates to address. You get an opportunity to shape policy.
- There will be caucus training on Feb. 20 from 9:00 a.m.-Noon. Christy Main will be attending. Christy can get you in contact to find training close to your location or you can look up a close training online.
- Council 6 sees a resolution for Friedrichs Supreme Court case – members may lose rights.

6. Chief Stewards' Reports:

- Steve talked about having one grievance – step 1 on an exempt employee and is emphasizing the need for more stewards.
- Jody said one steward is in the works and should check in with one employee in Stillwater who had steward training previously to see if she's still interested.

7. President's Report:

- Nate talked about information our president, Lynne, sent him.
 - International Executive Board Meeting on March 22 in Washington D.C.
 - There's a hand full of scholarships available for union members' high school students.
 - Some scholarships are set up that you apply and there's a drawing for the scholarship.
 - Contact Nate for more information.
 - There are currently 447 local dues-paying Local 517 members and 37 contributors.
 - Training is available for anyone interested in being a potential treasurer.

8. Business Rep Report:

- John talked about two grievances:
 - One at the City of Stillwater.
 - Position was terminated.
 - Going to arbitration/move to step 3.
 - Other one in arbitration – cash settlement.
- Steward training on March 2 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon.
 - Rich in Stillwater is interested.
 - New employee, Megan, in Cottage Grove attended.
- Friedrichs planning:
 - Cottage Grove:
 - Some attended – fed them.

- Jody brought 8 signed cards back from staff who couldn't attend.
- Woodbury Service Center:
 - February 23 meeting pending.
 - Angie and Christy will try to get signatures instead of having a meeting since nearly 100% of Workforce Center staff are full fee-paying members.
 - Suggestion to chart members who have signed and who haven't signed.
- Stillwater:
 - Suggestion for 1st floor and 2nd floor meetings, have a brown bag or food, talk on Friedrichs case and ask members to sign commitment cards. Chart members who have signed and who haven't signed.
- Forest Lake:
 - Weak. Contact members to help get other members to sign commitment cards.
- Hit libraries after that.
- No selling. Just look for signatures. Deal with members who pushed back afterwards.
- If member with full fee-paying membership doesn't sign a commitment card, their membership status will not be taken away.
- Members may start to get pushed to sign cards advertised as "sign these cards for a raise". These are opt out of the union cards although members might not realize this
 - If a member signs an opt out (sign for a raise) card after they've signed a commitment card, the opt out card is negated.
 - This whole process is an effort to drop union membership.
- If Friedrichs passes those who opt out will have no voting rights and pay nothing while the rest of us continue to pay dues.

9. Old Business:

- Day on the Hill is April 5.
 - Can sign up to attend – maybe even online.
 - Local decides resources put towards Day on the Hill
 - Lynne usually gets all info to the Local.
 - Delegates/number of those attending.
 - This helps decide how much put towards lost time, mileage, etc.
 - Max of \$1,000 to spend.
 - Averages out to \$20/day on wages/person means five members can attend.
 - Ryan can't go. Nate might go but will use his vacation time.
 - Deadline to notify Nate Arthur if you want to attend is March 9.

10. New Business:

- It's time for Board elections.

- Nominations are open now.
- The positions up in March are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, one Trustee, and three Executive Board.
- Christine requesting that Council get a notice announcing the openings out to the membership 15 days before the meeting for board nominations.
- If there's more than one nomination for an open Board position then we will vote.
- Could open nominations in March and vote at April meeting.
- Angie is already getting nominations.
- Anyone nominated should be brought to the meeting.

11. Good & Welfare:

- Angie brought up how the union used to send members money when a member was sick or a relative died back when our union had money.
- Debbie Myrvold announced her retirement at the end of February.
 - We'll be gathering for Debbie's farewell on Wed., February 24 at 5:00 p.m. at Carbone's in Stillwater. Open for everyone to attend.
 - Debbie has worked within the union since 2004 or 2005.
 - Board decided to donate some of their own personal money towards a gift card for Debbie. Christy will purchase the gift card.

Motion to adjourn at 12:58 p.m. M/S/C