

AFSCME LOCAL 517
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
9/14/2016

In attendance: Adam Snegosky, John Ewaldt, Ryan Olson, Adam Earney, Christy Harriman, Lynne Freezy, Barb Christianson, Jane Ball, Kristie Campeau-Perlock, Annie Walton.

Meeting called to order at 12:06 p.m.

1. Treasurer's Report:
 - Barb handed out the August Monthly Financial Report.
 - M/S/C to approve the report by Christy and Ryan.
2. Secretary's Report:
 - The August meeting minutes have been posted online.
 - M/S/C to approve the minutes by Christy and Ryan.
3. Chief Stewards' Reports:
 - Chief Steward(s) not here.
 - John E. updated us on the status of a couple of grievances.
4. President's Report:
 - Discussion on an initial meeting with some custodians, management, and the union addressing custodians items of concern.
 - AFSCME Free College Benefit
 - There's a chance to earn a college degree from an accredited school with no out-of-pocket expense.
 - Visit <http://afscmemn.org/story/free-college-afscme-members> for more info.
 - 2017 AFSCME Family Scholarship
 - Available for children of full dues-paying AFSCME members.
 - Scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded to 10 applicants who meet the eligibility requirements.
 - For detailed information and to download an application, visit www.afscme.org/members/scholarships/afscme-family-scholarship
 - Deadline for 2017 scholarship application submittal is Dec. 31, 2016.
 - Credentials in for Jody Johnson and Christy Harriman to attend the annual AFSCME Council 5 convention.
 - Request for cash donation for the MN Steel Workers fundraiser.
 - Many steelworkers have exhausted their unemployment benefits after being out of work for more than a year because of layoffs due to the cheap foreign steel that has flooded the U.S. market.

- Locals and individuals can donate at the annual AFSCME Council 5 convention. Make checks payable to “USW 2660” and write “Relief Fund” on the memo line.
- Council 5 is hiring field reps. Talk to John E.
- Christy talked about the Hardship Fund for MNA – Nurses on Strike.
 - They are requesting a donation this Friday (9/16/16) at their rally/fundraiser.
 - M/S/C to donate \$50 to the nurses on strike hardship fund by Ryan and Annie.
 - Members can donate to the strike fund online by visiting mnnurses.org/donatestrikefund .

5. Business Rep Report:

- Discussed the pre-bargaining kick-off meeting with the county.
- Discussed a two year old grievance.
- Discussed workers getting push back for talking to union representatives.

6. Old Business:

- Lynne talked more about negotiations:
 - We’ve already exceeded the amount of our insurance premium in claims as of September and that’s not counting administrative costs yet.
 - The county will be issuing flyers to staff listing the total compensation package we get; salary, paid time off, holiday time, sick leave, etc.
 - Their example: \$43,000/year salary – with benefits is + \$6,300 more per year.
 - Lots of requests for post-employment health care savings plan (HCSP).
 - Tax-free account.
 - Members could contribute 1% of annual income to the plan; as an example. Not matched by the county.
 - No cash out option.
 - Can use for all medical expenses similar to the HSA.
 - Right now most of our staff will pay all their health insurance costs once they retire since most were hired after the 2002 cut-off for retirement insurance coverage.
 - Some long-term staff are losing PTO even after a cash-out option. If we had an HCSP, those members might not lose as much PTO each year if they could contribute to this plan.
 - If the county agrees to a post-employment HCSP all the members would have to have the coverage. Per IRS, all members get the plan or none get it.
 - Ramsey and Scott counties have this type of plan.
 - Supervisors and Probation Officers at Washington County have a post-employment HCSP.

-Note to members that if they do not choose a health care plan during open enrollment this year you will be auto-enrolled in the \$35 co-pay plan.

7. New Business:

- None.

8. Good & Welfare:

- None.

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

<http://afscme517.org/>

President: Lynne Freezy

Vice President: Nate Arthur

Treasurer: Barb Christianson

Secretary: Kristie Campeau-Perlock

Chief Stewards: Steve Despiegelaere and Jody Johnson

AFSCME Business Representative: John Ewaldt