



# WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

## WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

Ronald Yee  
*President*

August 13, 2024

Douglas Wadlin  
*Vice-President*

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Richard Noelke  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon by President Yee and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Eita Kreklau  
*Recording Secretary*

**PRESENT:** Bauman, Grysko, Kreklau, McCall, Noelke, Sockolosky, Wadlin, and Yee

**EXCUSED:** Cairgle, Hyde-Shelton, Pendracki

Faith Cairgle  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**ABSENT:** None

John McCall  
James Sockolosky  
Julie Bauman  
*Executive Board*

**GUESTS:** Macdonald

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Brother McCall made the motion, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to accept the roll call of officers. The motion carried.

Pamela Hyde-Shelton  
Paul Pendracki  
Gerard Grysko  
*Trustees*

**Sub-Chapter 38 minutes for the Executive and Membership meetings are recorded to help the Recording Secretary to produce minutes for each meeting. Pursuant to the previous direction of the membership, these recordings shall be disposed of as soon as reasonably possible after the Sub-chapter 38 membership has approved the minutes. The minutes are not or intended to be an actual verbatim record of the proceedings but are summarized notes of the agenda items, motions, makers of the motion, votes, and lengthy discussions.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

### READING OF MINUTES:

Motion by Brother Grysko properly supported by Brother Noelke, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of July 9, 2024, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried.

Motion by Brother Grysko properly supported by Brother Noelke, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Membership meeting of July 9, 2024, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried.

### REPORT OF OFFICERS:

#### President:

The Michigan Court of Appeals finally issued their decision in the County's appeal of the Disability Healthcare coverage grievance, but I will leave it to Hugh Macdonald to provide the update.

As I have stated in past meetings, the Medicare eligible increases that we have been receiving pursuant to the Settlement Agreement will end in 2025. **We will continue to receive the stipend, but with no additional increases.** I had a

meeting with a representative from the County Executive's Office regarding the continuation of the increases past 2025. In our discussions, he said that the County is looking at enhancing the current pension benefits being offered to active employees. As such, he seemed supportive of including our request in the package that might be sent to the Wayne County Commission. He requested that we have discussions with Alicia Bell, Chairperson of the Commission, to get support from her regarding our request. I have sent a detailed letter to her with a cc to the rest of the Wayne County Commissioners and hope to hear from her soon. I also requested an increase for the Non-Medicare stipend as that has remained unchanged since 2015.

I have been told that many retirees have an account with Empower for either their Defined Contribution or Deferred Compensation that do not have a designated beneficiary on file. If you have an account with Empower, please be sure you have a beneficiary listed and make sure it is up to date. If you have questions, you should contact Kandie Anglin at (248) 840-0655.

There is an election for a retiree representative to the Retirement Board this year. It is a four-year term beginning January 1, 2025. You must be a retiree (not a beneficiary of a retiree) and a resident of Wayne County and NOT an Airport Authority retiree. You must pick up petitions from the Retirement Office and obtain at least 50 signatures of eligible retirees. Bettye Misuraca is up for re-election and is running for a new four-year term.

There is legislation in Lansing that would remove the 1,000-hour limitation on retirees who come back to work for the County. Currently, if you work more than 1,000 hours, your pension is suspended until you no longer work for the County. Under the proposed legislation, you could continue to get both your Wayne County pension and wages from the County. People that are opposed to this change feel it is "double dipping" and shouldn't be allowed.

There is current legislation that requires a pension fund to be 100% funded before any pension increases can be granted to retired members unless negotiation through collective bargaining. At this time, none of the pension plans with Wayne County or the Airport Authority are 100% funded.

Motion by Brother Grysko, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to accept the President's report as presented. The motion carried.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** None

**SECRETARY-TREASURER:**

**Financial Report:**

Brother Noelke reported that the Sub-Chapter has \$252,420.42 in cash and investments as of July 30, 2024. There are 1,174 members with a loss of 40 members since the first of the year. Currently there are 170 members with payroll deductions to the AFSCME PEOPLE fund.

Motion by Brother Grysko, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to accept the Treasurer report for August 2024 as presented. The motion carried.

**REPORT, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Presented by Brother Macdonald)**

**Medical Insurance for Disability Retirees**

Council 25 won the 2010 arbitration case contesting the Wayne County discontinuance of health care insurance coverage for disability with an award stating that **"The County violated the collective bargaining agreement when it made changes to healthcare benefits for newly approved duty and nonduty disability retirees. The County must rescind Administrative Personnel Order 1-2010 and make whole the duty or nonduty disability retiree who was improperly denied healthcare benefits after 2010 by virtue of the fact that they**

**did not meet the age and service requirements for “normal” retirement.”** The award only applies to AFSCME disability retirees who retired after the personnel order was issued.

Since the arbitration award, Wayne County has contested the award in Wayne County Circuit Court and lost, refused to enter into meaningful settlement discussions by disputing the retirees subject to the award plus the implementation process, and appealing the case to the Michigan Court of Appeals. On August 8, 2024, the Michigan Court of Appeals again upheld the arbitration award. Circuit Court has directed the parties to seek clarification of the contentious portions of the award from the arbitrator.

The arbitration hearing was held on June 13, 2024, and the arbitrator’s award is not expected until around Labor Day.

### **HEALTH CARE INSURANCE SETTLEMENT (STIPENDS) Prescription Co-Pay Settlement**

The payments by Wayne County of non-Medicare eligible stipends appear to be consistent with the settlement agreement through the payment due August 1, 2024. Wayne County is providing monthly reports of stipend amounts transferred to MERS/Alerus. Wayne County has provided the Sub-Chapter with a listing of stipend account balances at ALERUS as of May 31, 2024, totaling \$10,787,864.

The Sub-Chapter has two (2) open files each with unique questions concerning retiree stipends. These files are expected to be resolved without a grievance being filed.

Motion by Brother Grysko, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to accept Brother Macdonald’s report. The motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Chapter 255: Brother McCall reported that there had been an Executive Board meeting for 255 on August 1, 2024. There should be a convention next year and they are looking at sites. There will be a picnic in Macomb County.

There has been a resolution on COLA for **STATE** retirees.

Chapter 255 will be bringing back the MLK Dinner in 2025. There will be a meeting of MiARA at 11 am on August 14, 2025, at the UAW Hall in Warren.

Motion by Brother Wadlin, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to accept Brother McCall’s report on Chapter 255. The motion carried.

#### **PEOPLE Committee:**

Sister Bauman reported that most endorsed candidates for office by AFSCME PEOPLE had won their primary. There will be a meeting for Michigan United Medicare for All on September 25, 2024, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at 29887 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. This location is Yardin Park United Methodist Church. You may register to attend by visiting the link: **bit.ly/hc925**. **For information call: 313-824-0952.**

Motion by Brother Noelke, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept the PEOPLE Committee report as submitted. The motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

Brother Bob Stout, a retiree of the Airport, has passed.

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Brother Wadlin properly supported by Brother Noelke, to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 p.m. The motion carried.