



# WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

## WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

Ronald Yee  
*President*

September 10, 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 Etta Kreklau  
*Recording Secretary*

**PRESENT:** Bauman, Hyde-Shelton, Kreklau, McCall, Noelke, Pendracki, Sockolosky, Wadlin, and Yee

Faith Cairgle  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**EXCUSED:** Cairgle and Grysko

**ABSENT:** None

John J. G. Ali  
*Trustee*  
Thomas J. Ludzky  
*Trustee*  
Julie Bauman  
*Executive Board*

**GUESTS:** Macdonald

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

Paola Hyde-Shelton  
*Trustee*  
Paul Pendracki  
*Trustee*  
Gerard Grysko  
*Trustee*

**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 Pendracki properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of August 13, 2024, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried.

Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Membership meeting of August 13, 2024, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried

### REPORT OF OFFICERS:

#### President:

The rates for the BCBSM Advantage Plan will be increasing on January 1, 2025, from \$11.20/mo. to \$12.10/mo. Which is an 8% increase. The contract will have to go out to bid for 2026 unless BCBSM offers some attractive rates.

As I have stated in prior meetings, assuming we get an increase in the Medicare Eligible stipend on January 1, 2025. It will most likely be our last **increase** pursuant to the Settlement Agreement. I have had discussions with a representative from the county Executive's office, the members of the Wayne County commission Ways and Means Committee and the chair of the Wayne County Commission. So far, most of those I have spoken to are supportive in some form for a continuation of the increases tied to AFSCME pay increases. I have also requested consideration of the Non-Medicare Eligible stipends to be increased as they have not increased since originally implemented.

There is an election for a retiree representative to the Retirement Board. Bettye Misuraca is running for re-election and I understand that Tina Turner is also considering running. As an incumbent, Bettye is not required to obtain valid retiree signatures but can gather them if she wishes. Tina is required to obtain 50 valid retiree signatures to be eligible to have her name placed on the ballot. Qualifications for running for election: You must be a retiree from Wayne County (excluding the Airport Authority) and must be a resident of Wayne County. Retirees can only sign one (1) nominating petition and only retirees from Wayne County can sign (no Airport Authority retirees and no beneficiaries). Petitions must be submitted later this month with a Primary election held in November and if needed, a general election in December. Ballots will be sent out to all eligible electors by US mail. After the officer reports are completed, I will allow an opportunity for any candidates to make a brief statement to the membership.

As you know, the County has implemented a new payroll system with assorted problems in its implementation. We have been made aware of another issue. Some retirees who were members of the Defined Contribution Plan and withdrew their participant accounts when they retired, have gotten a direct deposit notice showing a deduction and a balance due. The Retirement Office has looked into this and determined that it is an error in the program which is being fixed. If you are in this group, you can ignore the direct deposit notice.

During the COVID pandemic, we had Zoom meetings for members unable or unwilling to attend meetings. After we returned to in-person meetings, we discontinued the Zoom option. However, I did promise to look into continuation of this option. I have contacted Zoom and they do have various packages that would include hardware to allow for Zoom meetings to be done. The costs vary but they also have a "try-it" option. I will propose this up at the under New Business.

Flu season and COVID are upon us. Senior shots are available and encouraged.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, 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 \$256,654.82 in cash and investments as of August 30, 2024. There are 1,181 members with a loss of 47 members since the first of the year. Currently there are 170 members with payroll deductions to the AFSCME PEOPLE fund.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to accept the Treasurer report for September 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 September 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 one (1) open file with unique questions concerning retiree stipends. This file is expected to be resolved without a grievance being filed.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PEOPLE Committee:**

Sister Bauman reported that the last screening for candidates has been held. The Endorsements should be out by the end of the month. Absentee ballots will be mailed out in late September 2024.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sister Hyde-Shelton will give a report on the AFSCME National Convention at the Membership meeting today.

President Yee reviewed information for the possibility of re-starting Zoom for the Membership meetings on a monthly basis. He has met via Zoom with representatives of Zoom. They offer what they call a “Zoom Room”. This is accomplished with equipment that is completely portable. It can also be connected to closed circuit TV is also available. The equipment is available to purchase for \$5,000 with an annual fee of \$400. All equipment would be included.

They also offer a trial program without cost with a goal of beginning this in January 2025 which would allow for notification to out-of-state members.

Motion by Brother McCall, properly supported by Sister Kreklau, to recommend to the Membership this be done on a trial basis. The motion was amended by Sister Hyde-Shelton, and the amendment was approved by Brother McCall and Sister Kreklau, to include that President Yee would bring this back to the Executive Board at the October 2025 meeting with a plan for a trial with a start date of January 2025 and an understanding that if the trial was acceptable; and with a recommendation of the Executive Board at the Membership meeting this date. The motion carried.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Sister Constance Fox has passed.

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 p.m. The motion carried.