



WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

August 13, 2024

Ronald Yee
President

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Douglas Wadlin
Vice-President

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by President Yee and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard Noelke
Secretary Treasurer

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

Mary Etta Kreklau
Recording Secretary

EXCUSED: Cairgle, Hyde-Shelton, and Pendracki

ABSENT: None

Faith Cairgle
Sergeant-At-Arms

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

John McCall
James Sockolosky
Julie Bauman
Executive Board

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.

Pamela Hyde-Shelton
Paul Pendracki
Gerald Grysko
Trustees

CORRESPONDENCE: None

READING OF MINUTES:

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

VICE-PRESIDENT: The Labor Coalition met and needs to stop AI.

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

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 current members with 170 participating in the PEOPLE Plan and (40) members lost this year.

Motion by Brother Wadlin, properly supported by Brother Grysko, to accept the Treasurer report as of July 30, 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 Wadlin, properly supported by Brother Grysko, to accept Brother Macdonald's report. The motion carried.

COMMITTEES:

Chapter 255: Brother McCall reported that he had heard from the group representing Chapter 255 at the AFSCME National Convention in Los Angeles and so far, the three reported they had plane problems which delayed them getting to the convention but arrived in time to experience an earthquake.

Brother McCall reported the SERA (state employees) had a small victory in that Scrap the Cap for state employees was successful so that their pensions will now be eligible for COLA.

There will be a MiARA meeting tomorrow (8/14/2024) at 11 am at UAW Hall, 696 Van Dyke, Warren, MI.

The Chapter 255 Treasurer's report will be forwarded to Brother Noelke.

Just a note: Medicare was 59 years old in July.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Sister Sandy O'Leary-MacGillis, to accept the Chapter 255 report as presented. The motion carried.

PEOPLE:

Sister Bauman reported that most endorsed candidates did win their primaries in August.

She's working on getting the two Michigan Supreme Court candidates to speak at the October meeting.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Brother Grysko, to accept the PEOPLE Committee report as given. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Brother Larry Barnard is seriously ill.

Brother Bob Stout of the Airport Authority has passed.

Brother Charlie Parker has called Brother McCall and wished us all well.

Attendance drawing:

There were 34 members present at the meeting.

Regular Drawing:

\$20 - #14 – John McCall \$10 - #11 – Julie Bauman \$10 - #16 – John Wiktor

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brother Noelke, properly supported by Brother Macdonald, to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 pm. The motion carried.