



# WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

## WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

September 10, 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, Hyde-Shelton, Kreklau, McCall, Noelke, Pendracki, Sockolosky, Wadlin, and Yee

Mary Etta Kreklau  
Recording Secretary

**EXCUSED:** Cairgle and Grysko

**ABSENT:** None

Faith Cairgle  
Sergeant-at-Arms

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Brother Pendracki made the motion, properly supported by Brother Noelke, 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.**

Patricia Hyde Shelton  
Paul Pendracki  
Gerard Grysko  
Trustees

**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 Noelke, 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 an "try-it" option. This will be addressed under New Business.

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

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, 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 as of August 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 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 Brother Wadlin. The motion carried.

President Yee recognized Carol Souchock, who is running for Wayne County Board of Commissioners representing Northville and parts of Livonia, Plymouth Township and Northville Township. She made a short statement.

President Yee recognized Sister Tina Turner, who is a candidate for the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System Board representing Wayne County Retirees. She introduced herself and reviewed her background in Wayne County government.

President Yee then recognized Sister Bettye Misuraca, who is a candidate for the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System Board representing Wayne County Retirees and is one of the two current Board members. She also gave a review of her background and the items she has seen accomplished during her numerous terms of office on the WCERS Board.

#### **PEOPLE:**

Sister Bauman reported that the screening results came out today. She will send President Yee the results so they may be included in the meeting notice being sent for the October 2024 meeting and election. She thanks Brother McCall, and Sisters Kim Curry-Smith, and Sister Faith Cairgle for representing the Sub-Chapter on the screening committee.

She addressed the need for members to join the PEOPLE Committee but informed us that in order to be a member of the PEOPLE Committee, you must join separately from Sub-Chapter 38 and must have donations to the PEOPLE Committee to be a member. That is because, PEOPLE is completely separate from the Union and it is the ONLY organization, by law, that may financially support candidates for political office.

Absentee ballots will be sent out at the end of September so if you are going to get one, fill it out completely and send or take it in to the appropriate location. Encourage everyone to **GET OUT THE VOTE!** Also, remember to VOTE THE NON-PARTISON portion of the ballot. A straight-party vote **DOES NOT COVER** non-partisan offices. The Michigan Supreme Court has two positions to be decided this election and the Court makes many of the final decisions on our pensions.

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

**AFSCME National Convention:**

Sister Hyde-Shelton gave her report on the convention. Sister Faith Cairgle also attended however she had a minor accident last night and is unable to attend this meeting.

Vice-President Harris addressed the group via video; however, Gov. Walz addressed the group in person. She was very impressed with both.

Sister Hyde-Shelton indicated that AFSCME International is auditing all locals and sub-chapters for compliance with their requirements. They want to see what is being done with money. She indicated she she's been a Trustee for Sub-Chapter 38; she's not worried about any audit for our unit.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to accept Sister Hyde-Shelton's report. The motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Yee has talked to representatives from Zoom regarding possibilities of offering Zoom meetings to members unable to physically attend our meetings.

Zoom offers all kinds of set-ups to accomplish this. After describing our meeting area, they said they have a solution for us. It's called a "Zoom Room".

The Executive Board has authorized me to enter into discussions with Zoom to determine what our options are such as renting the equipment or purchase; and perhaps a trial period prior to determining if we want to continue this option. The Board recommended that I continue discussions with Zoom and bring the resulting information back to the Membership at the October meeting with a January 2025 possible initiation date for the meetings.

This is accomplished with equipment that is completely portable. It can also be connected to closed circuit TV if available. The equipment is available to purchase for \$5,000 with an annual fee of \$400. All equipment would be included.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Sister O'Leary-MacGillis, to ratify the recommendation of the Executive Board this date regarding the Zoom proposal. The motion carried.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Sister Wiktor raised a question regarding whether or not you can get a COVID vaccine and a flu vaccine on the same day. The response is yes and in the same arm if you are so inclined.

Sister Constance Fox, Payroll, has passed.

Sister Daisy Smith has passed.

Brother Herb VanTagel, DPS-Goddard yard (still an active employee – 41+ years) has passed.

**Attendance drawing:**

There were 34 members present at the meeting.

Regular Drawing:

\$20 - #18 – Ron Koslowski    \$10 - #21 – Bobbi Palmer    \$10 - #9 – Doug Wadlin

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Macdonald, to adjourn the meeting at 1:39 pm.

The motion carried.