



# WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

## WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

Ronald Yee  
*President*

November 12, 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, Cairgle, Grysko, Hyde-Shelton, McCall, Noelke, Pendracki, Sockolosky, Wadlin, and Yee

Faith Cairgle  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**EXCUSED:** Kreklau

**ABSENT:** None

John McCall  
James Sockolosky

**GUESTS:** Macdonald

Julie Bauman  
*Executive Board*

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

MiARA: Letter inviting members to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting at UAW Region 1D, Flint, MI on October 2024, at 10 am.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to receive and file the MiARA correspondence regarding October 30, 2024 meeting. The motion carried.

### READING OF MINUTES:

Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Sister Bauman, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of October 8, 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 Sister Bauman, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Membership meeting of October 8, 2024, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried

### REPORT OF OFFICERS:

**President:**

The ballots for the Retiree Representative on the November Wayne County Employees' Retirement Board will be counted on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The two candidates are Bettye Misuraca and Tina Turner. The active Representative will be Denis Martin as no one ran against him. Both four-year terms will begin on January 1, 2025.

Direct deposit statements were not sent out again this month. The County is not able to send out statements by email but you can access your statement on a self-serve application. Unfortunately, the self-serve application is still not up and running. If you want to receive a printed copy of your DDA, please contact Jim Magee at (313) 224-2821.

Chapter 255 is holding its Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2024. It will be held at the Quality Inn and Suites located at 901 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing, MI 48917 at 2 pm. Chapter 255 is paying for two rooms for Sub-Chapter 38. If you wish to attend and want to stay over-night, let me know before the end of the meeting. Additional rooms can be reserved at \$79 plus taxes.

Chapter 255 is also sponsoring the 2025 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorating dinner on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at the International Center, 400 Monroe Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Detroit, MI 48226. Cocktails served at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow at 7:00 pm. Will vote on purchasing a table of ten (10) under new business. If you wish to stay overnight, a block of rooms has been reserved at \$179 per night at the Atheneum Suite Hotel. If you wish to reserve a room, call 800-772-2323 and ask for the Retiree Chapter 255 group rate. Parking is an additional \$20 per night.

There will be a representative from TMR at the Membership meeting today to discuss the 2025 BCBSM plan available for Medicare eligible County retirees. There will be a small monthly increase in the cost for 2025 over 2024.

Finally, as a reminder, if you received an information verification letter from the Retirement office, you must fill it out and return a completed copy of the form along with your signature. Failure to do so will result in the suspension of your monthly benefit until such time as the Retirement Office receives the completed form.

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 \$251,704.22 in cash and investments as of October 31, 2024. There are 1,223 members with a loss of 60 members since the first of the year. Currently there are 169 members with payroll deductions to the AFSCME PEOPLE fund.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept the Treasurer report for November 2024 as presented. The motion carried.

Brother Noelke requested for an amendment to the budget to move \$1000 from Printing to Postage to cover the cost of mailing the October meeting notice; and increase the Contributions budget by \$1,000.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin to amend the 2024-25 budget by moving \$1,000 from line-item Printing to line-item Postage and increasing the Contributions budget by \$1,000. The motion carried.

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

### **Medical Insurance for Disability Retirees**

Since 2010, AFSCME Council 25 and this Sub-Chapter have been challenging the Wayne County discontinuance of health care insurance for disability retirees. There have been three (3) arbitration hearings, numerous Wayne County Circuit Court decisions and two (2) Michigan Court of Appeals hearings. The arbitrator award for the last hearing held on June 13, 2024, is still pending. Notwithstanding, that, the arbitrator and the courts ruled against Wayne County each time and, once again, Wayne County has filed another appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court. Wayne County continues to appeal the first arbitrator's award that states, **"The County violated the collective bargaining agreement when it made changes to healthcare benefits for newly approved duty and non-duty disability retirees. The County must rescind Administrative Personnel Order 1-2010 and make whole the duty or non-duty 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."**

As of now, AFSCME Council 25 and this Sub-Chapter are waiting on the latest arbitrator's award; and if the Michigan Supreme Court will accept the latest Wayne County appeal. There has been no change since the October report.

### **Basic Life Insurance and Supplemental Life Insurance**

The Sub-Chapter has just received a copy of the insurance certificates for the retiree basic life and supplemental life insurance policies with MetLife that were renewed by the Wayne County Commission at its October 17, 2024, meeting. The certificates of insurance apply to "retired employees n or after January 1, 1998, who were members of a bargaining unit at retirement excluding the Airport Authority. The coverage provides a basic life insurance benefit of \$5,000; and also, if applicable, a supplemental life insurance benefit maximized at \$11,500. The basic life insurance premiums are fully paid by Wayne County. The supplemental life insurance plan requires retirees to enroll and pay the full premium. For those seeking more information, please contact President Yee.

As a reminder, employees who retired prior to January 1, 1998, are included in a prepaid life insurance package at Prudential Life Insurance Company. This group does include airport retirees since there was no Airport Authority in 1998. The coverage amounts vary based on the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement under which the employee retired. The prepaid life insurance benefits arrange from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

### **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 November 1, 2024. Wayne County is providing monthly reports of stipend amounts transferred to MERS/Alerus.

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.

During past meetings, we have urged our members who are included in the Medicare eligible stipend program to use the MERS document “Wayne County Health Care Savings Program Reimbursement Claim” form “Recurring Expense” section (Page 2) to obtain health care cost reimbursement from the funds in their account at ALERUS. We continue to suggest that participants claim the combined amount of their Part B and Part D deduction from their monthly social security benefits. Any other health insurance type premiums should also be added to that amount. Until next year as discussed above was not significant.

During the due diligence process following Sub-Chapter 38 forcing Wayne County to change paying agents to MERS/ALERUS for this program, your representatives Ron Yee, Doug Wadlin, Richard Noelke, James Sockolosky and myself demanded that a provision be included in the plan documents requiring that forfeited funds be distributed to all participants. Forfeited funds are those balances attributed to deceased participants at MERS/ALERUS that are not claimed by the deceased beneficiary or the participant’s estate after a thorough and stringent process. In order to accomplish this additional benefit to the Medicare eligible stipend program, it was changed to a “Health Care Savings Program” as required in the US Internal Revenue Code. AS a result, all participants in this program will have slightly over \$50.00 transferred into their MERS/ALERUS account on January 1, 2025. This amount has nothing to do with your stipend – it’s separate and a one-time occurrence.

One of things to take away from this discussion is participants must keep their beneficiary designation current with MERS/ALERUS and your applicable retiree life insurance carrier by way of the Wayne County Benefits Administration Unit, 600 Griswold, 9<sup>th</sup> Flor (313) 224-5381. In addition, keep your beneficiary designation current for your retirement benefits and 401K and/or 457 benefits at the Wayne County Retirement System, 28 West Adams, (313) 224-5860. The beneficiary designation for each of these benefits is separate from the other.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to purchase a table of ten (10) at a cost of \$600 and also purchase a full-page advertisement in the program at a cost of \$200; to be used for Sub-Chapter 38 members, with the stipulation that President Yee will have the tickets to be distributed to requesting members. The motion carried.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Congratulations to John and Janice Wiktor who are celebrating 50 years of marriage this month. There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. The motion carried.