



# WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

## WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

**Ronald Yee**  
*President*

**Douglas Wadlin**  
*Vice-President*

**Richard Noelke**  
*Secretary Treasurer*

December 11, 2024

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**Mary Etta Kreklau** The meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon by President Yee and was opened with the  
*Recording Secretary* Pledge of Allegiance.

**Faith Cairgle** **PRESENT:** Bauman, Cairgle, Grysko, Hyde-Shelton, McCall, Noelke, Pendracki,  
*Sergeant-At-Arms* Sockolosky, Wadlin, and Yee

**John McCall** **EXCUSED:** Kreklau  
**James Sockolosky**

**Julie Bauman** **ABSENT:** None  
*Executive Board*

**GUESTS:** Macdonald

**Pamela Hyde-Shelton**

**Paul Pendracki** **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Brother Pendracki made the motion, properly supported by,  
**Gerard Grysko** Sister Bauman, to accept the roll call of officers. The motion carried.  
*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 Pendracki properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of December 10, 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 December 10, 2024, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried

#### REPORT OF OFFICERS:

**President:**

We have tickets available for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Dinner to be held on February 22, 2025, located at the International Center, 400 Monroe Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow at 7:00 pm. Parking is available at the parking structure across from the Athenium Hotel for \$20. The Sub-Chapter will pick up the \$20 cost of parking with a receipt.

Betty Misuraca won re-election as a retiree trustee to the Wayne County Retirement Board. It is a four-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

The County has still not been able to get the self-serve portal working for retirees to access their direct deposit statements on-line. If you wish to have a printed copy mailed to you, please contact James Magee at (313) 224-2821.

Chapter 255 is holding its annual meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2025, at the Quality Inn and Suites located at 906 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing, MI 48917. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm.

The Medicare Eligible Healthcare Stipend will increase to \$143.53 or \$148.53 on January 1, 2025. There will be an additional \$50 paid in the January stipend payment due to forfeitures experienced in the MERS overall account.

Finally, the Retirement office has sent out an information verification form that must be completed and returned to the Retirement Office. If you do not complete the form, sign it and return it, your monthly pension payment will be suspended until such time as you do send it back in. This is now an annual requirement for retirees.

If you have an empower Account for Deferred Compensation Plan 4 or Deferred Competition, remember to register your account for security purposes. If your account is not registered, it is easier to hack. Also make sure your beneficiary is up to date. Sign into your account or call Kandi Anglin (248) 840-0655.

We did get a thank you note from the Retirement Office staff for providing the holiday luncheon for them.

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

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT:**

Brother Wadlin reported there was no meeting of the Wayne County Labor Coalition in December. The January meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025. A few contracts have been completed.

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

#### **SECRETARY-TREASURER:**

##### **Financial Report:**

Brother Noelke reported that the Sub-Chapter has \$253,807.08 in cash and investments as of November 30, 2024. There are 1,214 members with a loss of 78 members since the first of the year. Currently there are 168 members with payroll deductions to the AFSCME PEOPLE fund.

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

Brother Noelke requested for an amendment to the budget to increase the following 2024-25 Budget items: \$1200 increase to Affiliation Fees to Chapter 255; Increase Office Supplies by \$200; and increase Meeting Expenses by \$3,000. These increases to be budget will be paid for from unallocated revenue.

Motion by Brother Grysko, properly supported by Sister Bauman to amend the 2024-25 budget by increasing Affiliation Fees to Chapter 255 by \$1,200; increase Office Supplies by \$200; and increasing Meeting Expenses by \$3,000. 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 this date, 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 November report.

### **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 December 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.

As reported in November, 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. Sub-Chapter 38 identified a number of forfeited accounts, reconciled those numbers with Wayne County and received assurances that the forfeited amount would be distributed to all participants on January 1, 2025. 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 is a one-time deposit to your account and is not a "stipend".

We continue to strongly 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 (2025) doing as discussed above was not significant. There is no valid reason to leave your money with ALERUS/MERS.

Once again, you are urged to keep your beneficiary designation current with MERS/Alerus; and your applicable retiree life insurance carrier by way of the Wayne County Benefits Administration Unit, 600 Griswald, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor (313) 2224-5381. 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. The beneficiary designation for each of these benefits is separate from the other.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to accept Brother Macdonald's report. The motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. The motion carried.