



WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

Ronald Yee
President

Douglas Wadlin
Vice-President

Richard Noelke
Secretary Treasurer

January 14, 2025

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, Kreklau, McCall, Noelke, Pendracki,
Sergeant-At-Arms Sockolosky, Wadlin, and Yee

John McCall **EXCUSED:** None
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 Brother Noelke, 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 Grysko, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of January 14, 2025, 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 January 14, 2025, leaving the record open to the end of the meeting for corrections, additions, or deletions. The motion carried

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

President:

Brother Yee announced that former President Henry Lykes has passed away. The details are not available yet. Sister Jean Like, former Recording Secretary, has also passed away. Her funeral was last week on what would have been her 90th birthday. The Sub-Chapter made a donation to Assured Hospice as was her family's wish. Many Sub-Chapter board members and members of Sub-Chapter attended her funeral services. Her family greatly appreciated our support.

The Medicare Eligible Healthcare Stipend increased to \$143.53 or \$148.53 on January 1, 2025. There was an additional \$153 paid in the January stipend payment due to forfeitures experienced in the MERS overall account.

If you are in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare Advantage plan negotiated for retirees, your monthly premium has increased slightly. New cards have been issued so you need to make sure you notify your physicians and/or pharmacy of your new information.

The County decided not to purchase the payroll module that issues direct deposit information and instead, have opted to set up a personal, self-serve portal for individuals to access and print their own monthly statements. However, the program is not up and running and we don't know when it will be up and running you will be notified by the Retirement System that is available to you.

You should be receiving your 1099R showing your retirement income and deductions in the coming weeks.

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.

Finally, a reminder that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Dinner sponsored by AFSCME Chapter 255 will be held on February 22, 2025. The Sub-Chapter did purchase a table of ten (10) for members interested in attending. The following members have requested a ticket: Pamela Hyde-Shelton, John McCall, Faith Cairgle, Julie Bauman, Nicole Paron, and Yolanda Davis, Betty Bishop, and Kim Curry-Smith. That leaves two (2) tickets still available. Please see me following the meeting if you are interested in attending this dinner. Sub-Chapter is also refunding the \$20 parking fee to members who attend with a receipt.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Sister Bauman, 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. No benefits have been increased.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, 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 \$249,233.28 in cash and investments as of December 31, 2024. There are 1,213 members with a loss of 81 members since the first of the year. Currently there are 172 members with payroll deductions to the AFSCME PEOPLE fund.

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

Brother Noelke submitted a request for approval to destroy membership cards and PEOPLE deduction cards for members deceased and/or cancelled in 2023.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to approve the destruction of the membership cards and PEOPLE deduction cards for members deceased and/or cancelled in 2023. 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 December report.

HEALTH CARE INSURANCE SETTLEMENT (STIPENDS)

Prescription Co-Pay Settlement

All deposits by Wayne County, both non-Medicare eligible and Medicare eligible stipends into members' accounts at ALERUS are consistent with the settlement agreement through the payment due January 1, 2025. 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.

Those of you who are Medicare eligible and with an account at ALERUS had \$133.63/133.64 added to that account on December 13, 2024, as a result of your Sub-chapter leadership (Yee, Wadlin, Noelke, Sockolosky

and myself) demanding 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 apparently forfeited accounts and met with Wayne county, ALERUS, and MERS to confirm the process of moving forfeited funds into the accounts of the 3,371 remaining members. That resulted in \$450,492.35 being shared among Wayne County retirees instead of going back into the Wayne County bank account.

Members can only gain the benefit of the deposits to their accounts by filing a claim as they do for their regular 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. There is no valid reason to leave your money with ALERUS/MERS.

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:

Brother Yee presented the Calendar of Meetings item as required by AFSCME International for the calendar year of 2025 for Sub-Chapter 38.

Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Noelke, to accept the 2025 Calendar of Meetings for Sub-Chapter 38 as presented. The motion carried.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Brother McCall announced the funeral information for Brother Henry Lykes.

Viewing will be Tuesday, January 22nd at Cole Funeral Home, 1789 Cooledge Hwy, Detroit with funeral services on Wednesday, January 23rd, at Cathedral of Faith, 13925 Burt Road, Detroit, MI.

President Yee asked for a motion to purchase either flowers or make a donation of \$200 as the family indicates for Brother Lykes. Motion by Brother Pendracki, properly supported by Brother Grysko, to approve the request by President Yee and make a donation of \$200 as the family indicates, for Brother Lykes. The motion carried.

There was a moment of silence for deceased members.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Brother Pendracki properly supported by Sister Bauman, to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 p.m. The motion carried.