



WAYNE COUNTY RETIREE SUB-CHAPTER 38

WE MAKE MICHIGAN HAPPEN

January 14, 2025

Ronald Yee
President

Douglas Wadlin
Vice-President

Richard Noelke
Secretary Treasurer

Mary Etta Kreklau
Recording Secretary

Faith Cairgle
Sergeant-At-Arms

John McCall
James Sockolosky
Julie Bauman
Executive Board

Pamela Hyde-Shelton
Paul Pendracki
Gerard Grysko
Trustees

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

PRESENT: Bauman, Cairgle, Grysko, Hyde-Shelton, Kreklau, McCall, Noelke, Pendracki, Sockolosky, Wadlin, and Yee

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: None

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

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 Brother Wadlin, 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:

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 Grysko, to accept the Treasurer report for December 2024 as presented. The motion carried.

Brother Noelke submitted a request for approval to ratify the action of the Executive Board this date and 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 ratify the Executive Board action this date 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 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

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, 9th 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 Sister Cairgle, to accept Brother Macdonald's report. The motion carried.

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 Wadlin, to ratify the action of the Executive Board this date accept the 2025 Calendar of Meetings for Sub-Chapter 38 as presented. The motion carried.

President Yee asked for a ratification of the action of the Executive Board this date to approve \$200 for either flowers or a donation, based on family wishes, in the memory of Brother Henry Lykes. Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Sister Bauman, to ratify the action of the Executive Board for approval of a \$200 for flowers or donation based on the requests of the family. The motion carried.

From the floor, Brother Tom Koenig, requested to know what was being done to reinstate the 13th check for retirees. Brother Yee explained that it was the action of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners to rescind their ordinance which covered the 13th check. Until the Board of

Commissioners reinstates that Ordinance, or it is negotiated in the various labor contracts, we will not be getting a 13th check.

Brother Koenig then asked for a motion for the Sub-Chapter to create a sub-committee of members to investigate and facilitate action by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners to re-establish the 13th check for retirees.

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Brother Wadlin, to establish a Sub-committee to investigate the possibility of re-establishment of a 13th check with the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. The motion carried.

Members volunteering to be on the Sub-Committee were: Jerry Smith, Tom Koenig, Hugh Macdonald, Gary Rotter, and Tm Komray.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

President Yee brought up that last month, he wanted to celebrate the 90th birthday of Ray Casse who seldom misses a meeting except that one. Brother Casse is present today and we want to wish him a great 90th year.

There was a moment of silence for members who have passed.

Attendance drawing:

There were 35 members present at the meeting.

\$20 - #8 – John McCall \$10-#20 – Janet Wiktor \$10 - #34 – Tom Connolly

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brother Macdonald, properly supported by Brother Grysko, to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 pm. The motion carried.