

PTE 17 Seattle Chapter

Meeting Minutes January 12, 2017

Chapter Officers present

Ulysses Hillard, Secretary/Acting President

Meeting was called to order by Ulysses at 12:01 pm, with 39 members present (quorum reached). Attendees introduced themselves, including PTE 17 Business Rep. Ray Sugarman.

Ulysses swore in the new Chapter Officers for 2017. They are Denise Krownbell, President; Mary Davis, Vice President; Joe Steinmeyer, Secretary. Returning Treasurer Gabriela Vega Kock was absent and will be sworn in at the February meeting.

Minutes for the November and December Chapter Meetings were read and approved by unanimous voice vote.

MLK Labor Council Report

Ulysses explained the purpose of the MLKLC, and invited interested members to contact him for more information.

Regional Executive Committee Report

The next REC meeting will be held on March 25th. Denise reviewed the background of the REC, and reported that there are seven openings (five standing, two alternate) for Seattle Chapter members. Nominations should be submitted to Nikola Davidson at the Union office by January 20th.

Stewards Report

Ulysses reported that he filed a grievance over the termination of nine term limited employees at the Seattle Public Utilities call center. The grievance concerns the department's use of temporary and term limited employees to avoid creating regular positions commensurate with the body of work. There was a discussion of the city's use of overtime, temps, favoritism in work assignments and other tactics used to avoid the appearance of expanding the work force. Members were encouraged to contact a Steward or Union rep. if they sense something isn't right.

Tim Lowry raised the issue of members being reclassified as managers, while their job duties remained essentially the same. Ray asked that Tim provide him details, as this practice could amount to 'skimming', assigning work of one job class to another.

The issue of comp time was discussed. Members from various departments reported different policies in effect in their respective departments. Some reported being told they were allowed to have a maximum eighty hours comp time or they would be 'cashed out' for the excess, others were told they had till a particular date to use accrued time or be 'cashed out'. Denise quoted David Braccilano SDHR Labor Negotiator, as stating that comp time remains on the books until used. Comp time policy will be the subject of a contract reopener at a later date.

Debra Pate reported that Engineers were experiencing difficulties being paid for travel time. Denise said that issue will be the subject of a grievance.

Staff Report

Ray reported on an email that went out to SPU employees stating that no city equipment may be used for any union activity. He expects that SPU will be sending a clarification stating it was not SPU's intention to discourage union activity.

Ray also provided an update on negotiations with the city regarding Paid Parental Leave. The proposed agreement would include up to eight weeks leave with no drawdown of a member's earned leave time. An additional four weeks leave would require a drawdown of earned leave equal to one week of vacation and two weeks sick leave. Negotiations are underway to provide members with four weeks of Family Care Leave, available to care for infirmed family members.

Old Business

Denise Krownbell and Mary Davis now have signing authority for the Chapter checking account. Gabriela will be authorized on her return.

Denise asked that members working at SMT volunteer to collect information about working conditions on their floors (number of employees, restroom and elevator availability, etc.) to be used by the Union in grievances with the city over implementation of the city's open space/space reduction plan.

Denise reviewed the Union's new procedure for disbursement of Chapter funds. Ulysses made a motion that the Chapter take a resolution to the next REC meeting asking for guidelines regarding the use of funds, including allowed uses and procedure for reimbursement. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous voice vote.

New Business

None

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm