

PTE LOCAL 17 SEATTLE CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2018

Officers Present

Denise Krownbell, President
Mary Davis, Vice President
Darren Wilson, Treasurer
Joe Steinmeyer, Secretary

Denise called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm, with 65 members present. More members arrived after the meeting began. Attendees introduced themselves, including Local 17 Union Representatives Amy Bowles and Steven Pray. Minutes from the previous meeting, 8/9/18, were approved as written by unanimous voice vote.

Officers Reports

Denise spoke about the Contract Bargaining Team for upcoming negotiations. The makeup of the team is complete except for one position from the Parks Dept. Interested members from Parks should contact Amy or Denise. An email will be sent shortly announcing names of Team members.

Denise also spoke about the recent survey of members' interests in bargaining issues; number 1 was wages and COLA, contracting out and the use of temporary employees, alternate work schedules, telecommuting, flex time, and professional development also ranked high on the list of members' concerns. Anti-bullying and harassment language in the new agreement is also desperately needed. The first Team meeting is to be held on September 20th.

Union Representatives Reports

Amy introduced Local 17's new Union Representative Steven Pray. Steven previously interned at Local 17 in the summer of 2017, and also this past winter while finishing his law degree. Steven will split his time between the Seattle and King County Chapters. Steven has been attending new employee orientations to introduce new hires to Local 17, and explain the value of union membership. So far, Steven has a 100% success rate at convincing new hires to sign a membership card.

Amy announced the date and place for the next Regional Executive Committee meeting; October 20th at the Teamster's Hall in Tukwila. REC delegates should have received a Save the Date email, if not; they should contact Amy or Anthony Davidson, PTE Local 17 Operations Director at Anthony@PTE17.org. Amy thanked REC delegates for their dedication to the union over the past year.

Amy spoke about the Freedom Foundation's attempts to contact union members at their jobs or homes. She urged members who may be contacted by the FF to let Local 17 know so those communications can be tracked.

A question was asked about the Teamsters erroneously refunding dues to a Local 17 member. The City had been sending a Local 17 member's dues to Teamsters. Teamsters then issued a refund check to our Local 17 member. Amy said that as a result of this incident, she requested SDHR perform an audit of

dues deductions from employees' wages. Denise reminded members to let the union know when something doesn't seem right at work.

Amy said Local 17 and the city are close to agreement on wage comparison methodology to be used in upcoming contract negotiations.

There was discussion of how make sure new employees, especially at the SPU Contact Center are receiving face to face interaction with a union representative, including an explanation of Weingarten Rights. Steven will track Contact Center hires at New Employee Orientations. Members at the Contact Center will also reach out to new employees. One issue that affects Local 17's ability to welcome new employees is the city's lack of centralized New Employee Orientations. Stewards and Member Leaders can contact their Union Rep for Welcome Packets to use in introducing Local 17 to new employees in their workplace.

New Business

Elections for Executive Board positions will be held in November. Nominations for Secretary/Treasurer and Trustee #3 will be accepted through October 5th by emailing Anthony@PTE17.org. Elections for Chapter Officers and REC delegates will be held in December.

Old Business

John LeCompte and Timothy Lowery spoke about their efforts to address workplace culture, known as Stop The Pain And Thrive. Along with Seattle Silence Breakers, the Mayor's Interdepartmental Team on Harassment and Discrimination, and RSJI, STPAT seeks to resolve issues of bullying, harassment, retaliation, and discrimination in the workplace. STPAT also seeks to increase communication by reforming the present top down, linear model currently in place with a more transparent, collaborative method. 360 performance evaluations and an ombudsperson to track employee complaints and grievances are also sought. They have encapsulated their ideas in a proposal to the mayor, and are seeking support of Local 17 Seattle Chapter members via an online survey before presenting. Voting on the proposal ends tomorrow at 12 pm. If you have not voted, please do so, if you have not received an email with a link to the survey, please contact Amy, or note it on the sign in sheet. Emails were sent to members' personal accounts. Update your contact information at PTE17.org.

The meeting was adjourned by Denise at 1:03 pm.

Minutes by Joe Steinmeyer