

**PTE Local 17 Seattle Chapter  
Meeting Minutes  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Chapter Officers Present**

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

Denise called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm, with 49 members present (quorum reached). More members arrived after the meeting began. Attendees introduced themselves, including PTE 17 Union Representatives Amy Bowles, Ray Sugarman and Shaun Van Eyk. Minutes from the previous meeting, 3/8/18, were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Regional Executive Committee Report**

Denise gave a recap of the REC Committee meeting held March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. At the meeting, Ray Sugarman, Delegate for the PTE Local 17 Staff Chapter, motioned to recuse the PTE Local 17 Executive Board from their oversight role in the ongoing investigation into allegations Executive Director Behnaz Nelson undertook actions that put our union at exceptional risk. The motion asked that a nine member panel of Delegates be formed to conduct the investigation of the ED, and explore whether discipline might be warranted with respect to any members of the Executive Board. There was a floor discussion of the relevant issues. Several delegates made the point that the Board's conduct seemed to be in conflict with the principle of due process, something Local 17 works to uphold for our members on a daily basis. The motion was seconded and passed by overwhelming voice vote.

Each Chapter selected delegates to serve on the panel, proportionate to membership. Joey Bullock and Darren Wilson were selected to represent the Seattle Chapter. Rachael Brooks was selected as an alternate. Darren said the panel met on April 7<sup>th</sup> to review the investigator's materials and would meet again as soon as possible, with an eye towards completing their work by early summer. Once the panel has completed its work, a meeting of the REC will be held to hear their findings, and determine whether discipline is appropriate. Rachael noted the panel's scope included all aspects of the Board's actions, including whether the investigation and discipline of the other staff member was conducted fairly. There was member discussion about the process and how the outcome may affect the union. Members were encouraged to keep an open mind, and be respectful of others' points of view.

**Union Representatives Reports**

Amy spoke about the contract reopener to agree on a methodology to be used to determine wage comparables in bargaining the new contract. The Coalition of City Unions has submitted a detailed, robust proposal to the city and is awaiting a response. Amy, Ray, and Shaun answered questions about how the methodology was compiled. Ray is the Chair of the Coalition subcommittee for the Wage Reopener.

Amy spoke about a meeting with SDHR re: space planning at various city departments. SDHR is going to establish a protocol for implementing 'space planning' changes to members' workspace.

### **Old Business**

Joel Vancil distributed copies of a draft letter to the Mayor, City Council, and relevant department heads detailing problems members face while trying to assist utility customers since the rollout of new billing software. Ulysses Hillard motioned that the final version of the letter be submitted to the media for publication. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

### **New Business**

Denise talked about an effort the union is beginning to identify member leaders who would be willing to speak to their co-workers about the benefits of union membership. Shaun spoke about efforts to codify language in the contract guaranteeing a Local 17 representative 30 minute time to spend with new members to welcome them to the union.

Denise said that a request had been made by a member to bring a candidate for U.S. Senate to speak to the membership. There was member discussion about the issue. It was decided that for various reasons, it would be inappropriate to invite a candidate to speak at a Chapter meeting.

Leonard Piha spoke about a recent job posting advertising a ten year term limited temporary position. Shaun noted that Local 17 has been successful in the past at grieving the use of temps for longer than 3 years, and got several temporary pockets converted to FTEs. He did note, however, that the city occasionally uses 'contingent budget authority' pockets, which are generally used in fee based departments.

### **Good of the Order**

Ulysses reminded members to keep an eye out for 'Opportunities for Advancement' Strategic Advisor II positions with job descriptions that are similar to other positions that are represented by Local 17, and to inform their Union Representative when they find OFAs that should be represented.

Denise spoke about the importance of being respectful of others at work, even when joking around with a friend. Be mindful that something said in jest could make someone not a part the conversation uncomfortable, whether or not that was your intention.

Denise adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm

Minutes by Joe Steinmeyer