

**PTE Local 17 Seattle Chapter
Meeting Minutes
March 8th, 2018**

Chapter Officers Present

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

Denise called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm, with 46 members in attendance (quorum reached). More members arrived after the meeting began. Attendees introduced themselves, including Union Representatives Ray Sugarman and Shaun Van Eyk. Minutes from the previous meeting, 2/8/18, were approved with one correction; Mayor Durkan's name was incorrectly spelled. There were 3 abstentions.

Officers Report

Denise spoke about the recent Insight article detailing the successful resolution to a grievance filed by Local 17. A few City of Seattle departments were excluding sick leave and vacation hours when calculating employees' overtime eligibility. This is inconsistent with city policy. A settlement was negotiated that requires all paid time to be considered in overtime calculations. This is a big win for City of Seattle employees who were denied OT because they happened use personal leave during that week.

Union Representatives Reports

Shaun noted that the Regional Executive Committee (REC) meeting is March 12th and urged anyone who has not RSVP'd yet to do so. He also said that the Local has noticed some movement from the city on outstanding grievances with the departure of SDHR Director Susan Coskey. She was a major roadblock in moving grievances through the process. Ray spoke about a Quality Assurance Program being rolled out by SPU. A demand to bargain the impacts has been filed to mitigate the effect on members. He also asked members in The Parks Department affected by their managements' "readjustment" (re-org), including re-assignment to different supervisors, changes in work schedules, to contact him. He noted that Parks is one of the few city departments that are amenable to working with the union to resolve issues.

Martin Luther King County Labor Council Report

Shaun reported that the building housing the MLKCLC, owned by the Seattle Labor Temple Association, has been put up for sale. While there has been talk about relocating to Federal Way, it now appears that they will seek property in the SODO area of Seattle.

Regional Executive Committee Report

Ulysses spoke about the upcoming REC meeting. The REC is the legislative body of the Local. He noted there are Delegate positions unfilled, and encouraged interested members to contact him, Denise, or Darren for information. Denise pointed out that one of the main functions of the REC is to approve the Local's budget, which governs how funds are allocated to pay for Union Reps. Denise and Mary have been tireless advocates for restoring a vacant Rep position to the Seattle team. They will be doing that again at this meeting, and encouraged others to join in. Shaun and Ulysses encouraged Delegates to ask questions pertaining to the Professional Services line in the budget also. There was member discussion about the function of the REC.

Old Business

Joe has copies of the Steward Resource Guide available, especially for those attending the Steward Academy, but also for other Stewards who need one. The next Academy session will be March 29th, 11:45 – 1pm in SMT 1610.

Denise spoke about the City of Seattle Silence Breakers, an organization of city employees and other interested persons, to speak out about sexual harassment and discrimination facing city employees. Their focus has evolved to include issues of bullying, intimidation, racism, and ageism, and their effect on workplace culture at the city. Local 17 member and Steward Tia Jones has been appointed as the group's representative on Mayor Durkan's Interdepartmental Team on Harassment.

Ulysses said that today is International Women's Day. The city is sponsoring a panel discussion on Women's Rights, featuring a number of salaried city employees as a part of their job. Hourly employees, however, must use personal time to attend. You may be able to attend on city time with supervisor approval. Good luck with that.

Denise noted that our contract (CBA) expires at the end of the year. She encouraged interested members to get involved and consider joining the bargaining team to negotiate the next CBA.

Denise said SCL hired a consulting firm to survey employees about 'space planning' changes to their workplaces. Employees have found survey questionnaires to be generic and designed to guide them to a predetermined conclusion. SCL has not agreed that the changes are subject to mandatory bargaining but is holding non-binding talks with affected unions. Deborah Pate also raised objections to the survey process. Denise encouraged members to participate in related focus groups if asked and contact their Rep with details.

Tia asked about Steward Confirmation letters from the Local, in order to get recognition as Stewards from their managers. Ray and Shaun said the Local is in the process of updating the letter and website.

Rachael Brooks asked whether healthcare benefits were part of the CBA negotiations, or a separate process. Shaun said they were, although he is part of a Labor-Management Committee that oversees healthcare benefits and is the Local's contact person for that committee.

Gurpreet Dhaliwal inquired whether the paid parental leave policy requires burning down comp time, like it does sick leave and vacation, to qualify. Ray and Shaun assured him that it does not. Gurpreet also asked for clarification on the emergency ride home program. Denise said her understanding was employees with an urgent need can call a taxi and be reimbursed by the city when they return to work. Forms for reimbursement should be available on mytrips.gov. For more info, email Eric Mamroth.

New Business

Joel Vancil spoke about problems the SPU call center CSRs and other members have experienced since the new customer billing system and related software came online. A copy of his remarks is attached. Joel motioned that Local 17 impanel a committee to draft a letter to Mayor Durkan and SCL Interim CEO Jim Baggs describing issues and proposed solutions. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Good of the Order

Ulysses reported on a motion he made at the February meeting to donate \$200 to the Teamsters Local 174 strike fund in support of the school bus driver strike. The motion was amended to raise the amount to \$500. However, Local 174 reached a Tentative Agreement before the donation could be made. Since it is 174's policy that since the strike was settled the money would go into their general fund, Ulysses made a motion to rescind his earlier motion. The motion to rescind was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Denise reminded members about the rally for International Women's Day is tonight at Westlake Center, from 5-7.

Denise adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm.

Minutes by Joe Steinmeyer