

PTE 17 Seattle Chapter

Meeting Minutes October 12th 2017

Officers Present

Denise Krownbell, President
Mary Davis, Vice President
Jen Lyman, Treasurer
Joe Steinmeyer, Secretary

Denise called the meeting to order at 12:03pm, with 36 members in attendance (quorum reached). Attendees introduced themselves, including PTE 17 Executive Director Behnaz Nelson, Development Director Chelsea Nelson, and Business Representatives Amy Bowles, Ray Sugarman, and Shaun Van Eyk. Minutes from the previous meeting, 9/14/17 were approved with one abstention.

Denise noted that nominations for Executive Board Trustee position #1 are closed. Ray Ceaser and Mary Davis are the two nominees. Each brought campaign flyers to the meeting. Ballots will be mailed to members, and need to be returned by mail to the Local office no later than November 14th. Members were reminded to make sure their contact information is up to date in order to receive a ballot.

New Business

Behnaz addressed the members about the importance of building relationships within the union and with the community. She and staff members have been meeting with members throughout the region to engage with them and listen to their ideas and concerns about what the union is doing right and what can be done better. She noted that upcoming court decisions may limit the ability of unions to collect dues from membership, severely impacting the ability of unions to provide the level of service members are accustomed to. Behnaz took questions from the members related to 'right to work' laws which are sure to be enacted should the court rule against unions.

Chelsea led a discussion about the value of unions and the causes of apathy among membership. One major issue is a lack of knowledge of the positive influence unions have in every aspect of our lives and communities. She encouraged members to contact her with thoughts about how to improve their relationship with the union.

Denise announced nominations will be accepted for REC Delegates, Chapter Officers, and Martin Luther King County Labor Council Delegate at the November 9, 2017 Chapter meeting. Members can nominate themselves or another member in good standing; if nominating another member, that person must be in attendance to accept. Nominations can be made in advance by emailing Adrienne@PTE17.org, current REC Delegates who are unsure of their status can also contact Adrienne to confirm when their term ends. Members who may be interested in becoming a REC Delegate are invited to attend the upcoming REC meeting on October 21st.

Old Business

Ulysses Hillard reminded the members of the next Steward Academy to be held October 26th; Stewards will be receiving a flyer soon with details. Topic will be "How to represent a member in an Investigatory Interview".

Deb Pate asked for clarification about posting union fliers in the workplace. She has had a problem with fliers being removed. Denise reminded members of the right to post union related materials anywhere other non-work related (Seahawk s Party, whatever) are allowed. Deb also mentioned that members are being told they must take furlough reimbursement days and floating holidays before December 14th. This is incorrect, you may use those days any time before the end of the year.

Behnaz noted that 1550 members responded to the recent survey conducted by the Local. Results will be announced in late October or early November.

Denise adjourned the meeting at 12:55pm.

Minutes by Joe Steinmeyer