

PTE 17 Seattle Chapter

Meeting Minutes September 14th 2017

Officers Present

Denise Krownbell, President

Jen Lyman, Treasurer

Joe Steinmeyer, Secretary

Denise called the meeting to order at 12:02pm with 64 members in attendance (quorum reached). Attendees introduced themselves, including PTE 17 Executive Director Behnaz Nelson, PTE 17 Communications Director Deidre Girard, Communications Director, PTE 17 Development Director Chelsea Nelson, and PTE 17 Business Representatives Shaun Van Eyk and Ray Sugarman. Minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

New Business

Denise announced the dates for the next three Steward training sessions. Weingarten Rights will be the topic on September 27th, October 26th will feature mock investigatory meetings, and the topic for November 29th will be announced at a later date.

Denise also reported a Race and Social Justice Event will be held tomorrow from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm in the Bertha Knight Landis Room at Settle City Hall. Harvest of Empire, a film about immigration and the effects on labor and agriculture issues in the US, will be shown. Supervisor approval is needed to attend on city time.

Denise introduced Executive Director Behnaz Nelson, the first woman to be ED in PTE 17's 99 year history. Behnaz spoke about the importance of being a member driven organization, one that engages and educates its membership to become an effective voice in the workplace and community. She encouraged members to take part in the online survey PTE 17 is conducting, and stressed that members should be open and honest about what they know about their union, and what they like or dislike about it. The survey results will help determine the future of Local 17 in the face of court challenges to public sector unions.

Development Director Chelsea Nelson made an energetic presentation which demonstrated the correlation between a strong union and better quality of life.

Communications Director Deidre Girard encouraged members to contact her with ideas about making Local 17 communications more user-friendly.

Behnaz answered several questions from the membership. Topics covered were a more inclusive Regional Executive Committee meeting with more delegate training and participation in the decision making process, and the possibility of establishing a method for delegates to

communicate among themselves; the ability of members on the contract negotiations teams to more fully participate and speak in bargaining sessions; dissatisfaction with union representation in resolving contract issues and the challenges confronting Reps when dealing with poor managers, asset allocation to fund more staff, and the need to empower members with the ability to confront issues themselves.

Several issues related to contract negotiations were raised including alternative work schedules and shortened workweeks, wage equity (wage equity is a contract re-opener item that will be addressed prior to new contract negotiations), management rights, and service credit in relation to lay off. Members should communicate these and other contract concerns to their Rep to assure they will be considered in future contract negotiations.

Behnaz will be present at the October Chapter Meeting.

Good of the Order

Joel Vancil provided information on a picket of the Freedom Foundation's annual gala, to be held September 29th in Bellevue. The Freedom Foundation is behind several anti-worker efforts nationwide, including promotion of 'right to work' laws in several states, including Washington. A motion was passed requesting PTE 17 support of the picket. Behnaz will present the motion to the Executive Board, and was confident of the Board's approval.

Denise adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm

Minutes by Joe Steinmeyer