

**Clark County PTE Local 17 Chapter Meeting
Wednesday April 26, 2017
Round Table Pizza – Salmon Creek, Vancouver**

Meeting was called to order by Mark Rauchenstein at 5:45pm. Minutes from the previous meeting were not available to be read or approved.

Treasurer's Report – Carla

Peoples CU Account

Starting Balance: \$937.83

Transaction Summary: - \$50.00 (Gift donation for Joe McGee Retirement)

Current Balance: **\$887.83**

Passed

Local 17 controlled account

Starting Balance: \$162.12

Transaction Summary: + \$81.12 quarterly Deposit from Local 17

Current Balance: **\$243.24**

Passed

Local 17 payments to "Union held Account"

- Asked Amy to determine if we can get statements showing qtrly deposits and growing balance in the Union held account. Treasurer needs to be able to balance the Union Held Account also.
- * Asked Amy to find out how we go about withdrawing monies from the Local 17 Union held account for the Clark County Chapter.

Elections for new Chapter positions

- Elections will take place at year end 2017, for Local 17 Clark County Chapter positions. It was stated that Cary Armstrong will be running for Chapter President. We need nominees for Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer Etc.

Negotiations

- Local 17's contract negotiations will take place again in spring 2018. Please start thinking about who you want to elect to negotiate for your departments and possibly an alternate to back up your negotiators. Cory Weisner has expressed interest in negotiating for the engineers.
- * Cary Armstrong suggested Sally Fisher sit on the team for the Engineers section employees in local 17.
- * Amy discussed the possibility that negotiations may be done based on an Interest Based position. Interest based negotiations require training, so if it is determined that interest based negotiations will be done, all negotiators will require the training in the fall-winter of 2017.
- * Interest based negotiations need to be voted on before it can be put into place.

Meeting Notes

- Carla will try to bring copies of the last meeting notes each time so that we always have them available if the secretary can't make it to the current meeting.

SWWCLC (Southwest Washington Central Labor Council) (Mark)

- The Central Labor Council is a council that meets once a month to discuss business of all local labor unions throughout the State. It is made up of a council of members from a lot of the local unions and all union members are free to attend. Mark Rauchenstein is part of the council and will not be re-running at years end for re-election. Mark is hoping that others will get involved in attending the meetings in his place. Cary Armstrong has attended a few meetings and will continue. Sally Fisher also showed some interest in attending. Mark will be transitioning out of all Union offices he holds as he is gearing up for retirement in the next few years.

Donations

- The Klinellne/Salmon Creek Park fish derby held each spring has sent letters requesting donations for the last two years. Quarterly meetings were held at such times that we didn't make the deadline for the donations. Carla Simmons brought this up just to see if this was a cause we want to donate too. We donated to this cause a few years ago but it hasn't been a yearly donation. Carla stated she will bring it up again at year end or the first Qtr. of 2018 to see if there is interest in donating to the fish derby.

Membership Participation

- We need more participation. For example, there are only 9 people here tonight and it's mostly the same people that usually attend meetings. It was discussed that we have tried to have meetings closer to the Clark County Offices and even though people have indicated in the past that they would attend more meetings if they were closer to the Public Service Center, it hasn't helped. The last meeting was held at the PSC Building (Dragon Fly) and only 10 members showed up that time. Maybe more publication of the meeting is needed by face to face contact and reminders.
- Mark pointed out that since the Dragonfly Café is located in a public building, the Freedom Foundation could potentially cause problems if they find out. Their main goals are to disrupt the union and cost us money.
- * A lot of the most involved employees within the union are getting older and within 3-7 years of retirement, we need others to get more involved and take over as stewards, Contract negotiators, and chapter elected positions (president, vice president etc.). It is proving hard to get people interested and involved, but please keep trying because we need backups to take over.

Chapter Leadership Succession (Mark)

- Mark will be stepping down and Cary will be running for the position of President so we will need a new VP. We also need REC and CLC participation. Others will eventually be retiring so their positions also need to be filled in the future.

Vegetation Management

- July-August 2016 The Vegetation Management Department (10 people) decided they wanted to join Local 17 membership. These positions were in the Environmental Services Department before it was split up. Local 17 completed the paperwork to allow them to join Local 17 and then Local 307 contested the attempt as they felt that these positions fit more with their local chapter. The specialists asked to join Local 17 rather than 307. The battle still goes on as Local 307 still wants them. In October 2016 there was a phone perk hearing and in Late January 2017 a two day perk hearing took place. Perk is to make their ruling around July 1, 2017.

Right to Work Movement

- Mark Rauchenstein explained the right to work movement as an effort to wipe out Government Employee Unions. This movement is backed by the Coche Brothers and lots of money.
- * A new group has been formed to fight and take action against these attempts, the group is called "Washington Working Together"
- * Stats: About half of the US States are now right to work states and Oregon and Washington (actually the Pacific NW) is under constant threat every year.
- * Mark Rauchenstein discussed that the initiatives to adopt right to work within Washington State has been determined to violate Washington State Laws and areas that have adopted the Right to Work policies have been sued with reversals.

Engineers

- The engineers have temporary employees every year and they are wanting to discuss with management and HR about bringing these workers in as Project Positions who will be eligible for benefits and be backed by the Unions
- * Amy agreed to start an action to meet with HR for discussions about temp vs project positions.
- * These positions are somewhat seasonal (6-9 months out of the year). Some of these temps are the same people from year to year.

Health Care

- Mark Rauchenstein briefly discussed the benefits of the high deductible health care plans and the Health Care Accounts attached to them. It is working out quite well for him. The county contributes \$1000 to the Health Care Account annually and the members out of pocket costs stop at \$3000/yr. So it can really pay off for some people. The health care account is one where the balance carries forward into the next year and you can keep adding to it and using it forever even after you retire you can keep using the balance (you don't have to empty it each year, like you do with the Flexible Spending Account). Regence works out well, monthly costs vs county contributions and out of pocket limits...Kaiser on the other hand, really equals out, not as good of a deal.

Wellness Committee

- The wellness committee is constantly bringing in new or renewed programs: Weight Watchers, Proper eating for diabetics etc.

.Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.