

Clark County PTE Local 17 Chapter Meeting
Thursday November 15, 2016
Dragonfly Cafe – Vancouver

Meeting was called to order by Mark Rauchenstein at 5:33pm. A quorum was present. Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Carla (Meghan Hodges not in attendance)

Starting Balance: \$1,222

Transaction Summary: + \$356.24 (banquet fees & deposit), - \$640.47 (banquet door prize & reimbursing Mary for pizza)

Current Balance: **\$937.83**

Passed

Elliot Levin

- Amy introduced Elliot, who is the Research Director for Local 17 and Amy's emergency/vacation backup.

Old Business

- New member packets (Amy): in progress

Joe McGee (Executive Director) Retirement

- Carla received a letter from Fred White (King County Rep) asking if we can donate for a retirement gift for Joe. King County is giving \$250, suggested donation from us: \$50. *Motion passed with none opposed.*
- Behnaz Nelson, Deputy Executive Director, is replacing Joe as Executive Director.

Board Elections (Amy)

- Votes were counted yesterday. Lois Watt (President) retained her position with a big margin and the continuity will be good with all the recent changes. Elizabeth Geier ran uncontested.

Health Care Committee (Mark)

- No meetings since open enrollment, upcoming meetings TBD
- Todd (Assessor's Office) put together an analysis spreadsheet comparing the High Deductible/HSA and Kaiser/Regence/FSA plans; good resource for anyone thinking about changing next year.
- There were some changes for Kaiser prescriptions and people were upset, but the committee had to make Kaiser and Regency plans more equal since Kaiser's service is now on par with Regency's.
- Cary asked if the committee has seen any significant shifts between Kaiser and Regency? Mark – yes and at next meeting (probably in February), the committee will discuss the shifts which will most likely still show a 50/50 split between Kaiser and Regency enrollments.
- Mark – in the last 6 months there have been some major claims, some of which went over the stop loss (high experience ratings). However, premiums did not increase proportionately as assumed.

REC (Regional Executive Committee) (Mark)

- Mark attended recent meeting and was able to observe how the business of the Chapters is handled and met people from Chapters all over the state.

Election Update (Amy/Elliot)

- Presidential election: Unions will be watching Trump and the policies/plans he will have for unions. Mike Pence is very anti-union and turned Pennsylvania into a Right to Work state. We will follow Local 17's directives.
 - There is currently an open seat in the SCOTUS that Trump will fill as well as potentially 3-4 more seats he may need to fill over the next 4-8 years due likely retirements.
 - Local elections: Jay Insley was reelected WA Governor, John Blom (R) and Eileen Quiring (R) were elected to County Council. The low income proposition passed in the City of Vancouver. Mark – John is reasonable; hopefully the Council as a whole will also be more reasonable. No changes to Vancouver City Council.
 - Washington State: Republicans still control the Senate by a margin of 1, still waiting on results for the House. There were some very close jurisdictions but the Dems will likely still hold the majority. Tim Probst did not win. Minimum wage passed. Senior Fraud also passed – Freedom Foundation's effort for public information request; actually good that it passed since it was hard to get to the meat of the resolution.
 - Oregon State: Measure 97 failed, Dems still hold majority in House and Senate, and Kate Brown was elected Governor.

Chapter Meeting Requirements (Mark)

- had conversation with Nikola and it appears the rules were misinterpreted. We are not required to have quarterly meetings in order to receive our quarterly funds. Should we have more meetings or less meetings?
- Mary suggested that we have meetings only when needed to avoid burning out our members.
- We need more participation. For example, there are only 10 people here tonight and it's the same people that usually attend meetings. People that indicated that they would attend more meetings if they were closer to the Public Service Center, but they aren't here tonight even though this meeting is in the PSC Building. Members can't be forced to participate.
- Cary asked what other chapters are doing. Amy/Elliot – Attendance waxes and wanes depending on if a contract is being negotiated. PDX meets monthly and still has good turnout. Tacoma meets quarterly. Seattle meets monthly. Spokane meets quarterly. Unsure of Pierce County's meeting frequency. Hesitant to go to only once a year – people still need to know their union is meeting. Chapter has access to Local 17 funds for communication flyers, the website, etc. Local 17 is also working on a database for better communication with members.
- Carla proposed bi-annual meetings with ad hoc meetings. Mark added that we will need to meet around elections (October) and that bi-annual doesn't have to mean every 6 months, just twice per year. Potentially have meetings every April and October. *Motion passed with none opposed.*
- 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. Countersuing/fighting FF lawsuits was suggested. Per Elliot, they have more money and Local 17 is looking for donors.

Chapter Leadership Succession (Mark)

- Mark will be stepping down and Cary will be assuming the position of President so we will need a new VP. We also need REC and CLC participation. Mary and Carla will eventually retire so their positions will also need to be filled in the future.

Vegetation Management Recruitments

- The County is recruiting for 8-10 Vegetation Management Specialist positions. These positions were in the Environmental Services Department before the it was split up. Local 307 is contesting in an attempt to get these positions. The specialists don't want to be in any union necessarily, but have asked to join Local 17 rather than 307. The hearing is on January 31, 2017. Local 17 has a much broader argument than 307 but it will probably be spring before we know anything.

Budget Cuts (Amy)

- Amy spoke with Linda Latto. The budget cuts were proposed at 10% but were knocked down to 1%. Linda Latto still wants to make some cost cutting measures and suggested voluntary furlough for employees to leave early unpaid without having to take vacation/sick time.
- Furloughs will be no more than 10 hours per week and will not affect accruals or benefits. 30 hours per week still meets requirements for PERS. However, if you are in your final 5 years, it WILL affect your compensation in retirement.
- Linda Latto has prepared a draft. "Blackout" times will likely include New Construction and the 2 weeks around mailings. Any leave will still need to be approved in advance. Employees will still need to complete their work without performance issues.
- Cary – what will be done with the saved money? Where is it going? Amy – it may be used to hire temps (specifically helps Local 11). We need more information about that. Mary – the previous Assessor, Linda Franklin, did this years ago, which helped some employees who wanted move to ¾ time but couldn't since the Office does not have any ¾ positions. However, don't feel duty-bound to take furlough time.
- Amy said that she is on board with the proposal so far and will keep us updated.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.