

AFSCME Retiree Chapter 255
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Executive Board
July 13, 2021
11:00 AM

Location of Meeting:

Virtual Meeting

Present at Meeting: Recording Secretary - Kathie Sherrill, Secretary Treasurer - Ed McNeil, Region 1 Executive Board Member - Danny Craig, Region 2 Executive Board Member - John McCall, Region 5 Executive Board member – Bill Farmer, Region 6 Executive Board member – Don Weatherspoon, Trustees - Lular Shepherd,

Absent from Meeting: President – Henry Lykes, Leigh Tomlinson - VP, Region 7 Executive Board Member - Trudy Ferguson, Region 11 Executive Board Member - Shana Thornton, Region 12 Executive Board Member – Fred Brock, Trustees - Pat Amato, Faith Cairgle,

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of AFSCME Retiree Chapter 255 was called to order at 11:17 am July 13, 2021 by Secretary Kathie Sherrill.

I. Correspondence

No correspondence received

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by Don Weatherspoon, supported by John McCall. No Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the April 20, 2021 were distributed by email to all Board members.

Motion by Don Weatherspoon to approve and suspend reading of minutes as everyone received them prior to the meeting. Support Danny Craig.

No Discussion, Motion carried unanimously

IV. Reports

1. President's Report, Henry Lykes: No Report
2. Secretary Report, Kathie Sherrill: No Report
3. Treasurer's Report – Ed McNeil

- A) Financial Reports for the months of April, May and June were distributed via email to all Board members.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by Don Weatherspoon, supported by Danny Craig. No Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

B) Board members who are not in good standing have been contacted by Ed with no response.

4. Executive Board Reports:

- a. Region 1 – Danny Craig – Veterans holding an event 8/14 in Highland Park. AARP will begin in-person meetings in September.
- b. Region 2 – John McCall – Chapter 38 waiting for more information on convention.
- c. Region 3 – vacant
- d. Region 4 – vacant
- e. Region 5 – Bill Farmer – Medicare for All was reintroduced by Sen. Sanders and Representative Jayapal on March 17. Bill wants to present a resolution for the Board to support Medicare for All.
- f. Region 6 – Don Weatherspoon – Congratulations to Danny Craig for being appointed to the Veteran's by Governor Whitmer.
- g. Region 7 – Trudy Ferguson – Ed heard from Trudy's daughter and Trudy is now in and assisted living facility in Flint and will no longer be able to hold her Board position.
- h. Region 8, 9, 10 – vacant
- i. Region 11 – Shana Thornton – No Report
- j. Region 12 – Fred Brock – No Report

IV. Old Business

1. Discussion on 2021 Convention – Ed McNeil

Convention committee meetings need to be set.

Convention will be held Friday, October 15-16, 2021 at the Labor's International Union Hall, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Overnight accommodations will be at the St. Regis Hotel.

Check website (<https://www.afscme255mi.com>) for information on vendors and ads. Ad deadline for booklet will be September 30. Vendors will provide face masks with Chapter logo and flags.

Our website designer Adrienne Bush will do a training at the reception on Friday night.

President Lykes will be recommending members to serve on the various committees. There will be representation from Chapter 38 and Chapter 98 as well as the other regions.

Requests for t-shirts and pins has been made to the IU.

Trustees will audit the books at convention. Ed McNeil has contacted the accountant.

Catering will include Friday night reception, Saturday continental breakfast and lunch.

Motion was made by Kathie Sherrill, supported by Danny Craig for the cost of Convention registration which includes lunch to be \$15. No Discussion. Motion Carried unanimously.

Motion to approve a 50/50 PEOPLE raffle and other raffles on Friday night and Saturday at convention. Motion by don Weatherspoon and supported by Bill Farmer. Motion Carried unanimously.

Motion to provide the Convention Co-Chairs with one (1) overnight (\$211.16 includes parking each) was made by Don Weatherspoon, supported by Kathie Sherrill. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to pay Board members from the U.P. two (2) nights hotel paid. Board members must be in good standing. Made by John McCall, supported by Don Weatherspoon. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to pay Board members in good standing traveling outside of the Metro Detroit area mileage was made by John McCall, supported by Don Weatherspoon. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to not approve travel or mileage to convention for Board member Brock and Trustee Amato as they are not in good standing made by Don Weatherspoon, support by John McCall. No Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to pay photographer (Jerry Collie) a flat rate of \$200 for services at convention. No overnight to be provided. Motion made by Don Weatherspoon, supported by Kathie Sherrill. No Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Bill Farmer made a motion asking for the Board to support the resolution for Medicare for All (universal single payer healthcare) (See Below). Motion supported by Ed McNeil. Motion carried unanimously

MICHIGAN AFSCME RETIREE CHAPTER 255 RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACTS OF 2021

Whereas, rationing healthcare in the United States, according to ability to pay, has diminished the overall health of our citizens, to the point that the U.S. ranks 35th in the world in health outcomes, and even worse for infant mortality and life expectancy, yet ranks first in healthcare costs; and

Whereas, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of Americans without health insurance was nearly 30 million with about 50 million Americans underinsured, the pandemic has greatly increased these numbers--up to 45 million additional people have lost job-related health insurance, with the impacts most severe among people of color; and

Whereas, without new strategies, the never-ending rising costs of healthcare continue to challenge our already strapped municipal budgets and our businesses that keep our communities thriving. The raising costs of healthcare have also made negotiating our collective bargaining agreements a failed attempt to control costs. We have tried all the healthcare insurance industries' attempts at controlling raising costs; PPO's, HMO's, HSA's, HRA's, bigger deductibles, more

copays. These attempts only benefited the insurance industry's bottom line while leaving our members and retirees more expensive or unaffordable or no healthcare; and

WHEREAS, *the Medicare for All Acts of 2021 builds upon and expands Medicare to provide comprehensive benefits to every person in the United States. This includes primary care, vision, dental, prescription drugs, mental health, substance abuse, long-term services and supports, reproductive health care, and more. The Act also includes universal coverage of long-term care with no cost-sharing for older Americans and individuals with disabilities, and prioritizes home and community-based care over institutional care. We will no longer pay premiums, deductibles and copays. Additionally, patients have the freedom to choose the doctors, hospitals, and other providers they wish to see without worrying about whether a provider is in-network. Importantly, the legislation streamlines the health care system to negotiate drug prices and reduce exorbitant administrative waste.*

WHEREAS, *in Michigan, as is throughout our country, Black, Latino, and Indigenous peoples suffer from significant healthcare disparities compared with their White counterparts, including, but not limited to higher rates of being uninsured, of poor or fair health status, chronic diseases, significantly higher preterm births, maternal mortality, and overall mortality. People of color have been hospitalized at high rates due to COVID-19 and suffered death at rates alarmingly higher than would be predicted for their population sizes in Michigan. Those same communities of color would see reductions in the aforementioned healthcare disparities by having access to high quality, universal healthcare, that is provided by the Medicare For All Acts of 2021, without the interruptions in care present in an employer-based for-profit system.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *Michigan AFSCME Retirees Chapter 255 enthusiastically supports the Medicare for All Acts of 2021 and calls on Michigan's Congressional Delegation and all federal legislators to be cosponsors and do all in their powers to successfully move these Acts through the legislative process to enactment. We further request the Executive Board of Michigan AFSCME Council 25 support this important legislation by passage of this resolution.*

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, *a copy of this resolution shall be sent to President Joseph Biden Jr., Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, the Michigan Congressional delegation and all others deemed appropriate for the successful passage of this legislation.*

Respectfully submitted by:

Bill Farmer, Region 5 Executive Board Member, AFSCME Retiree Chapter 255

Discussion: Danny wanted the information from Bill provided to the Board again. Ed wants the resolution sent to the IU for the IU's consideration.

V. New Business

1. Don Weatherspoon will compile the information regarding legislative subscription updates for the Board to review. Kathie will poll the Board for a decision. Don will update the Board at our meetings on what is happening in the legislature.
2. Ed McNeil explained the slanted advertising on Proposal P and the need to educate our members on the negative effects of supporting this proposal on pensions.

VI. Good and Welfare

1. Danny reminded everyone of the need to pay attention to the erosion of voter rights by Michigan and other states like Texas and Georgia.
2. Ed McNeil has been invited to teach at Morehouse College in Atlanta for two weeks. Congratulations to Ed and the students at Morehouse!

The next meeting will be held at Convention in October 15 or 16, 2021.

Board meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. by Secretary Kathie Sherrill.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie Sherrill
Kathie Sherrill, Recording Secretary

AFSCME Retiree Chapter 255
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Executive Board
January 19, 2021
11:00 AM

Location of Meeting:

Virtual Meeting

Present at Meeting: President – Henry Lykes, Recording Secretary, Kathie Sherrill, Secretary Treasurer - Ed McNeil, Region 1 Executive Board Member - Danny Craig, Region 2 Executive Board Member - John McCall, Region 5 Executive Board member – Bill Farmer, Region 6 Executive Board member – Don Weatherspoon,

Absent from Meeting: Region 7 Executive Board member - Trudy Ferguson, Region 11 Executive Board Member - Shana Thornton, Region 12 Executive Board Member – Fred Brock, Trustees - Faith Cairgle, Lula Shepherd, Pat Amato

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of AFSCME Retiree Chapter 255 was called to order at 11:05 am January 19,2021 by President Lykes.

I. Approval of Agenda

No amendments to Agenda. Motion to approve agenda by Don Weatherspoon, support Bill Farmer. Motion carried unanimously

II. Correspondence

Correspondence received: 1) Adrienne Bush; 2) Chapter 98 Treasurer, Geraldine Chatman.

III. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the January 19, 2021 were distributed by email/mail to all Board members.

Motion by Don Weatherspoon to approve and suspend reading of minutes as everyone received them prior to the meeting. Support Bill Farmer.

No Discussion, Motion carried unanimously

IV. Reports

1. President's Report, Henry Lykes: No report
2. Secretary Report, Kathie Sherrill: Welcome letter sent to new member Cedric Cook, Nick Ciaramitaro resignation letter, Website quote.

Motion by to accept report Bill Farmer, support by Don Weatherspoon. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously

3. Treasurer's Report – Ed McNeil

- A) Motion to change banks from PNC to Citizens was presented to all Board members via email/telephone. Motion made by Ed McNeil, supported by Kathie Sherrill. Motion carried unanimously (copies of email and responses filed with January 19, 2021 minutes)
- B) Financial Reports for the months of January, February, March were distributed via email/mail to all Board members.

Motion to approve October, 2020 made by Bill Farmer, supported by Don Weatherspoon
Motion carried unanimously

Motion to approve November, 2020 made by Bill Farmer, supported by Don Weatherspoon
Motion carried unanimously

Motion to approve December, 2020 made by Bill Farmer, supported by Don Weatherspoon
Motion carried unanimously

Ed on letters he received from the IU regarding out of state members and their dues being transferred to the retiree chapter in the state they reside. The IU could not provide any information regarding this letter. Ed has not and will not pay out any money until IU can answer his questions.

Ed is trying to get membership cards from the IU for new and current members who never received their cards.

As Chapter 38 and 98 has not responded to the requests to provide Chapter 255 with membership lists, Ed has requested the IU send members lists for these chapters.

Motion to accept Treasurer report made by John McCall, supported by Don Weatherspoon. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously

- a) Executive Board Reports:
- a. Region 1 – Danny Craig – No report
 - b. Region 2 – John McCall – No report. John will work on getting the membership lists requested from Chapter 38
 - c. Region 3 – vacant
 - d. Region 4 – vacant
 - e. Region 5 – Bill Farmer – Medicare for All will be reintroduced by Sen. Sanders and Representative Jayapal and Bill is asking for support from the Board.
 - f. Region 6 – Don Weatherspoon – No report
 - g. Region 7 – Trudy Ferguson – absent
 - h. Region 8, 9, 10 – vacant
 - i. Region 11 – Shana Thornton – absent
 - j. Region 12 – Fred Brock – absent

Motion to accept Executive Board reports made by Henry Lykes, supported by Kathie Sherrill. Motion carried unanimously

V. Old Business

1. Discussion on 2021 Convention - Julie Bauman, Chapter 38 and Ella Clark, Chapter 98 have been appointed as co-chairs for the 2021 convention. Julie Bauman has also asked that Nicole Paron of Chapter 38 assist her with her chairperson duties.

Henry has folders but no tee shirts leftover from the 2019 convention.

Convention will be held Friday, October 15-16, 2021 at the Labor's International Union Hall, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Overnight accommodations are being finalized with the St. Regis Hotel.

VI. New Business

1. Website: Communication to members difficult. Facebook not working. Motion to approve establishing a Chapter 255 website with cost not to exceed \$1,000 made by John McCall, supported by Kathie Sherrill. Discussion on particulars. Motion carried unanimously
2. Henry Lykes made a motion to appoint Leigh Tomlinson to the Vice President position due to the retirement of Nick Ciaramitaro. Supported by Kathie Sherrill. Motion carried
3. Motion made by Don Weatherspoon, supported by Danny Craig to appoint Ed McNeil to the vacant position of Vice President. Motion withdrawn, out of order.

No Discussion, Motion carried.

VII. Good and Welfare

None

The next meeting will be held on April 2021, date to be determined.

Board meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. by President Henry Lykes.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Executive Board
April 20, 2021

Kathie Sherrill
Kathie Sherrill, Recording Secretary

AFSCME Retiree Chapter 255
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Executive Board
April 20, 2021
11:00 AM

Location of Meeting:

Virtual Meeting

Present at Meeting: President – Henry Lykes, Recording Secretary, Kathie Sherrill, Secretary Treasurer - Ed McNeil, Region 1 Executive Board Member - Danny Craig, Region 2 Executive Board Member - John McCall, Region 5 Executive Board member – Bill Farmer, Region 6 Executive Board member – Don Weatherspoon, Trustees - Faith Cairgle, Lula Shepherd,

Absent from Meeting: Leigh Tomlinson – VP, Region 7 Executive Board member - Trudy Ferguson, Region 11 Executive Board Member - Shana Thornton, Region 12 Executive Board Member – Fred Brock, Trustee - Pat Amato

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of AFSCME Retiree Chapter 255 was called to order at 11:06 am April 20, 2021 by President Lykes.

I. Correspondence

No correspondence received

II. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the April 20, 2021 were distributed by email to all Board members.

Motion by Ed McNeil to approve and suspend reading of minutes as everyone received them prior to the meeting. Support Bill Farmer.

No Discussion, Motion carried unanimously

III. Reports

1. President's Report, Henry Lykes: President Lykes has been looking for venues to hold future in person meetings. President Lykes will provide list of Chapter 38 membership so database can be updated.
2. Secretary Report, Kathie Sherrill: Minutes

Motion by to accept report Bill Farmer, support by Ed McNeil. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously

3. Treasurer's Report – Ed McNeil
 - A) All accounts have been transferred to Citizen's Bank. Chapter now has a checking and savings account that will give us some interest.
 - B) Financial Reports for the months of January, February and March were distributed via email to all Board members.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by Bill Farmer, supported by Don Weatherspoon
Motion carried unanimously

a) Executive Board Reports:

- a. Region 1 – Danny Craig – Veterans holding a giveaway on May 15th 10 pm – 1 am in Southfield. Contact Danny for more information.
- b. Region 2 – John McCall – Chapter 38 started holding Board and membership meetings.
- c. Region 3 – vacant
- d. Region 4 – vacant
- e. Region 5 – Bill Farmer – Medicare for All was reintroduced by Sen. Sanders and Representative Jayapal on March 17. Bill wants to present a resolution for the Board to support Medicare for All.
- f. Region 6 – Don Weatherspoon – No report. Don has requested an updated membership list for Region 6. At this time the Chapter doesn't have a list of the regions. The chapter is trying to get that information from the IU.
- g. Region 7 – Trudy Ferguson – absent
- h. Region 8, 9, 10 – vacant
- i. Region 11 – Shana Thornton – absent
- j. Region 12 – Fred Brock – absent

Motion to accept Executive Board reports made by Bill Farmer, supported by Kathie Sherrill.
Motion carried unanimously

IV. Old Business

1. Discussion on 2021 Convention – Hotel and venue secured.

Convention will be held Friday, October 15-16, 2021 at the Labor's International Union Hall, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Overnight accommodations will be at the St. Regis Hotel.

Check website (<https://www.afscme255mi.com>) for information on vendors and ads. Ad deadline for booklet will be September 30. Vendors will provide face masks with Chapter logo and flags.

Our website designer Adrienne Bush will do a training at the reception on Friday night.

President Lykes will be recommending members to serve on the various committees. There will be representation from Chapter 38 and Chapter 98 as well as the other regions.

Requests for t-shirts and pins will be made soon to the IU.

Trustees will audit the books at convention. Ed McNeil has contacted the accountant.

V. New Business

1. Website maintenance needed.

2. Motion to hire Ms. Bush to continue maintaining the website was made by Kathie Sherrill; supported by Bill Farmer. Discussion on particulars. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Bill Farmer asked the Board to support a resolution for Medicare for All. Discussion was tabled until July meeting.

VI. Good and Welfare

Phil Helms passed away.

The next meeting will be held in July, 2021, date to be determined.

Board meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. by President Henry Lykes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie Sherrill
Kathie Sherrill, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the July 13, 2021
Board meeting