

**CSEA SEIU Local 2001
Paraprofessional Council Meeting
November 21, 2009**

In Attendance: Corinne Bergeron, George Camarco, Anne Feeney, Linda Kazmierski, Maureen Kristopik, Carol Parker, Janette Smith, Bill Walkauskas, Merianne White, Susan Wilk

Union Staff Reps: David McCluskey, Danny Medress

Minutes taken by: Anne Feeney (in absence of Secretary)

Minutes: Motion by Carol Parker to accept September minutes. Corinne Bergeron 2nd. Ayes have it. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Janette Smith

- \$13,109.71 balance in Council's account
- \$1000.00 was donated to McCuster Scholarship Fund
- Audit of Council's account was completed
- Janette Smith will be working with Mike Nortz to format an informational flyer to be sent to chapters instructing them on how they can access their 2% rebate from the Local

President's Report: Bill Walkauskas

- We are a new council that as been in existence for less than two years. We are currently made up of 39 chapters.
- Requested from Staff Reps list of paraprofessional chapters they serve and they problems those chapters were experiencing. As of date only have response from one Staff Rep.
- Also requested of Local a copy of the Staff Rep job description. As of date no response.
- The State Advisory Board on Paraprofessionals has had its budget cut due to State budget problems. The last scheduled meeting was cancelled.
- Future goals for the Council
 - Developing better communication for the council including a survey sheet to be sent to chapters before Council Meetings. This form would:
 - Request a listing of chapter officers, and staff rep.
 - Request if negotiations are coming up.
 - Ask if there are any issues that the chapter needs help on such as enforcing contracts, training stewards/building reps, etc.
 - Follow up phone calls to chapters who do not respond to survey sheet.
 - Developing training literature for running a chapter.
 - Creating binders with info. on various topics that are of interest to our members, i.e. disabilities, instructional strategies, building chapter involvement, etc... Council members would be able to borrow materials as needed.
 - Making Council meetings a place where members who are having workplace or chapter problems can come to get assistance and ideas to bring back to their chapters.

Executive Council Reps.' Report: George Camarco, Janette Smith, Bill Walkauskas

- Paraprofessional Council largest council in CSEA SEIU Local 2001 and continues to grow.
 - 11/20/09 I.A./ Tutors in Groton voted 64 –10 to join our union and the Paraprofessional Council gained 100 new members
- Cathy Osten, President CSEA SEIU Local 2001, and staff member, David McCuster attended the ratification of the Stafford paraprofessionals' contract
- A new division being formed in CSEA SEIU Local 2001. This new Municipal division will be made up of paraprofessionals, municipal workers, bus drivers, and day care providers. When the restructuring is completed CSEA SEIU Local 2001 will have three divisions: State Workers, Retirees, and Municipal Workers. Paraprofessionals will retain their own paraprofessional council under the municipal division.

- Cathy Osten, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 President, trying to move union from concentrating on details to improving the union.
- The international president of SEIU has meet with President Obama 43 times.

Presentation by Danny Mederes, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 Political Education Director:

- Danny Medres is the new Political Education Director for CSEA SEIU Local 2001
 - 10 –12 years experience in political campaigns
 - has also work for unions as and organizer and a communications director
- Discussed COPE (Committee of Political Education) and MPO (Member Political Organizers)
 - Governor race in Connecticut will probably be a high priority for the SEIU national organization
 - Meetings for Political Education
 - 1st there will be meetings by congressional districts (with the 2nd district split into two areas) for chapter officers, stewards/building reps, etc...
 - Then there will be work site meetings;
 - No union dues are used for political issues
 - State workers have a COPE check off so donations to the COPE program can be taken directly from their paycheck
- Discussion about changing FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act)
 - Many paraprofessionals don't qualify because they work less than 1250 hours a year
 - Discussion on setting up a working group with Danny to develop plan to amend law so that paraprofessional would be covered
- If anyone is interested in an issue, i.e. would like a law for or against, please contact Danny.

New Business:

- Discussion about filling open positions: Vice President and Secretary. Also we need to fill a Trustee position for the McCusker scholarship. If any one is interested in filling these positions, please contact Bill
- The Good works committee will be a committee of the whole Paraprofessional Council.
- Discussion about issues chapters are having
 - Southington –having an issue with a school that has said paraprofessionals (excluding one to ones) may not sit down during the school day
- David McCusker will work on an union organizational flow chart . He will also develop a list acronyms and definitions used in the union.
- **Jan. 23, 2010 9:30-11:00 at the Union hall will be the next Quarterly Paraprofessional Council meeting. All members are welcome and we look forward to having a representative from each Chapter. Light refreshments will be served and we offer mileage reimbursement of \$0.55 per mile.**

Old Business:

- Continue discussion on holding meetings in different locations around the state
- Future planning on May meeting/biennial election
 - George Camarco reported that using the Convention Center for our May meeting/ biennial elections would cost \$2500 to rent plus an additional \$1500 for food.
 - Discussed using Union hall for May meeting
 - Other ideas discussed for May Meeting
 - Motivational speaker
 - Entertainment – comedian
 - Raffle
 - Goodie Bags
 - Afternoon meeting followed by dinner
- Continued discussion on increasing member involvement
 - One chapter has raffle and the member who wins get his/hers dues paid for the year

Meeting Adjourned: Motion by Anne Feeney to adjourn meeting. Janette Smith 2nd. Ayes have it. Meeting adjourned.