

## CSEA SEIU Local 2001 Paraprofessional Council Meeting

September 11, 2010

Meeting called to order at 10a.m. by President, Bill Walkauskas

Members In Attendance: Corinne Bergeron, Julie Cinnamon, Anne Feeney, Anne Gilminter, Anne Kellner, Maureen Kristopik, Kathleen Markuja, Carol Parker, Donna Rossignue, Janette Smith, Bill Walkauskas, Merianne White

Union Staff: George Gould, Pat Hayes, Danny Medress, Susan Nelson, Lu Perillo, Bob Rinker

### **Secretary's Report-** Anne Feeney

- Presented minutes of May 22, 2010 meeting
- Carol Parker moved to accept. Anne Gilminter seconded. Motion carried
- Correspondences – Thank you from Linda Kazmierski

### **Treasurers Report** – Maureen Kristopik, Janette Smith

- \$22,193.51 current balance
- Carol Parker moved to accept. Anne Feeney seconded. Motion carried.
- Janette Smith (Previous Treasurer) reported that the change of the Paraprofessional Council's account from checking account to Custodial account has been completed. Also reported that all Treasurer duties will now be handled by Maureen Kristopik
- The following documents were passed and discussed.
  - Paraprofessional Council Audit
  - Checking/Custodial Account Set-up for Chapters (Please contact Mike Nortz at 1-800-862-2256 if you need this info)
  - Custodial Account Distribution form (this will be submitted to Mike Nortz for approval.)

### **President's Report:** Bill Walkauskas

- Goals for Council - Handbook on running a chapter, library of info for chapters, library of paraprofessional contracts, and moving paraprofessional council meetings to different parts of the state to encourage involvement.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Chapter Reports**

- Members introduce themselves and discuss their chapters. All members brought up the need for more training.
- Bill discussed Weingarten rights – the right that all union members have the right to union representation in any meeting with management where they feel they may be disciplined.
- Bill requested that any chapters that have paraprofessional job descriptions send or email them to him or bring to the November meeting.

#### **Bob Rinker, Executive Director**

- Reported on recent developments on healthcare including healthcare reform that allows children under age 26 to be covered under a parent's plan. Also discussed that municipalities can now join the state prescription plan and how that helps members and towns. Reported that Hartford Hospital and Anthem are having a conflict about reimbursement rates.
- Discussed SEIU 2001 Convention to be held on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at Central Connecticut State University. Reviewed schedule and proposed amendments. Reported that Paraprofessional chapters have been called about delegates for the Convention and will be called again this week. Delegates must be submitted by September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Anne Kellner made a motion that the Paraprofessional Council reimburses paraprofessional delegates to the convention for mileage and lost wages (if not paid by the member's home school district). Julie Cinnamon second. Motion passed.

#### **Upcoming Elections: 90-10-5 Campaign: Danny Medress, Political Director**

- Discussed that the union is supporting Dan Malloy for governor. Getting him elected is the primary focus of the unions Political Action Committee during this election season. The International SEIU has made winning the Connecticut election primary and is donating over a million dollars to be divided among the Connecticut SEIU's to help. Dan Malloy has committed to sign the FMLA law for paraprofessionals.
- Discussed the 90-10-5 plan. Its goals are to get 90% of chapter members registered to vote. 10% of chapter members has MAO's (union activists). And 5% of chapter members contribute to the PAC (Political Action Committee).
- Phone banks will be running Monday-Thursday till the election to contact union members about the election. Contact Danny at 1-800-862-2265 to volunteer.
- Danny is willing to come to chapter meetings to discuss the election and other political issues. Please contact him.

## **Paraprofessional Council Newsletter-**

- Paraprofessional Council will be starting a newsletter.
- It will be mailed out quarterly and posted on work place bulletin boards.

## **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Paraprofessional Conference**

- The 15<sup>th</sup> annual statewide paraprofessional conference presented by SERC- Dynamic Duos, Paraprofessional and Teacher Partnerships will be held Tuesday, October 26, 2010 in Cromwell, CT.
- The Council encourages members to attend, particularly from chapters where not much training is provided by districts. If you are in need of financial assistance to attend please contact Mike Nortz at 1-800-862-2256.
- Anne Feeney made a motion to allot up to \$2000 to assist members with registration and/or loss wages to attend the October 26<sup>2010</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Paraprofessional Conference. Janette Smith second. Motion passed.

## **By-law Revision Committee**

- Janette reported that a bylaw committee is needed to make sure all chapters have bylaws and to revise the paraprofessional councils by laws.
- Discussion followed. Interest was expressed but no volunteers committed.
- Formation of the committee was tabled till the next paraprofessional council meeting and will be discussed under old business during that meeting.

## **Training Suggestions for Next Meeting**

- After discussion it was decided the training component for the next meeting would be on Handling Grievances conducted by Susan Nelson.
- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in Danbury.

## **OLD NEWS**

### **Paraprofessional FMLA**

- Bill Rinker discussed the Paraprofessional FMLA
  - The bill would have allowed Paras working 900 or more hours per year to be eligible for FMLA leave. This would have closed the loophole that prevents most paraprofessionals from qualifying under FMLA because as 10 month employees they do not work enough hours.
  - The bill almost passed in last legislative session but was tabled due to a last minute amendment that would have increased the required hours work to 980 or 1000 per year.
  - In the coming legislative session we should have the votes to pass it and a governor that will sign it.

### **Executive Council Delegates**

- Bill reported that there are 3 open positions for the SEIU 2001 Executive Council
- A discussion followed about filling the positions. Concerned expressed included starting time of meetings and paras working two or more jobs so not being available.
- After discussion it was decided to table the issue until the next meeting. In the meantime the delegates would bring the issue back to the chapters.

- Carol Parker made a motion to adjourn. Maureen Kristopik second. Meeting Adjourned 1:20pm