

**CSEA SEIU Local 2001
Paraprofessional Council Meeting
September 19, 2009**

In Attendance: George Camarco, Jennifer Nelson, Bill Walkauskas, Janette Smith

Union Staff Reps.: Lisa McKinnon, Susan Nelson

Minutes taken by: Janette Smith, Treasurer (in absence of Secretary)

As there were not enough members in attendance for a quorum, we decided to have open discussion.

- President Bill Walkauskas stated that he received a note of resignation from Secretary Sue Boughton. We now have three OPEN positions on the ParaCouncil that need to be filled; Vice-President, Secretary, and one additional delegate to the CSEA Executive Council. If any member is interested in being considered for any of the open positions, contact President, Bill Walkauskas (billwalk@iname.com). We are entitled to have 4 delegates on the CSEA Executive Council. We currently have three. The Executive Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Union Hall in Hartford @4:00 p.m..
- Treasurer Janette Smith reported that we have a balance of \$12,001.29 in our checking account. Our ParaCouncil's audit was submitted to the CSEA Secretary/Treasurer by Janette in the absence of elected Auditors. It was brought to our attention that all Chapters who have a checking account need to contact CSEA Secretary/Treasurer, Patrice Peterson concerning the procedure for submitting their audit. Those Chapters who have custodial accounts do not have to submit an audit, because custodial accounts funds are managed by CSEA.
- Compilation of a paraprofessional survey to solicit member concerns, so we can better provide services to our members. The survey would also request suggestions on how to improve communications within our Council. Discussion was held on the feasibility of the survey being available for members to access on-line via the CSEA website.
- Incentives for attending ParaCouncil meetings: Some ideas proposed were door prizes, CSEA goodie bags, meetings held at a restaurant or convention center, motivational speakers or legislators. One suggestion was to hold meetings in different areas of the state. A suggestion was made that we may need to consider having an annual membership meeting instead of four membership meetings per year. This way our chapter members could focus on attending one major meeting. The hope is that this may improve attendance. This would require a change in the By-Laws. Our Executive Board meetings would continue to be held four times a year.

- ParaCouncil Goals and plans for achieving those goals: Using the results of the survey, initiate plans to address each goal.
- Legislative Action: It is important for our Council to connect and unite with other Unions throughout the state in order to band together for effective legislative action. Two important issues at this time are professional development training for paras and changing the state law in Connecticut so that paraprofessionals and other 10 month municipal employees qualify for benefits under the Federal Medical Leave Act.
- ParaCouncil delegates to the CSEA Executive Council: It was stressed that our ParaCouncil which is made up of over 2,000 members has an important role on the Executive Council of CSEA with four delegate votes. Our presence at these meetings is significant in supporting the goals of our CSEA Council. Municipal employees may have different concerns than State employees but if no one is there to voice those concerns, then the union cannot act on them.
- How can we maintain an up-to-date database of Paraprofessional Chapter Presidents?
- Discussion on how the ParaCouncil can disseminate information to chapter members on the SERC Paraprofessionals as Partners Conference on October 29th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. We would like to encourage as many members as possible to consider registering at the SERC site on line.
- Our next ParaCouncil Executive Board meeting will be held on Saturday, November 7 at the Union Hall in Hartford at 9:30 am. The Executive Board consists of officers and delegates to the CSEA Executive Council.
- Our next ParaCouncil membership meeting will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2009 from 9:30-11:30 at the Union Hall in Hartford. This is our general membership 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 fifty five cents per mile.

Janette Smith

Treasurer