AFSCME RETIREE LOCAL 4041

BOARD MEETING

CARSON CITY AND LAS VEGAS

OCTOBER 9, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Charles Muller called the meeting to order at about 10:00 a.m. with the salute to the flag. Also present were Vice President Roger Bremner, Director North Steve Suwe, Director-at-Large Frank Papaianni, Director South Laura Leavitt, Treasurer Patty Machal, Secretary Sandra Hudgens, Trustee Joan Papaianni, Lobbyist Priscilla Malone, member Jeanie Pratt, guests Scotty Watts and Gail Dietrich.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The back-op system and Sail had an announcement.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Charlie asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes. Frank made the motion to accept the minutes and Joanie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Charlie said that it has been busy and if it hadn’t been for Steve, Roger and Frank,

who were invaluable, he gave thanks. The new Senior Moments will go out today, it has been well done and it has been pretty much related to the election. The office here has been available to the local to do phone banking every Wednesday and Thursday.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Roger received a call from Clint Koble who has political signs to put up at locations where there is a lot of traffic and visibility. Let him know of any place. He is running against Mark Amodei. Roger said that 15,000 mailings went out with the candidates we endorse to the rural counties.

Scotty remarked that Minden Democrats have not put out enough signs in Douglas County. There is not enough money and the candidates are doing the best they can.

Roger told some candidate that in order to help financially he needed a bill in order to justify writing them a check.

We have two people here from the International Joshua and Mary who are working in rural Nevada. International has people working hard all over Nevada. One of the problems is the outdated telephone list. Roger made the motion that we send a letter to International thanking them for the help and our appreciation for their work in Nevada to elect our candidates. Frank seconded the motion and it was passed.

Charlie said we would be sending out 15,000 organizing letters out in a week or so. Let us hope the addresses are better than the phone numbers we have.

Scotty asked what was the feedback on the phone bank. Roger thought it was positive while Steve said it was hard to say.

Discussion ensued about candidates.

TREASURER’S REPORT

 Patty reported the checking account has $1,881.20 and the savings account has $149,938.62. The sign out front was paid on October 5, 2018. Frank made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report and Sandra seconded it. The motion carried.

DIRECTOR SOUTH’S REPORT

Laura said that she attended the RPEN convention in September in Sparks with Sandra. There were legislatures there and it was interesting. RPEN is expanding their membership to affiliate members and family. They may also be raising their dues. She attended a gala event for Maggie Carleton with other legislators and candidates. She has plans to stop at the AFSCME office for phone banking. She plans to go to a Senate Democrat event that evening, there is a Sisolak event on Thursday night that she plans to attend. She also plans to attend a Deferred Comp meeting next week. There is also one scheduled in Carson City.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE REPORT

Frank had nothing to report.

DIRECTOR NORTH REPORT

Steve reported that the flyers were mailed today. He mentioned about the growing pains we have had with the printer. Steve discussed the difference with the computers in the old building, which was smaller then the new office. He mentioned the adapter and how the old building had the computer hidden. There were problems with the printer that is now fixed. We now have a folding machine because the printer only folded once. If anyone wants business cards, Steve can now make them. Steve continued to discuss the printer. Steve then mentioned the reconfiguration of the tables.

Steve mentioned they would be putting a sign on our door. The sign on the roof was installed this morning.

AFSCME has a template for Face Book and they taught Steve how to use it. Steve mentioned we had over 30 likes.

Charlie mentioned that we are getting a higher profile every day.

Steve did the brochures with the AFSCME tool kit. The problem with the tool kit is that they have locked in certain things that they want even though they give you room to enter your own thing. Steve was able to work around that and add another page. Steve talked about coming in to stuff the envelopes. English Mailing services do the labels and mailing.

NEW BUSINESS

Charlie announced that we have an entrée in the Nevada Day Parade. Charlie is using his “boat” and will be next to the actives. Discussion ensued regarding the parade.

LOBBYIST REPORT

Priscilla said the election activity has been discussed and that she would be manning the phone bank for the next 5 Thursdays from 4 to 6. Mary and I worked well together last Thursday night. She said they were able to talk to 2 or 3 people out of every 20 calls. Someone asked how many he or she has talked to, but a lot of numbers are wrong. A lot of people have Heller’s number, they know who he is, their memories go way back; and I think that is a positive. The people Priscilla talked to were not going to vote for Heller.

Scotty mentioned that people put you on hold whenever he calls Heller’s office.

Priscilla said she was not going to talk a lot, unless you have questions. Priscilla got a phone call from International about Ryan Bundy and if she gets an e-mail asking people to show up, she will send out an e-blast. If only one person shows up, it will add to the coalition groups.

Frank asked about the movement to impeach Cavanaugh. Priscilla asked to talk about it over lunch. She needs to talk about PERS and PEBP. The main thing we have to do right now is to get people out to vote. It’s all about numbers right now. If we can get in power, we can head up the committees in the Legislature. When Priscilla went to a board meeting September 20th for PERS, there was a discussion of regulation policies to put forth from the changes Senator Robison enacted during the 2015 PERS bill. He tried to get rid of purchasing service credit all together. She went up to the podium and explained with Carla Wells from Washoe County Employees Association, the ramifications of that bill. We at least persuaded him to rescind that portion of the bill. It was just a housekeeping thing. To get service credit now has been severely curtailed. You can thank Roberson for that.

Patty explained that up until 2015, you could work 25 years, buy 5 years and have 30 years. That is no longer possible after 2015 to count as eligibility. It only counts as time actually worked. There were so many bad things in that bill. In November, they are looking to raise the cost to purchase service. If it happens, it will not happen until July 1, 2019.

Priscilla passed out a Bill Draft Request (BDR) from Controller Ron Knecht. Her only response to that was to get him out of office. His plan is to revise provisions governing public employees’ retirement and to revise provisions governing the dissemination of information and data of the Public Employees’ Retirement System.

Priscilla asked Patty why we don’t get a list of the deceased. The only way Patty can tell if someone is dead, is by comparing a monthly list of recipients against the next month’s list of recipients. If the name is not there, the person is dead.

 Priscilla said there would be a litigation issue if PERS were handing out a list of non-profit brochure (that being RPEN), and they are not handing out ours. Patty will keep checking on that.

Roger said Ron Knecht should be run out of the state for wasting taxpayers’ money by making a budget in opposition to the executive budget. He has no authority to do that. The legislature had no business listening to him.

The PEBP board has their next meeting on November 29..  Priscilla passed out what was discussed at the September 27th meeting. They discussed the excess reserves, but not knowing whom the governor will be, there was no decision. Any comments any of us have are to be presented to Priscilla before the November meeting so she can take it to the table.

Priscilla said that Executive Director Teri Laird with RPEN is going to present a bill draft to enact a legislative fix for the things that took us off Medicare in 2011. I will talk to their lobbyist Marlene Lockhart about that. I’m sure Marlene, Teri and Kent Irving from the Nevada Faculty Alliance worked together quite well during the last session. Part of the issue with us is whatever changes the bill from 2011 will affect the actives and we are all in this together.

Priscilla has started downloading the BDR list. She is paying attention to and tracking the 533 bills. She went over a couple of the bills. They are planning to undo the bad bills that Roberson did. We will continue to cover the bills. There are some things she cannot do because the system is not up and running until after January.

Priscilla said the bulk mailing system is waiting for a letter from the IRS. They have not responded since May. She will send the letter again. They have received the packet but it might take up to 60 days,

NARA REPORT

 Gail announced that the board had a meeting with Senator Katherine Cortez Masto yesterday at the United Way office because her office was closed for Columbus Day. They spent about an hour with her. Gail had a cake for her as she has a 100% rating on her Alliance voting record. She was hospitable and pleasant.

Senator Masto explained how the Kavanaugh episode was frustrating because it was all planned that he would he elected. It was so emotional for people who have gone through rape.

She said Senator Masto gets together with other Democratic women senators. She also said that Trump was a puppet. MacConnel wants to stack all the courts, not just the Supreme Court. She also said Republicans are leaving the party because they feel it’s not the true Republican Party. Some are going Democratic and some are going to non-partisan. Gail mentioned that Senator Masto gets together with Republican women and try to work on issues that are compatible. Gail said that last night Dan Brown with the League of Women Voters had a good program.

Gail said the Alliance is having a convention in Las Vegas at the Flamingo November 12 to the 15 of November and she hopes that some of us can make it. Charlie said he and Roger will be there. Gail hopes that she will be elected to the National Board. She said she might have some opposition.

Gail mentioned Senator Masto complimented WOW and how important that women are empowered by what we do and about the Alliance, too.

REVIEW OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT

Patty said the recommendations on number two on the last page has already been started. She has folders and all that kind of stuff. Option one we need a vote to do

Offsite clouds. Patty said she had a problem with Davis Vision last year and had to rewrite a check.

Sandra made the motion to accept the Trustee’s Report and Frank seconded it. The motion carries.

MORE NEW BUSINESS

Frank wanted to know what to do to get into the clouds. Steve said Fred Suwe had a name for it called carbonite. We need to know more about it. If you know the password, you can access it from anywhere. You back up your stuff on the harddrive. If the building burns down, so does your hard drive; otherwise you have your back up on the cloud. Patty mentioned she has lost files in the past.

Joanie made the motion to let Steve and Fred check out cloud further and report back to us. Patty seconded the motion and it passed.

Get out the vote. If we don’t do it we are lost. We have been going door to door, canvassing and phone banking. We are doing everything we can.

Priscilla mentioned that Dan Ralston said that Nevada was hard to canvas. Everyone is working to get everyone to the polls. We need to get everyone angry and afraid. Conversation continued about GOTV.

Nevada Day Parade was discussed.

The NARA has a get to together next Thursday at the labor temple in Sparks to celebrate the 53rd anniversary of Medicare celebration with cake and to introduce you to Kent Koble at 2:00.

Roger announced that on Nevada Day there is an open house after the parade at the Brewery Arts Center. Candidates will be there, everyone is invited to show up.

It was mentioned that the RPEN Christmas party this year will not be at the Fandango Buffet like previous years because they build a new banquet facility and the price went up $20. It will be held at the Golddust West instead.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The meeting was adjourned at noon and the next meeting date is November 27th at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudgens, secretary