AFSCME RETIREES CHAPTER 4041

DECEMBER 7, 2017

502 E. JOHN ST. UNIT C

CARSON CITY

602 S. RANCHO DR. UNIT C24

LAS VEGAS

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

President Charlie Muller called the meeting to order with the salute to the flag at 10:02 a.m. Also present were: Vice President Roger Bremner, Treasurer Patty Machal, Secretary Sandra Hudgens, Director North Steve Suwe, Director-at-Large Frank Papaianni. Director South Laura Leavitt, Trustees Fred Suwe and Joan Papaianni, Mike Hoffman, Dick Frost, guests: Scott Watts, Joetta Brown and Lobbyist Priscilla Maloney.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Before the business part of the meeting we listened to a call to Jerry Beers, a longtime AFSCME International employee who was very helpful to 4041 in our early years of affiliation. Charlie questioned his opinion of our forming our own Political Action Committee (PAC) to be involved in local elections. Jerry asked if it was for demonstrations or to educate the public. Charlie wanted to know if it was to our advantage or not. We need to let everyone know Heller’s votes on healthcare. Jerry said he would be available for more questions later.

Our second guest speaker was Susie Lee, a candidate for Congressional District 3. This is the second time she had run for office. Susie went over her background. She is from Ohio and has lived in Las Vegas the last 24 years. She has been active in many civic activities and is strong in Democratic principles. She strongly believes in family values and upholds retired benefits.

Scott mentioned there are plans to cut millions from social security benefits.

Priscilla advised Susie to be sure to note Hammond’s voting record.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Steve made the motion to discuss annual dues and how some members are billed. Frank seconded the motion and it carried.

REPORTS

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the September 7th general meeting were handed out and read. One minor change in spelling was corrected. Steve approved the minutes and Frank seconded it. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

We are all invited to participate on the Retiree Council Conference calls on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Charlie passed out a copy of these times. This information is also available on the Website. Last week discussion was about the tax plan. Input on topics is appreciated ahead of tine in order for Ann Widger to be prepared before the call.

Charlie read a letter advising us that Davis Vision has been sold. We are not to worry, as business will be as usual. They will continue with the same service.

DIRECTOR NORTH REPORT

Steve suggested we include all benefits AFSCME provides be mentioned again in the Senior Moment as well as on the Website.

Steve went over some of the options on the Website. We can add information on the same drop down as National. Few people realize National offers free life insurance. It is important that families know about this benefit. National has always helped us when we ask.

Charlie announced the Senior Forum sponsored by NARA at the Power Company will be put on tomorrow. Call T-Bird for attendance.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Roger announced the never-ending political season. Carter Bundy says National will be active in Nevada. They have been active against the recall effort. They will attempt to keep both houses Democratic, including the Governor’s seat. Roger wishes to appoint a 3-person committee to determine friendly candidates for interviewing. He pointed to Fred Suwe. He iterated that Adam Laxalt is no friend to us.

It was pointed out that we could help candidates in other ways in lieu of a PAC. The reason we increased dues was to use that money to further our ability to safe guard our benefits. We are doing that by paying a lobbyist and we can do more by paying people to help our friendly candidates. We can pay for candidate’s flyers or help pay for their events.

It is important that we inform candidates from where the money is coming. Besides donating money, it is important that we can provide resources for the candidates. We must be involved.

Scotty said it was most important that we defeat Heller. We need to expose his lies.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Patty was not happy with interest on regular savings. Discussion ensued concerning ways to increase the interest with a CD. Mention was made about going to a United Federal Credit Union, but we did not think it was worth the move. Finally, Frank made the motion to open a 5-month CD and Roger seconded it. The motion carried.

DIRECTOR NORTH REPORT

Steve mentioned that the 24 life members have not been billed. He passed out a copy of a letter he will be mailing to inform these members that dues for last year have been waived and they will be billed $60 January 1, 2018 and every year thereafter. Steve made this motion and Roger seconded it. The motion carried.

National will send out 2–year membership cards.

English Mailing is sending out the Senior Moment to our 1,229 members.

DIRECTOR SOUTH REPORT

Laura said that she was just keeping up on what’s going on. Charlie asked her about the computer. Priscilla mentioned Laura attended the October 19th “Battle Born Progress” event.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Frank said that nothing was going on. We are missing some addresses and Patty said she will check those for him.

LOBBYIST REPORT

Priscilla mentioned some of the events she has attended including November 16 Labor Forum put on by the AFL/CIO and the coalition of partners paid by AFSCMEE. She also plans to attend PLAN with 30 other groups December 2. She will be showing a short power point.

Priscilla will prepare something for Laura to read next week at the PERS meeting. PERS has been looking for input from the public.

Priscilla discussed the CPI and the elder CPI. PERS is coming up with ideas for CPI.

Priscilla discussed the problems with HMO and how it was losing money. Less than 10% of retirees were on the plan. The State of Nevada will now take over the plan and handle the rural areas.

Some of the future events for Priscilla are as follows: Continue following PERS and BEBP meetings. Central and Northern Nevada Labor Committees and talk about the elections. Working on the Website with Steve. Working on the Benefit Committee in January.

REPORT FROM ARA

Joetta reported on her trip to Washington, D.C. for a 2-day symposium on budget and tax reform crisis. She said there was no state representation. She said the atmosphere was oppressive and there were no Christmas lights on at the White House.

OTHER BUSINESS

National sent out copies of the revised constitution. Our next step is to obtain non-profit mail permit.

Our goal for the next year it to reach out to retirees.

Patty mentioned the new PERS PR person is Walter Zeron.

The active state workers printed the newsletter. Sandy mentioned the state printer might be willing to print it if asked.

Priscilla’s contract is good until 2019.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be February 13, 2018. The meeting adjourned for lunch at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudgens, Secretary