August 8, 2019

AFSCME LOCAL 4041 RETIREES

BOARD MEETING

CARSON CITY AND LAS VEGAS

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Charlie Muller called the meeting to order at about 10:00 a.m. with the pledge to the flag. Also present were Vice President Roger Bremner, Director North Steve Suwe, Director-at-Large Joan Papaianni, Director South Laura Leavitt, Treasurer Patty Machal, Secretary Sandra Hudgens, Lobbyist Priscilla Maloney, Activist Deb Burko, Trustee Fred Suwe, members Rob Joiner, Nick Frost, and guests Scott Watts, Gail Dietrich and Rick Bender.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Since everyone had read the minutes; Patty approved them and Joan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORT OF GUEST

Rick Bender of Bender Benefits & Insurance Services, Inc. gave his presentation. Deb mentioned that this presentation was presented to the Actives. Most of his benefits do not include people past the age of 74 years old, which would exclude most of our members. Steve Suwe pointed out that AFSCME’s Union Plus has the same benefits. Since the Actives have signed up to Mr. Bender’s program, retirees have the option to use his program. It would only require someone to assimilate the information. It was suggested that NARA would be better organization to handle the program.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Charlie reported on his visit with Steve at the Retiree’s Council in Washington, D.C. It was well planned. They were able to meet with Sens. Jackie Rosen and Katherine Cortez-Masto.

Steve was also impressed with the Executive Director Ann Widger and her staff and said they were amazing.

Steve and Charlie had a meeting with Ann concerning recent problems we have had on getting things accomplished. They feel that the meeting was accomplished. According to Ann, there were a lot of similar problems within AFSCME. Charlie stressed that we know what we are doing.

Steve went on to explain how other retiree chapters are run differently and how we have so much more freedom from the active employees. We have more money because of the necessity to raise our dues. Others were surprised that we are so much more self-sufficient.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Roger stated that the Presidential Forum in Las Vegas last week was quite successful. Roger mentioned that Nevada has been doing well politically. The forum has given Nevada a lot of national attention. Rusty McAllister is concerned about AFSCME being represented at the AFL/CIO convention later in August. Retirees have been getting more attention than the Actives because we have more available funds at this time todo more. AFL/CIO would like to know if we could donate a raffle prize for the convention. Discussion ensued regarding the amount and type of prize. Steve made the motion that Laura get 3 different Visa cards for $50 each and make sure they know it is from us. Joan seconded the motion and it carried.

A long discussion ensued concerning Clint Colby running against Mark Amodei. Roger’s idea was to have absentee ballots sent out to rural Nevada independent voters encouraging them to vote in the next election. Fred made the motion that we support Clint Koble and Roger seconded it. Discussion further ensued. Steve suggested we support him at this time without giving him a full endorsement. Priscilla stated that she was not a legal council and asked us to keep in mind the legality of endorsement and in kind contribution. She reminded us that we have a letter from a licensed Nevada attorney stating what this organization can and cannot do. The motion on the floor failed. Roger further made the motion that we authorize Roger or anyone else interested in proceeding with the plans to try to implement the absentee ballot request program. Sandra seconded the motion and it passed.

At this time Scotty thanked everyone for inviting him to the Presidential Forum in Las Vegas last weekend. He was also able to thank Lee Sanders in person.

Deb remarked how the forum was received by the National media while she was out of state.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Patty said the savings account and checking accounts were doing well and wanted to get together with Charlie to put some of the money over to United Federal Credit Union and leave some in the savings account to get a better interest rate. Then she will write a check for the rest to avoid extra fees. Steve made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report and Roger seconded it. The motion carried.

We discussed the political account We will discuss depositing more into it in a future meeting.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE REPORT

Joan brought up having our meeting in Las Vegas on or about November. It was agreeable to everyone including our Las Vegas officers. Steve volunteered to stay in the office to Skype the meeting in Carson. It was agreed to leave on November 20 for the meeting on Thursday the 21st. It was decided to have a general meeting and invite Maggie Carlson, chairman of Ways and Means to speak. Laura made that as a motion and Roger seconded it. The motion carried.

DIRECTOR SOUTH REPORT

Laura attended a luncheon with Chapter 153. June 25 she attended a legislative update with Joyce Woodhouse and Maggie Carlton, she was on a conference call on June 26th, July 16 she attended a phone banking forum, she attended a meeting on July 17. She attended the Presidential Forum on August 3. She attended the NARA meeting on August 5th. And she was involved on a health survey for the League of Women Voters.

DIRECTOR NORTH REPORT

Steve mentioned there was a huge response to the AFSCME picnic on Sunday August 11 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Bowers Mansion.

LOBBYIST REPORT

Priscilla said there was an issue with PEBP if you were on the Medicare Exchange when July rolled around and you didn’t get the right amount. She said the latest was that you got credit for the difference between 2019 amount and the real amount. According to an e-mail she received this morning the HRA accounts have been fixed. At the PEBP board meeting on the 26th Teri Laird with RPEN asked if she could put brochures in the office where people wait for their appointments since they cannot anymore have them in their lobby. At that time Priscilla said, “us, too!” So she will take some over to PEBP.

Priscilla sent out an e-blast on the picnic and discovered that there are over 648 e-mails going out; which is 250 more than during the session. She would like to check with International to see which of those are actually members.

PARADE UPDATE

Priscilla received e-mail over the weekend with an apology from Liz Sorenson president of Nevada AFL/CIO; we are members of Northern Nevada Central Labor Council because we paid $50. She sent Priscilla a copy of the documents for the Virginia City Labor Day Parade Sunday; if we are so inclined. She produced the form if we should be interested. There are two parts: one is for the entry fee; the other is for the Barbeque like they had last year. The Barbeque is a flat $200 regardless of the number of people. We should send the fees for the parade and/or barbeque to the AFL/CIO. We don’t know who is participating and it is only three weeks away.

Steve mentioned that we have only been entered in the Nevada Day Parade. We were required to send a description of our entry and a photo of last year’s entry with a description of the two scooters carrying our banner and the decorated car. We only need the volunteers to drive the two scooters and someone to ride in the car with Charlie.

Steve made the motion to contribute $200 towards the Labor Day barbeque and Fred seconded it. Motion carried.

BASEBALL NIGHT

Steve announced that everyone that wanted tickets to the Stars baseball game received them. The left-over tickets will be used at the barbeque Sunday for a raffle prize.

Rob thanked us for allowing him to join AFSCME. There were so far 150 non-state retirees who have joined.

WOW PICNIC

Gail reminded us of the Women of Washoe (WOW) picnic was Monday at Idlewild Park in Reno at 5:00 p.m. She thanked us for the $200 towards the picnic and for doing the brochures, She also appreciated going to the forum.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

Since the next scheduled meeting is in November, Charlie will contact the board if something comes up before then and we will just have a board meeting. Roger moved the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 p.m. and Charlie seconded it. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudgens, Secretary