AFSCME RETIREES LOCAL 4041

GENERAL MEETING

November 21, 2019

LAS VEGAS

OPENING AND FLAG SALUTE

President Charlie Muller opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. with the pledge to the flag. Also present were Vice President Roger Bremner Director North Steve Suwe, Director-at-Large Joanie Papaianni, Director South Laura Levitt, Associate Deb Berko, Patty Maschal, Lobbyist Priscilla Maloney, Trustee Fred Suwe, Trustee Shirley Suwe and members Scotty Watts, George Anastassatos and Gene Walkama.

Joannie presented an award to Jeannie Adams which stated “AFSCME Retirees 4041 Frank Papaianni Memorial Award presented to Jeannie A dams 2019 in recognition of service having, dedicated years of working to improve the rights, benefits and well being of Public Employees in Nevada.

Charlie read the first 4 names on the plaque which were Jeannie Adams, Danny Coyle, Bob Gagner and Roger Maillard.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Scotty thanked AFSCME 4041 for his support of the recent auto workers strike.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Patty made the motion to approve the minutes and Joanie seconded it. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

We have a lot of work ahead of us. We don’t know what direction we need to go in just yet. February 22 is when we can get to work. Our participation is to Get Out The Vote (GOTV). By working with International and AFL/CIO we can get the job done. We need to get our plans together and not have everyone going every which way. International will help us like always because they have always been interested in Nevada. They were very helpful in saving PERS.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

As regards to the National elections Roger thinks International has a good handle on the President. When it comes to Congress we have four good representatives in southern Nevada in the House of Representatives, They could use our help, so Roger would encourage us to volunteer to help them in any way we can. And in the following year we have the legislature again. We will be endorsing after the primary election. We will call in officials who have been our friends to interview them.

One way to GOTV is to mail out absentee ballots. We hope this will increase the participation of our members. That project is underway and will be completed in the near future.

Also, in conjunction with our Lobbyist to increase the contribution for Medicare Retirees. We also need an insurance broker to be available in the state. We are going to find ways to participate in political campaigns.

TREASURER’S REPORT

We still need to open that account with United Federal Credit Union. The motion was made and seconded to approve the report and it passed.

Roger commented about a right wing group called Nevada Policy Research Institute who thinks PERS is an albatross hanging around the state’s neck. They think Nevada retirement is too rich. They think a lot of things, They don’t like PERS period. Patty stated that the average PERS retiree gets $2600 a month and Social Security gets $2500, so how is that too rich? A hundred dollars? Patty went on to explain how PERS compares to a mortgage and that we are 75 percent solvent.

DIRECTOR NORTH REPORT

Steve elected to pass at this time because there were a few items on the agenda to which he will speak.

DIRECTOR SOUTH REPORT

Laura reported she attended the NAEA meeting, which included Joyce Woodhouse among others. She attended an event with Maggie Carlton and today she attended the PEBP meeting with Priscilla.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE REPORT

Joan was glad to see everyone there and thanked Fred for opening the office in Carson City.

LOBBYIST REPORT

Priscilla requested that everyone write their e-mail address on their sign-in today. This is what we put in our newsletter: The basics on the overview of the Legislative process in Nevada and how It works. Today, she will just answer their questions. This last 2019 session was my fourth session with AFSCME. In 2013 she was with the Actives. The Nevada Website is available to all. Priscilla mentioned that Roger was an Assemblyman and between both him and her, they could answer questions. Priscilla went on to explain how anyone who has an idea can ask to have a bill introduced by approaching their Senator or Assemblyman with their idea. Roger went on to explain the process. Priscilla explained that it would be advantageous to approach the legislator sometime in the summer before the next legislation session if you had a bill in mind. There is also a limit on how many bills a legislator can introduce. Questions ensued from the assembled members. One of the answers to a question was that until the legislature opens and until that bill is read on the floor, you did not know the full extent of the bill.

Another question to Priscilla was her opinion of having sessions every year. She explained that Oregon switched to every year; however one year is solely fiscal, the other is for policy bills. We do have people studying it. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons regarding changing the every other year legislative sessions. Before going on to a new topic, Pricilla mentioned that we were able to fix some of the negative laws from the previous session. For the last several sessions the Republicans were in power and Priscilla was on the defensive. She mentioned how ALEC was involved all over the country as well as in Nevada and how it affected budget cuts. Now that the Democratsare in power, we have fared better.

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATE REPORT

Deb said that she contacted everyone on the list. She mentioned about putting a program in place and who was going to do what. She was hoping more could be done in the south She was asked to have text messages sent to some of the seniors in order to get information out. Deb suggested having set meetings on the second Thursday of the month. That way people can get familiarized with AFSCME and as a means to engage them Deb also has been attending PERS, PEBP and NARA meetings.

Steve said he was happy to help anyone to use the Website or to use Face Book and if people were not getting the Senior Moment, they should check with the post office.

Charlie also explained how much responsibility Steve was handling and by the next meeting we should have others take on more of his responsibility.

The problem was discussed about passwords when someone is deceased as what happened with our account with Face Book. We need to share and have everything written down. And we need to cross-train.

Steve explained how he had a lot of learning to acquire to get where we are today from asking the Actives and International to print our newsletter and many other myriad of things before finally becoming self-sufficient.

Deb tried to explain that they have been trying to get AFSCME retirees presence known more in the south as opposed to getting organized. Now that they have all the tools needed she will focus more on organizing and doing it electronically with the connections she has available.

ORGANIZER FOR THE WESTERN REGION REPORT

Carlos talked about organizing and getting people out to vote. International will be mailing out to 100,000+ retirees, letters on the prescription bill in Washington. You will be asked to fill out the card and send it back. Carlos also explained that International will be sending out text messages asking for support also which people like more that phone banking,

DIRECTOR NORTH REPORT

Steve mentioned that Frank Papaianni had his “signature” at the bottom of the Senior Moment with a little cartoon figure and Steve felt it should stay. So now it is our mascot. Steve talked about what our options are with leasing our printing machine, we do not have to pay for ink as it is part of the lease agreement and the machine does everything we ask it to do. The only issue is that it takes 7 to 8 hours to print a newsletter if nothing goes wrong. Steve has asked the company what options we have of buying the printing machine with a maintenance contract or to continue our lease. Discussion ensued concerning replacement of a laptop. Steve made the motion to replace the CPU with a laptop for anywhere from $1,000 to $15,000 . Patty seconded it and the motion carried.

We have done things differently this year with Fred’s suggestion on member outreach by sending them the magnets. Also suggested we send out Christmas cards with a pocket magnifier. Charlie mentioned the value of reaching out to our membership. Steve made the motion that we spend up to $2,000 for the magnifying glass and material for the card seconded by Patty. The motion carried.

LOBBYIST REPORT

Priscilla asked if anyone was planning on participating in caucus. She stated that only the Democratic Party is holding a caucus. She went on to explain the caucus process and how it is held on one day. Everyone participating will vote in their respective precincts. Early voting will be 4 days before the February 22 date. You will have to check the Website to find out where you need to go to vote or someone will contact you. Discussion ensued over the caucus process. Priscilla encouraged everyone to participate.

Carlos announced that anyone elected to attend the Democratic Convention in Milwaukee next year will have their hotel room paid for by AFSCME.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

Patty made the motion to adjourn and Joanie seconded it. The motion carried and the next general meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on February 6, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudgens, Secretary