AFSCME RETIREE CHAPTER 4041

GENERAL MEETING

FEBRRUARY 6. 2020

CARSON CITY AND LAS VEGAS

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Charles Muller called to order the meeting with the pledge to the flag at 10:14 a.m. Also in attendance were Vice President Roger Bremner, Director North Steve Suwe, Director-at-Large Joanie Papaianni, Director South Laura Leavitt, Treasurer Patty Mashal, Secretary Sandra Hudgens, Trustee Fred Suwe, Trustee Shirley Suwe, Lobbyist Priscilla Maloney, member Nick Frost, guests Gail Dietrich and Scotty Watts and special guests Sandee and Bob Gagnier.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Since there were no additions to the agenda we proceeded with the awards.

PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD TO BOB AND SANDEE GAGNIER

Joanie made the presentation to Bob Gagnier for his many years of service to State Employees. His name was added to the Frank Papaianni Memorial Award.

Fred reiterated how both Bob and Sandee Gagnier helped our organization retain our benefits without them having received those benefits for themselves. They were then both given honorary membership to AFSCME Retiree Local 4041 for their many years of service.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

 Charlie announced that Representative Dina Titus will be in town on Sunday campaigning for Joe Biden if anyone is interested.

VICE PRESIDENT

Roger received a call from rural Dems regarding our absentee ballot program. Roger thinks we can do it at the same time we announce our endorsements or with an issue with the Senior Moment. Roger was concerned that the Democratic Central Committee did not want to do like the Iowa caucus. Other decisions we have to make regarding money can wait until the situations arise.

DIRECTOR SOUTH REPORT

Laura mentioned the NARA convention was coming up. Gail said it would take place May 12 and 13.at the MGM Park.

DIRECTOR NORTH REPORT

 Steve discussed updating the computer after getting recommendations DeBug Computers. The computer installations are close to being finished.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE REPORT

Joanie and Charlie went to the Central Committee meeting the night before. She was guaranteed that the system that messed up Iowa has been cancelled and we have back up systems.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Charlie reported that Gail Milne resigned due to illness. Nick Frost was then sworn in as new Trustee.

LOBBYIST REPORT

Priscilla mentioned new staff -shake up on both PERS and PEBP. PERS new member has a good relationship with Carter Bundy, which is good news. She further discussed the situation with PEBP and that the Governor’s appointee left. Peter Long was the temporary head until the Governor appointed another head of administration who will also be the head of PEBP who is Laura Freed. The other, Laura Rich will also be on the board. In the middle of all this, Priscilla pointed out that all the advocacy groups have been asking for two huge basic things: Why PEBP keeps generating these excess reserves. The other issue is the consumer-driven high -deductible plan for the Actives and the non-Medicare retirees. The benefit package became less rich. There were several attempts to talk about it. The consensus is not enough money. The enhancements would cost 10 million dollars. It was formally agreed on a vote to find out the cost for the biennium budget. We have a small number of people with no Medicare. Agreement at the last meeting was to find out the exact cost of these budget enhancements. All was discussed yesterday at the Interim Benefits Committee meeting with Laura Freed and Maggie Carlson who were asking the tough questions. Priscilla also said the advocacy groups were also asking to hire an independent actuary.

The Northern Nevada Central Committee, that we are a member of, meets the second Tuesday of every month. Priscilla went on to explain how Nevada Democratic Caucus will not mirror the problems that Iowa experienced. The Secretary of State will not have anything to do on how it is run. And nobody except the Democrats will be having a caucus.

Charlie asked if anyone knew of a “coffee caucus”. He said Lee Saunders will be at one in Las Vegas. No one knew.

Charlie presented his Mission Statement. Roger will work on it. Discussion ensued.

International is wanting to do another mass mailing. Charlie thinks AFSCME can reach a lot of people that don’t have representation.

Steve suggested the AFSCME Hero’s Fund covers any disaster involving AFSCME employees and should be the only cause to what we should donate. Also, we should be concerned about what we do with our members’ money. There has to be a connection to AFSCME members.

Steve mentioned to keep the Senior Moment simple. It takes over 6 hours to print and it will get out in time for the early caucus.

Roger proceeded to read his corrected copy of the Mission Statement as follows:

“THE MISSION OF THE AFSCME RETIREES CHAPTER 4041 IS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE INCOME SECURITY AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AFFORDED TO ALL NEVADA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREES. AFSCME RETIREE CHAPTER 4041 WILL WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH AFSCME INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE GROUPS TO STRENGTHEN CURRENT PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT PROPOSED CHANGES OR ENHANCEMENTS AS APPROVED BY OUR MEMBERSHIP.”

Roger made the motion to approve the Mission Statement and Sandra seconded the motion. The motion carried.

 Conversation resumed discussion of the newsletter and using up tbe extra space and logo.

Steve mentioned that he has been in contact with the Reno Aces on several occasions since they keep changing people. Steve is waiting for the catalog in order to pick the seating. AFSCME members in the south were wondering why they are not having similar activities as those in the North. The picnic was a joint venture with the actives. Steve told them to contact the Desert Chapter to see what they were doing. Retirees Sub Chapter 153 in Vegas did not have picnic last year to which local AFSCME members are usually invited. If the Sub-Chapter has a picnic this year, Steve will make sure that it will be in the Senior Moment. Steve also suggested that he or Laura contact the Las Vegas Aviators baseball Team to see about tickets this year that we can purchase for our Southern members. Laura will check. The Raiders or UNLV football game could also be an option. Priscilla pointed out that we should also be more engaged with the members in the south.

Roger suggested to contact Harry Shiffman to see if he and the Executive Board or the desert Chapter was willing to put together a picnic for AFSCME members in southern Nevada.

If the Northern Chapters have a picnic and/or a Christmas party this year, it was suggested we should once again co-sponsor these events.

Charlie explained that we need to increase the size of the office and we have gotten the okay to expand next door when the man next door retires.

Discussion ensued placing our information in the PERS office for newly retired public employees. Patty will keep us advised.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m. and the next meeting date will be May 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hudgens, Secretary