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Chapter 33 Combined Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 08, 2012

Location: District Office – Board Room

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Members present: Rene Renard, Maggie Skaff, Patrick Co, Jan Phemester, Ulysses Guadamuz, Dean Drumheller, Rachel Corrales, Linda Allen, Linda Herda, Annette Perot, Chris Weidman, John Martinez, Charles Jones, Chuck La Mere, Mario Mihelcic, Maria Lara-Blanco, Juanita Celaya

Meeting called to order 5:10pm – Annette Perot

1. **MINUTES – Annette Perot**

The minutes from the Drive Release Meeting meeting of July 11, 2012 were attached for review. It was moved by Linda Allen and seconded by Rachel Corrales to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried with 14 attendees voting “aye”, and 3 abstaining.

2. **TREASURER’S REPORT – Linda Herda**

The report of accounting activity and ending balances for June 2012 were attached to agenda.
Checking account ending balance: \$8,565.75
Savings account ending balance: \$10,941.46 with 46¢ interest earned

Linda reported that we now have 320 members, which means we receive more than \$920.00 per month in dues. She noted there are still a few outstanding receipts from the 2012 CSEA Annual Conference.

1a. **MINUTES REOPENED**

Charles Jones proposed we reopen the discussion on the minutes from the July Drive Release Meeting, it was seconded by John Martinez, the motion carried with all 14 attendees voting “aye.” Charles proposed the following addition after paragraph two, ‘Jerry Hill also discussed Propositions 30 & 32,’ noting that if Mr. Hill discussed these propositions before our union body, then he will most likely move in the direction we are going on those issues.

It was moved by Linda Allen and seconded by Rachel Corrales to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried with 14 attendees voting “aye”, and 3 abstaining.

3. **CONTRACT RATIFICATION INFORMATION – Chris Weidman**

The cover letter and Tentative Agreement (T.A.) were attached for review. The negotiating team has been working hard this past year to get the best deal possible for our union members. The District has agreed to a total percentage increase of 2.81%, for Fiscal Year 2012-13 (salaries will increase by 2.34% starting July 1, 2012 and remaining percentage goes to medical - an approximate 4% increase across the board: single - \$25 | 2-party - \$40 | family - \$50) The District maintains there are no funds available for increases for Fiscal Years 2010-11 or 2011-12.

The negotiating team chose the percentage division because they felt that most members will have an issue with the employee–paid–portion medical increases coming in January 2013, but members also want to see an increase in salary. Chuck La Mere noted that for some employees, the increase in salary will not even cover the cost of the increase in medical. Chris noted that the salary increase is taxable, while the medical increase pre–tax, which may help some.

Charles Jones wanted to make clear that this is only a suggestion from the negotiating team, (although he is not recommending we don't ratify the T.A.) he wants members to know they can vote down the T.A. and send the negotiating team back to the table, or ask that the 2.81% be divided differently between salary and medical.

Question: Do the other bargaining units receive the same medical as CSEA?

Answer (Chris Weidman): No, each bargaining unit makes their own decision, the 'Non-Represented' chose to take their increase entirely in salary and nothing toward medical, while AFT is taking a higher medical (\$50 across the board) and AFSME doesn't meet until September.

Question: How are the medical costs set?

Answer: CalPERS sets costs, but the Districts does get good rates because they 'buy in bulk.'

John Martinez wanted to make clear that increases are now being done "cafeteria-style," the problem this creates is it takes you away from the point of parity.

Annette did bring this to the Districts attention. For the past several years, the other bargaining units continued to put all of their increases into salary and none in medical, making the different bargaining units out of sync. Recently, the Board of Trustees looked at this and said there needs to be parity. So at no cost to the other bargaining units, they were brought up to level of CSEA. Annette has made it clear this time she wants it in writing that when the different bargaining units are out of parity in the future, it was a choice they made, and they should not be 'given' increases that CSEA has negotiated.

The Successor Agreement duration is from July 1, 2013–June 30, 2016. The first year everything is open for negotiation except article 21.1 (length of contract.) In 2014–15 and 2015–16, articles 8.11 & 9.11 and two-non economic articles are open for negotiation.

There was a long discussion on how voting to ratify the tentative agreement should happen. Should there be two separate ballots: one to ratify the Tentative Agreement and one for the Successor Agreement, or could one ballot be used for both. There was concern over ending FY 2010–13 and opening a new contract FY 2013–16 with one vote. Charles Jones stated that legally, we are only allowed to enter into 3–year contracts. So, if we have one ballot to vote on two 3–year contracts, could that be challenged at a later date that we entered into a 6–year contract? The negotiating team assured members that they had consulted with the state and field office (Charlie Goetchius, Diana Hull and Stacy Trujillo) who say this is okay. It was ultimately decided that one ballot to ratify both contracts is okay.

4. **CPRO – Herb Mintz**

Herb notified the members present that he will send an email with information on phone banking on Wednesday, September 15 and 22 at the Electrical Workers Hall. It is imperative that we help to pass Proposition 30 and defeat Proposition 32. He said, if prop 32 passes in November, our tenure as union members in a union is in question. We need to preserve our union, and we can only do that by out–voting the other side, because they are out–spending us 30 to 1. The 'other side is going to call us every name they can think of except hard–working Americans. They will say we are the ones who are damaging the economy, breaking the budgets and making it harder for other people to live, and we know that is just not true.

5. **CPAC**

Charles Jones wanted to support Herb by adding that it is not just our union that we are trying to preserve but our way of life. If proposition 30 fails and proposition 32 passes, we could end up back at the turn of the 20th century, and unfortunately many people don't believe it's possible that could happen. Herb added that one word should be in the fore-front of people's minds – Wisconsin.

6. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS – Annette Perot**

Please make sure you vote tomorrow and thank you for coming.

7. **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Charles Jones recommended we ratify the agreement. Thank you for coming.

Motion to adjournment meeting – Ulysses Guadamuz, seconded by Chuck La Mere. The motion carried with all members voting "aye."

Meeting adjourned 6:11pm