

SVFT Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

President Ed Leavy called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

Approval of minutes of November meeting M/S/V

Audit Report (Mike Maletta, Maletta & Co.)

Mike reported that the SVFT had yet another “very good” audit report. The union’s fiscal health and its record keeping practices were both commended.

Members can review the audit report by obtaining a copy which all the reps received tonight in their info packets.

M/S/V to accept the audit report (unanimous)

Emily Lozinak’s Treasurer’s Report:

Emily was unable to attend. Bob read her report:

- * Total Income for the month was \$107,383.03
 - o Item 4200 Rebate Income – Received Rebate from AFT for July and August, will be adjusted to the previous fiscal year by the accountant.
- * Total Expenses for the month were \$92,159.07
 - Line items of note included
 - o Item 6171 Teacher of the Year - Usually not a cost this early in the year, this was the cost of the name plates from last year that were just received.
- * Net operating income for the year to date is \$51,488.74

Treasurer’s Report (pending audit) M/S/V

Bob Riccitelli EUR Report:

Bob shared the following:

Administrative Leave

* One member accidentally touching a student with a hot object. DCF no finding. C.O. will now conduct its investigation.

Arbitrations

* Seniority – PD Chair position awarded to a less senior member. Level 1 & 2 were denied based on the qualifications statement in our contract. The disagreement is with the word “discipline.” We see this as discipline meaning letter of reprimand... they see it as the discipline needed to be the PD Chair.

Grievances

* Mr. Axon has reprimanded one of our members and the maintenance staff. This was done in front of other teachers and students. Public discipline of our members will not be tolerated.

Fact Finding

* Electrical DH was horse playing with a student and accidentally hit him. He got nervous and didn't report it to administration. Other student, who got in trouble, reported the incident to administration.

Resolved Issues

* A Science teacher was placed on administrative leave for inappropriate comments to a student. The teacher discussed it with administration. He subsequently decided to retire.

Topics

* DH Evaluations are supposed to be a conversation between the DH and his/her administrator. Jamie Lamite (Electrical DH) went over the document with Bob and Ed and there may be movement from C.O. on this. Ed added that "WE WORK FOR A SYSTEM, and that a single principal can't change district policy!"

* Mr. Axon & Mr. Oczkowski are accused of interfering with union business. Unfair Labor Practice charges are being investigated.

Paul Angelucci's Vice -President's Report:

Paul discussed the following:

- Remember to remind members to continue to follow procedures regarding Tuition reimbursement, file two weeks before class starts.
- Mailbox stuffers have been added to the packets. Please use to inform members about school meetings and note which members attend. Please also ask which members didn't receive the member survey.
- Next Health & Safety Visit will be at Grasso on the 19th of December. We were at Goodwin last month and will be at Kaynor in January on the 23rd.
- Labor Management that was scheduled for this week has been postponed until February
- The UTAC Meeting that was scheduled for this week as well will be rescheduled just prior to the next Labor Management meeting.
- Contract negotiations took place on the 18th of November there are no further dates set at this time. We are waiting for Management to compile their list of prioritized proposals.
- Teacher of the Year info will be out shortly starting with a committee meeting sometime in January. Name plates for the 2016 winners are in the rep packets.
- 2017 Scholarship information will be out next month as well.

Ed Leavy's President's Report

Ed shared the following:

*Ed reminded reps of the importance of knowing who is attending our union meetings. Keeping track and passing the info to the office will be necessary going forward.

* The LPN program is scheduled to close 1/27, but there still has been no meeting scheduled for them. One interesting new wrinkle is if a potential SEBAC agreement contains layoff protection, how will that impact our LPN instructors?

* Mark Vincent and I met with Joe Fields, the Retiree Healthcare consultant for TRB, about the TRB / SEBAC issue. As expected, it is far more complicated than the way Mark described it in his emails to TRB members. TRB views the 1.25% as a tax to preserve the retiree medical benefit, and TRB members can move from the State retiree healthcare to the TRB retiree healthcare at 65, whereas a Medicare wrap-around it is better (there is no TRB retiree healthcare until Medicare at 65 unless the local district provides it). Mark wants to think a while about next steps before proceeding.

* Ed spoke about his newsletter article about the recent elections. Members with opposing views are invited to write articles of their own for the newsletter. Comments about newsletter articles in general, or this one in particular, may be addressed to Ed at the union office.

* School visits by the officers are underway. The discussion is focusing on the future of SEBAC meetings between the state and the state employee unions. An explanation of healthcare and pension costs has been made more difficult by the dramatic increases of both over the past two decades. While our benefits have remained the same, the cost of healthcare has exploded from under \$5000 for a family in 1997 to almost \$30,000 today. Also, the increase in life expectancy (from 76 to nearly 80 during the same period) has led to costlier pension obligations. Ed stressed that "Our friends are the people saying that we may have to contribute more towards our pension and healthcare. Those in opposition are saying that these payments are not feasible going forward." Removing emotion from the discussion is very important.

*Ed welcomed and thanked Jim Vigue and Terri Merisotis from AFT-CT for their tireless efforts during the campaign season. AFT-CT President, Jan Hochadel, thanked Ed for his relentless campaigning during election season. Ed walked for candidates all over the state every weekend from August (or was it July?!) through election day.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

*Amanda Kiszka-Curtis (Social Studies, Oliver Wolcott) lost her husband this past weekend. Wolcott rep, Matt Keen and SVFT Secretary, Greg Beyer, spoke about Amanda, her young sons, and the challenges they will face going forward. Paul asked for a motion to donate \$500 to the Go Fund Me campaign started in Amanda's husband's honor (visit gofundme.com and search

“Thomas Ralph Curtis” for donation information.) A friendly amendment was accepted that increased the suggested donation to \$1000. **Vote to approve was unanimous.**

Good and Welfare

* Dan Thibault is being recognized for his work during the election campaign as a member activist by the Working Families party at their December 14th dinner. Congratulations, Dan!

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M. with Happy Holiday wishes for all of our members!

Respectfully submitted by Greg Beyer, SVFT Secretary