

## **General Membership Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Don Seaquist and a quorum was declared.

The minutes of the March 16, 2016 general membership meeting were distributed. Motion made and so carried to approve as printed.

The minutes of the March 16, 2016 Executive Board meeting were distributed. Motion made and so carried to approve as printed and concur with the recommendations of the Executive Board.

The minutes of the April 20, 2016 Executive Board meeting were read. Motion made and so carried to approve as read and concur with the recommendations of the Executive Board.

### **Correspondence and Appeals**

Thank You cards received from:

- Joyce Berglund (retirement gift)
- Joe Van Dusartz (sympathy card)
- John Yetzer (retirement pen set)
- MN State Retiree Council (donation)

### **Department Reports**

Retail: Negotiations have started with ARGA. Non-economic issues have been settled, but economics are still up in the air. Next dates scheduled are April 28 and 29. Retail negotiations are going no better in St. Paul. Employers are linear-thinking and stuck in a rut about how to handle the changing workforce.

Nursing Homes: Spectrum Health Care in Eveleth took a strike vote and the members voted to approve a strike. The Union is waiting for the Employer to come back with a better offer before sending out the ten-day notice. A week's deadline has been given.

Manufacturing: Long Prairie Packing completed bargaining and ratified the largest increase in the country for meat packing. The Employer has approached the Union and has asked to increase the top two positions by \$3 per hour in the plant to encourage retention. RDO will be starting early negotiations. There still continues to be major issues with hiring and retention of workers.

Organizing/Political: Nice victories in organizing with the Wedge Co-Op and United Pioneer Home. There's major interest around the state to organize coops. A campaign started with Working America to organize Super America in the St. Cloud area. Political Department reports that the State of Minnesota is in session. UFCW is backing bills about increasing access to medical cannabis and the use of industrial hemp. We will not likely see healthcare facility funding increases this year. Please call your State Reps and ask them to vote no on Representative Drazkowski's RTW bill and call your senators to ask them to vote no on

attaching "local interface" to the paid family leave bill. This Friday there will be a labor kickoff for Rick Nolan at the Duluth Labor Temple at 5pm.

**Officer's Reports**

President Seaquist reported on the following: There will be a special retail bargaining unit meeting to develop an action/strategy plan for St. Paul Retail Bargaining. The Employers are very nervous about this meeting.

President Sequist gave the financial report: revenue is down; we are noticing fewer members in stores. Our expenses are down from last year.

**Good and Welfare/Community Service/Member Events**

Worker's Memorial Day Breakfast and Service, Monday, April 25, 2016 7am. Tree planting at 9am to honor and remember workers who were killed on the job in the past year. Interested members should contact Tamara Jones.

Letter Carriers Food Drive is May 14, 2016. Those interested in volunteering should contact Tamara Jones.

Moment of silence was held for Dick Stiller and Mike Bianchet, long standing members that recently passed away.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Jones  
Union Representative

eme/opeiu #12