

MINUTES OF:
MCO Executive Council Meeting
SEIU Local 526M
Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The meeting of the State Executive Board was called to order by President Tom Tylutki at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at the MCO office in Lansing.

Roll call was taken and the following were present: Tom Tylutki, Mel Grieshaber, Rick VanAlstine, Bruce Waldron, Bradley Gorman, Bob Tingley, John Ost, Merlin Parlett, Gary Kott, Mike Presley, Ron Niemi, Bob Sikkenga, Bryon Osborn, Jake Campbell, Anthony Hurst, Denis Beecham, David Kavanagh, Rod Denley, Tom Tefft, Steve Hammond, Phil Fleury, Ken McGinn, James Sims, James Schiebner, Julie Cabana, Greg Parker, Mike Taylor, Adam Douglas, Kamal Cariuty, Harold Warr, John Fetters, Larry Henley, Mary Ann Hocking, Bernard McClain Philipson Omorogieva, Mike Feighner, and Randy Burrow.

The Chair called for a moment of silence for fallen and injured officers.

Carl Roeser, a partner of Sachs Waldman Corporation (MCO's counsel), gave a presentation to the council members on Michigan's worker's compensation laws.

Tom Tylutki reported on the following topics:

Discussed recent events involving the closure of JMF and explained the process to date.

Discussed the planned relocation of RCF to MR.

Advised that Camp White Lake and Camp Valley have opened; both are facilities for female prisoners.

Reported that SAI would be taking on B prefix prisoners.

Thanked the members who sent emails in opposition to a resolution sponsored by House Republicans to take away our next wage increase. He expressed concern over the low response by our members, particularly when the issue directly involved their livelihood.

Discussed the results of the survey taken of MCO members on subjects of interest for bargaining.

Advised the council members that when a member is disciplined or discharged for a misdemeanor or felony, a grievance should be filed immediately. Don't wait for the outcome of the criminal charges.

Reported that the steward manual revisions are nearly complete.

Reported that the DOC was considering canceling the Office of the Year banquet. MCO was instrumental in still having it this year.

Discussed the Crisis Fund ticket sales.

Advised that Jeff Foldie has been hired to be a Labor Relations Representative for MCO. Jeff is a practicing attorney and was formerly the Chapter President at SRF.

Mel Grieshaber reported on the following topics:

Discussed the state budget battle and the ramifications if it is not settled this month. Explained the process for approving the budget. Corrections is roughly 20th of the general fund.

Discussed Corrections' intent to release prisoners with expensive medical conditions.

Reviewed the JMF closure and Judge Enslin's role in the transfer of affected prisoners.

John Ost reported on the activities of the Uniform Committee.

Adam Douglas reported on the activities of the Health & Safety Committee, and advised that the minutes of the committee are posted on the MCO website.

As there was no further business, motion was made by Ron Niemi to adjourn. Supported by Mike Feighner and MOTION CARRIED. The meeting stood adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Johnson
Recording Secretary

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MINUTES OF:
Executive Council Meeting
SEIU Local 526M
Thursday, August 21, 2008

The meeting of the Executive Council was called to order by President Tom Tylutki at 10:08 a.m. on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the MCO office in Lansing.

Roll call was taken and the following were present: Rod Denley, Randy Burrow, Rick Ries, Jason Lane, Kamal Cariuty, Mike Sweet, Brenda Walton, Adam Douglas, David Vaughn, Phil Fleury, Keven Myers, Jim Johnson, Bernie McClain, Larry Henley, Beth McConkey, Gary Kott, Jake Campbell, Wade Wakefield, John Ost, Jeff Ries, Rocky Isaacson, Ronda Esu, Jeff Fields, Scott Teske, Louis Linck, Rich Bierman, David Belander, Curt Thatcher, Chris Schmidt, Doug Bonno, Craig Shreve, Mike Guerin, David Kavanagh, Ray Sholtz, Al West, Mary Cooke, John Clements, Dennis Beecham, Matt Schwing, Art Harter, Ron Niemi, and Mark Rowe.

The Chair asked for a moment of silence for two Florida Corrections Officers killed in the line of duty and all officers who have passed.

Tom Tylutki reported on the following topics:

Advised that MCO's annual fundraiser for the Crisis Fund will be held tomorrow. There is still time to donate to the fund with a line item expense voucher donation, or to sponsor tees or holes. He indicated that this is a major fundraiser which helps officers and their families in times of need, pointing out that we've all worked with someone who has benefitted from this fund.

Reported that a prisoner was successfully prosecuted for making a false felony complaint against an officer. This is a huge victory for officers statewide.

Reported that MCO successfully fought back DOC's demand to open secondary negotiations.

Discussed DOC's plan to eliminate two positions per facility. After much pressure from MCO and its members on state government officials and the legislature, MCO was notified that the two positions initially targeted as solely MCO has been changed to any two positions per facility. The Council was immediately notified and advised by MCO to recommend to the wardens positions other than MCO's that should be considered for elimination. We need to stay on top of this and there is a Get Active letter on our website that can be sent electronically to legislators.

Reported that the Huron Valley Mens Facility will close in March 2009. There are currently many challenges at the facility related to staffing as officers transfer to other worksites. MCO has been notified that 5 block will close in late September. Prisoners at Camp Valley will be transferred to Camp White Lake over the next few months so that the camp can be converted to the new reception center.

Reported that the Scott Correctional Facility is still slated to close in May 2009, when the prisoners will be moved to the current Huron Valley Mens Facility, which will be converted

and combined with Camp Valley to hold women prisoners and reopen as one worksite. This no doubt will be a challenging closure in light of the number of BFOQ assignments which give the Employer the right to lay off and recall out of the seniority order.

Advised that MCO was successful in negotiating a letter of understanding with DCH to require the Forensic Center to hire officers from HVM, CVH, HVW, SCF, RRF, NRF, ARF, and ATF. The Forensic Center was in the process of hiring 21 employees off the street. MCO was able to stop that and secured the jobs for our officers in the surrounding area.

Advised that MCO is in the process of hiring two new staff members. The State Executive Board is taking a new direction, and rather than following the traditional service model, these new employees will be working in the field, mobilizing members for things like pickets, demonstrations, letter writing campaigns, and advocating the union's position in community, political and labor groups. They will have a role in grievances and training as well, but their principle duties will be to mobilize the members in union initiatives, working with members who are interested in helping with those efforts. The State Executive Board wants a more educated and engaged membership and this is a step in that direction. Chapter presidents will be instrumental in connecting the dots and helping to make this work. Watch the KYI and MCO Report for information on applying for these positions.

Updated the Council on recent activities regarding the restraining order secured by MCO pending the outcome of grievance arbitration on Article 17. Jeff Foldie reviewed the arbitration hearing and distributed copies of post hearing briefs.

Reported that MCO was successful in fighting off DOC's plans to consolidate two or more prisons into one worksite at several locations around the state. Once again, we had to go all the way to the top to get it done. With Michigan's economy and current budget woes, we hope this monster does not rear its head again.

Reported that training for stewards in the Northern region will be held at Newberry on October 15th. A meeting between the Region I RPA and Chapter Presidents also will be held at Newberry on October 17th.

Reminded the Council that October is the window period for closer to home transfers and advised that Chereilyn Dunlap will, once again, be handling the process.

Advised that MCO was successful in having legislation introduced to improve the defined contribution retirement plan, but only 400 of the approximately 4,500 members who would benefit from this legislation participated in lobbying the legislature.

Reported that, although MCO was entitled to send 14 delegates to the SEIU Convention, the board decided, in consideration of the cost, to send 4 delegates this time around. Advised that Mel Grieshaber was elected to the SEIU International Executive Board at the convention.

Informed the Council that MCO is working with SEIU on preparing a public relations campaign for Corrections Officers in Michigan to educate the public about our jobs, our working conditions and our role in the community. More details will be available at the October Central Committee meeting.

Advised that SEIU is covering the expenses for MCO's Vice President, Andy Potter, to attend the Republican Convention as a member of the SEIU GOP Activist Committee.

Mel Grieshaber reported on the following topics:

Explained SEIU's campaign on federal legislation for the Employee Free Choice Act. This is very important to all unions for organizing members.

Reported that right to work organizations are again aggressively seeking either a ballot proposal or getting state legislators to pass right to work legislation. Discussed the ramifications if right to work legislation was passed.

Advised that health care is another big issue that needs to be addressed. He pointed out that even GM is cancelling health care for certain non-union employees at age 65, and every time MCO goes into contract negotiations, health care is the state's number one financial concern. Something must be done soon. SEIU wants this country to get a handle on costs for employees and employers.

Advised that the Reform Michigan ballot proposal cuts the pay and number of legislators by 25 % and changes many judgeships.

Discussed the state budget and urged members to visit the MCO website to sign electronic letters to the legislature on retirement and staffing.

Advised that MCO's public relations effort is under way. MCO wants a more encompassing effort this time. SEIU is involved as well.

Discussed the new positions authorized by the board. Two new employees will be hired to work in the field organizing, educating and training members locally, among other things. Conversated with the Council to hear its feedback on the new direction taken by the board.

John Ost reported on the activities of the Uniform Committee. The new uniform is going into production and will be issued as old stock is phased out. January 2011 is the final wear-in date. The trial period on puncture proof gloves at JCF was a success. The gloves have been approved, and officers may purchase them separately.

Bill Henderson and Ray Sholtz reported on the activities of the Efficiency Advisory Committee. The next meeting will be held on September 3rd.

Adam Douglas reported on the activities of the Health and Safety Committee. The next meeting will be held on August 23rd.

As there was no further business, motion was made by Rod Denley to adjourn. Supported by Ray Sholtz and MOTION CARRIED. The meeting stood adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Johnson
Recording Secretary