

MINUTES OF:
Executive Council Meeting
SEIU Local 526M
Wednesday, May 7, 2008

The meeting of the Executive Council was called to order by President Tom Tylutki at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, at the MCO office in Lansing.

Roll call was taken and the following were present: Tom Tylutki, Andy Potter, Bill Henderson, Cary Johnson, John Ost, Jim Johnson, Ray Sholtz, Wade Wakefield, Matt Schwing, David Kavanagh, Art Harter, Troy Speckin, Charles Beacham, Dennis Beecham, Mike Sweet, Phil Patterson, Mike Patrick, Harold Warr, Rod Denley, Gary Kott, Mike Guerin, Jeff Fields, Kamal Cariuty, Bryon Osborn, Doug Bonno, Al Pennell, Greg Crouch, Macus Polychuk, Mike Wohlscheid, John Clements, Chris Schmidt, Jake Campbell, Ron Niemi, Beverly Morse, Terry Bridges, Tom Kerrins, Al West, Adam Douglas, Brent Kowitz, Mark Rowe, Rocky Isaacson, Randy Burrow, Bernie McClain, Lori Conant, Louis Linck, Rick Ries, Brenda Walton, Matt Schwing, Larry Henley..

The Chair asked for a moment of silence for all officers who have passed.

Tom Tylutki reported on the following topics:

Encouraged the council to continue its good work in raising money for the Crisis Fund.

JMF officially closed in October 2007 and MCO was successful in placing many JMF officers in the Jackson area, and succeeded in obtaining one-year return rights for those who left the area. Displaced officers should contact Dave Silsbury to determine their placement on the return list.

Riverside recently ceased operations and moved to the refurbished Michigan Reformatory. Tylutki thanked Mike Wohlscheid for his help with the staffing issues that came up during the transition.

Explained the issues that caused MCO to seek a temporary restraining order against DOC. The injunction is in effect at every facility in the state and regards the 32-hour rule for overtime.

DOC has advised that Scott Correctional Facility will be closing and moving its operations to the Huron Valley Men's Facility. Tylutki explained the contract issues regarding this move.

Encouraged the members to read the briefs on Impasse that are posted on the MCO website.

Discussed DOC's movement toward tobacco free prisons. Andy Potter was assigned to the committee DOC created to address this issue, and he advocated that areas be provided in each prison for staff to smoke. He resigned from the committee when it was clear that DOC was not interested in our ideas.

Advised the council that the Governor has appointed Andy Potter as a labor representative on the Hepatitis C Task Force.

Explained the retirement enhancement legislation supported by MCO and encouraged the council members to lobby their senators and representatives in support of this bill.

Acknowledged Jake Campbell for being selected officer of the year at Straits.

Discussed the possibility that we may be in secondary negotiations with DOC.

Reported that we have 2 grievances at 2nd step, 86 at 3rd, 55 at pre-arb, 4 combined with other grievances, 2 on hold, 3 pending settlement, and 24 at arbitration, and 9 are on appeal to the board.

Reported on personal vest purchases.

Advised that MCO is in the early stages of developing a PR campaign.

Mel Grieshaber reported on the following topics:

Advised that about 10 chapters have not sent in their bid jobs and this is holding up the printing of the contract. It's still being proof read as well. This is the first time in MCO's history that a contract was imposed on us.

Reported on the issues surrounding secondary negotiations.

Advised that steward training will be conducted in the next few weeks.

Explained the new look of the MCO website and its link to a database of MCO arbitration decisions.

Advised that the House of Representatives is holding budget hearings on Corrections. DOC's budget is under massive scrutiny because of its size. The National Institute of Corrections is involved, looking at efficiencies.

Discussed retirement legislation. Reported that handouts on the legislation to enhance the defined contribution retirement will be provided at the Central Committee meeting.

Advised that there is talk of doubling the size of the private prison in Baldwin to hold out of state prisoners. MCO opposes the opening of a private prison.

As there was no further business, motion was made by Rod Denley to adjourn. Supported by Brent Kowitz and MOTION CARRIED. The meeting stood adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Johnson
Recording Secretary

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 Cherelyn 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