

10.13.22 Central Vermont VSEA Chapter meeting

Meeting started 1201 hours

There are members here also from Barre, as they were invited. Round robin to introduce ourselves.

First order of business is to approve the 8.2.22 meeting minutes. This turns out to be the annual meeting, so they will be approved at the next annual meeting, so those will wait until next year. Toni Clithero went over the notes for those in attendance to see and be aware of for next year.

Treasurer report done by Heather Pembroke. She advised we are the largest chapter, and explained we do get money from HQ to participate in activities. Due to Covid we have not been meeting in person, so the higher amount is due to this. \$10057.56 is the total in the account for CV right now.

Willie Nickerson wanted to talk about ideas for using the money, and they will be brought up as new business.

Presidents report :

Toni Clithero is talking about coordinating with the Barre chapter for activities and growing the membership. One of the issues we want to discuss is the Medicare plus for retirees. There is also a Halloween event in Barre we might want to promote.

Heather gave a rundown of the council meeting:

The president reported on the Medicare Advantage that the admin wanted to move retirees to for health care, which we want to fight.

Steve talked about how the union was working to get member numbers up, he talked about a whistleblower law they are working on getting passed. Discussion of candidate endorsements.

New Business:

Mercedes Pinon wants to know when council members seats expire. Danielle says there are chapter and department seats. They are on different timelines depending on when they are elected. Danielle says to get in touch with Aimee or the union, but Mercedes is a department council member and she is on for at least the next year.

Willie Nickerson wanted to bring up a way to spend money. He says they have collaboration day at his work site. He wants to have money to buy food during these collaboration days.

Kay Hopper is checking in with us about her being on council. Danielle will work on this issue, it has more to do with where Kay lives! She holds a chapter seat with council and her term expires next year.

Discussion of the dues came up and Toni made a motion to make a central Vermont dues committee and Kay seconded it. Heather pointed out there is a dues committee already, and we need to be aware of it, and please join if you are interested in it. There are only Leslie and Heather on it. Sue LaFleche made a point of order of whether or not Toni can make a motion as chapter president. Kay then advised she makes the motion and Toni seconded. Leslie said she would like to have people be appointed to the dues committee, and to have people reach out to Aimee to be appointed. Michele Degree is asking for clarification on the motion. Beth says the motion was to make a committee. It was refined to a motion

to make a committee to clarify the issue of the 2/3 vote to change the dues structure. Beth said she opposes this as it is still being addressed as to legality. Toni feels the purpose is to keep this moving, and not wait until the next meeting. Kay feels another benefit of this type of committee will be clarity on the motions. She feels there is gamesmanship. Kay feels she does not understand the process and asked for training. Leslie advised we can ask Tim Belcher to come to a meeting for training on Roberts Rules. Beth says she feels we shouldn't be addressing this issue now and here, but training is a good idea for Roberts Rules.

Heather calls the question. Kay asks for explanation of "calling of the question".

Leslie says we need to vote on the calling of the question

Calling the question 8 approved

1 nay

The motion is called. Approved 3

Nay 5

Motion fails

Medicare advantage discussion:

Toni advised this will be detrimental to our health insurance when we retire. There was a favorable court decision that kept a city (New York City?) from implementing the move. Steve Howard said the state moved their date from Jan 1 to July 1st for implementation due to threat of lawsuit possibly but they plan on moving forward it seems. Steve will be working proactively to oppose the change of statute or proposing our own legislation to lock in retiree health care. The admin is saying we are the only hold outs which is not true. Toni asks what we can do to help. Steve says he wants us to reach out to our legislators and use FPF and invite legislators after the election to meet with the retirees and chapter members.

Leslie is asking if it is appropriate to contact/call/email legislators to discuss this issue. Steve says yes, and he just spoke to her rep yesterday, and pointed him to Leslie. There is communication that VSEA is putting out today to legislators.

We discussed the chipping away at our benefits is something we need to avoid.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and motion carried. Meeting ended at 111pm.