



VSEA Special Council

Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2024 (via Zoom)

Call to Order by Chairperson and 1st VP, Margaret Crowley at 6:08

Timekeeper: Richard Hutchinson

Notetaker: Catherine Terrell, Attorney

Attendance taken, 30 Council members in attendance, quorum established.

Chairperson Crowley discussed the need for special meeting originated with timing of primary and agenda item concerning approving recommendations of the Legislative Committee for VSEA primary endorsements.

Also, at the last Board of Trustee meeting another agenda item was approved to be added concerning anticipated change to the Corrections Officer Unit Bylaws, and so the Council will vote on the recommended language modification to the VSEA's Master Bylaws that, if approved, would conform to those anticipated Corrections Officer Unit Bylaw changes, if met with approval at the CO Unit's annual Unit meeting.

Agenda:

- 6:00 PM - Log in
- 6:15 PM - Welcome and House Keeping Notes
- 6:30 PM - Proposed Master By-Law Change; By-law Committee Chairperson Margaret Crowley
- 7:00 PM - Candidate Endorsements for Primaries; Legislative Committee and Legislative staff
- 9:00 PM - Meeting Adjourned

Trish Bennett moved to approve Agenda, 2nd by Karen Hango

Vote taken: 23 in favor, one abstention, none opposed

Motion carried: Agenda approved.

Business:

1. Proposed Master By-Law Change; By-law Committee Chairperson Margaret Crowley

Chairperson Crowley presents in favor of recommending amended language of the VSEA Master Bylaws at the VSEA Annual Meeting that would correspond with anticipated Corrections Officer Unit bylaws changes, should the Corrections Officer Unit vote to modify its Correction Officer Unit Bylaws at its Annual Unit Meeting.

Bee Hesslebach moved to open discussion on the Agenda Item #1, 2nd by Bruce King

(Council Member) said proposed change was straight forward.

Bee Hesslebach moved to vote on Agenda Item #1, 2nd by Kay Hopper

Vote taken: 23 in favor, one abstention, one opposed. *Motion carried.*

2. Candidate Endorsements for Primaries; Legislative Committee and Legislative staff

Tom Abdelnour shared the list of endorsed candidates noting that some candidates surveyed provided additional and supplemental material that can be requested upon demand. The committee considered responses to the VSEA's survey and any incumbent legislative history.

Council Member Tom Abdelnour yielded to Leona Watt, who served on the Legislative Committee.

Member Watt clarified that those regions that were passed over (did not receive a recommended endorsement from the Legislative Committee) did not submit a questionnaire back to the Committee.

Point of Order: Chairperson Crowley stated that the Council is to accept slate as recommended by the Legislative Committee, or not, and any proposed changes to the list from the floor during this meeting need to receive a 2/3 majority.

Parliamentarian Terry Macaig affirmed and added that Council cannot substitute or

delete a name recommended. Council Members may simply vote to eliminate names from the Legislative Committee's recommended list.

Point of Information (Bruce King) – in races with no nominees, will Council be able to add names to list?

Parliamentarian Macaig: The Council may not add at this time, but another opportunity to add or modify will be presented during the general election.

Rose Lucenti moved to accept the slate as presented, 2nd by Kay Hooper.

Bee Hesselbach was recognized by the Chairperson and spoke in favor of the Motion. Bee is a member of the Legislative Committee and provided a point of information that this is only an endorsement in the primary election which does not necessarily mean a recommendation of endorsement by VSEA in the general election. Also, the Legislative Committee only considered contested elections and held no discussion of recommendation to endorse candidates of uncontested elections.

Point of Information (Bruce King): Were the Legislative Committee's recommendations completed before or after death of Senator Sears of Bennington?

Leona Watt – After, other candidates in seat not considered.

Tom Abdelnour – His district did not constitute a contested primary.

Point of Information (Trish Bennett): There are not more endorsed candidates on the recommendation list for each party than there are seats? Council Member Tom Abdelnour responded no, citing Orleans County.

After hearing no objections to ending discussion of the motion to accept the Legislative Committee's recommendation for legislative candidate endorsements, Chairperson Crowley held vote of Motion.

Vote taken: 28 in favor (27 hands and one vocal), two nays (one hand and one vocal).
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36.