

Minutes of the AFT 6157R Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2022

The fall 2022 Membership Meeting of AFT 6157R was held on **Thursday, November 10, 2022** at the home of Vice President Walter Soellner.

Meeting called to order about 2pm by President Paul Fong.

Present: (in person) Paul Fong, Walter Soellner, Ron Levesque, Kathy Jasper, Sami Ibrahim, Ron Fischer, Linda Roy and (via Zoom) Susan Yuen (Zoom facilitator) , Phil Crawford, Patrick Butler, Leslie Rice, Gordon Peterson.

President's Report: After introducing those in attendance, Paul explained how the Retiree Chapter was very busy working to elect labor-friendly candidates. Paul oversaw eight phone banks for South Bay Labor Council and Ron walked precincts on three Saturdays. Tony Alexander at this point looks to win his race for trustee on the SJECCD Board; newcomer Buu Thai is in a tight race against incumbent Maria Fuentes.

Paul called for annual dues to be paid by members. He also announced that AFT 6157 is having a plaque made in honor of the 15th anniversary of our retiree chapter. The plaque will be displayed in the AFT 6157 office.

Financial report: Treasurer Ron Levesque handed out and shared via Zoom the account details covering the period of April 1 to October 31, 2022. He pointed out that this report will be posted at the website as well. He explained that all of our income is derived from voluntary membership dues. To date 32 payments have been received, some via checks for \$50 for full timers and \$20 for part timers or via PayPal. On average, in recent years about 50 members pay up totaling \$2500, which is about our break-even point for annual expenses. Key expenses since April include \$5000 for legal fees to a lawyer to research the bylaws of the Retiree Board of Authority, and a donation for the Community Foundation event to honor Percy Carr, and invoice payment to Yuen Design for our online support and newsletter production. Total funds as of October 31, 2022 in our bank account and Fidelity: \$39,893.51.

Ron also oversees Membership. He announced the deaths of Paul Preising and Joseph Zirker.

Ron discussed recruiting new retirees and the challenge of finding new members. With the help of AFT 6157 Executive Director Phil Hu and office manager Jory Segal, he secured the names and contact information of twenty recent retirees. Then he contacted each to inform them about the retiree chapter and how they can join. There were five responses: two full timers and two adjunct teachers joined, while one other only wanted to be on our database email list. Ron said that for the chapter to grow, the chapter board has to actively organize to identify and even celebrate recent retirees each year and seek their involvement in the retiree chapter.

State of the District and AFT 6157

[Executive Director Phil Hu was unable to attend, but he submitted this report for Paul Fong to read aloud.]

AFT 6157 regrets not being able to join you all at this retiree chapter meeting. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we had to move up our usual meeting day by a week so as to not clash with other district meetings that will also be moved up a week.

Our union has been doing quite a bit in the past three to four months. First, our annual member picnic has returned! We are so thrilled to hold this event again after a 5-year dormancy. Paul Fong, Ron Levesque, Walt Soellner, and several other retirees attended! David Yancey even made a trip down from WA for our picnic!

We've also made a concerted effort to work regionally to build union and faculty power in the south bay. We have partnered with our sister unions at West Valley-Mission and San Mateo CCD to both bring general community attention to the inequity of part time faculty health coverage as well as to pressure our district administrators to negotiate with us over the new part time health care criteria based on the recent passage of new legislation to provide part time faculty quality, affordable health care.

At our joint rally on Thursday 10/27 at Mission College, we drew local media coverage. Speakers included State Senator Dave Cortese, Assemblymember Alex Lee, our current trustee Tony Alexander, CFT president Jeff Freitas, our own Paul Fong, and numerous part time and full time faculty from all three districts.

Lastly, we have been very active in our Board of Trustee races. In support of Tony Alexander (Area 3) and Buu Thai (Area 4), we had member volunteers knocking on voter doors for 9 weekends in a row! The core group started out small but as the campaign rolled on, our volunteer walkers grew in numbers. Very recently, we had 13 volunteers turn out for a Saturday morning precinct walking session! We would also like to thank Ron Levesque, who as a retiree, joined us for three Saturdays!

AFT 6157R Action Item Approved in Closed Session

[Before Patrick was about to speak, the board of AFT 6157R reported out an action approved prior to this meeting in private session. The AFT 6157R Board voted unanimously (3-0) to release to the RBOA Board the full letter from the lawyer John Collins. The AFT 6157R Board hired him to review the by-laws of the RBOA to verify that the nine members can discuss the benefits of district employees, teachers and classified staff, and can make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for actions.]

Report of Retiree Board of Authority (RBOA) by Patrick Butler

Patrick explained that RBOA has nine members, three AFT members, three CSCA staff members, and three set managers. Several nonvoting fund managers oversee the meetings. At its April 21, 2022 meeting, Patrick explained the history of medical benefits in our district. In 1982 RBOA was established to administer bonds sold from an irrevocable trust that would provide an augmentation to Social Security(Medicare) for retirees hired before 1982. Prior to 1982, teachers and staff had full medical benefits for life. But actuarial studies showed that this

was a tremendous cost. In 2008 this fund was set up which sold 40 million dollars in bonds. Timing was good and managers have been very successful. Today we are halfway to paying off the holders of the bond and have paid off the supplement for people covered, and paid off consultants who work for the trust. The trust now holds the original \$40 million plus \$11.5 million. This has been a great investment. At the April meeting, Patrick moved RBOA hold a special session on July 18 to discuss the status of medical benefits and this was approved unanimously. Following this meeting, there was some confusion in the minutes about the agenda for the July meeting and whether RBOA could even discuss retiree medical benefits, about which the bond managers continued to express doubt. At the July 18 meeting, the AFT team revealed it had hired a lawyer to review and give an opinion on the RBOA bylaws. Excerpts of that legal opinion were only read aloud to be less confrontational. The lawyer interpreted the bylaws as allowing discussion with the goal of making recommendations to the Board of Trustees, who alone can take action. Patrick made a motion that at the regular meeting of RBOA on October 20, an action item be voted on to send a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The motion passed unanimously. At the October 20 meeting, Patrick made a motion to recommend to the Board of Trustees that the current monthly Medicare premium of \$170.10 be paid as a medical benefit to the retirees in this group. In 1982, the cost was \$11 a month, but with the increase since, retirees have had to pay the difference. The motion was approved, 5 ayes, 2 noes, and 2 abstentions. The next step is for RBOA to get this recommendation to the agenda of the January Board of Trustee meeting as a discussion item.

Patrick was thanked for his great work.

Election of AFT 6157R Officers

The positions of Secretary and President are open. Terms are for two years, 2023-2024.

Kathy Jasper was nominated for secretary. After some discussion, 8 of those present voted for her with 1 abstention, and Kathy was elected to her first term.

Paul Fong agreed to serve a second two-year term as President. He was unanimously voted in 9-0.

Open discussion followed but the recording of the conversation in the room was largely garbled because speakers were too far from the microphone.

The meeting adjourned at around 3:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Ron Levesque on March 18, 2023