TFESP 461 General Membership meeting via Zoom

4-25-2022

Called to order by President Kathy Unruh at 5:31.

Motion was made, seconded and minutes from previous meeting were accepted.

**Finance:** (Laura) Conference expenses will be finalized and be on next months report.

**Membership:** (Lisa, Elizabeth Holland absent) Still working on getting new hire orientations to be held at a more convenient time. Working on planning meet and greet at buildings. According to Connect, 451 current members, and 220 “potential” (this number includes substitutes)

**Union Organizing Rep:** (Gissel) A survey is coming out in order to find out what people need in order for them to feel as essential as they are… suggestions of daycares, break rooms with food, etc. This survey is only three questions. Would like it filled out this week. Survey can be accessed at [www.leadernet.aft.org/webform/classified-workers-survey-2022](http://www.leadernet.aft.org/webform/classified-workers-survey-2022)

**Legislation Report:** (Anna Marie) working on student loan forgiveness as many people are having to take student loans into retirement. PSLF – Public Student Loan Forgiveness offers loans for public servants to be forgiven after ten years. Trainings will be coming up and this program will be easier to use.

AFT members have access to the Summer project which simplifies student loan debt and helps members figure out the best option for them. Information at: [www.aft.org/benefits/summer](http://www.aft.org/benefits/summer)

A 5.5% COLA has been passed which means we will see an 8.5% pay increase this fall.

**Committee for Political Education (COPE):** (Gillian) talking to legislators, nudging them for things we need. We will endorse those who are pro union and pro education. Surveys go out to potential legislators to determine if we should endorse them.

**Information:** (Kathy) We are going to have a family event for members and their families, a night at the Rainiers baseball game. June 10th. There will be online ticket purchasing. $5 per person for a seat and meal, $10 per person for seat, meal and Tacoma Rainiers hat. Fireworks will be after the game. Suggestions to wear blue shirts. This is for members only, but there will be a table with sign ups available.

**Nominations:** (Jana) Open positions are for first vice president, 2nd vice president, building rep coordinators B&C, Secretary and Communications. Duties for each position can be found in the by-laws posted on the 461tacoma website. These positions are for a two year term.

Communications – no nominations

Building Reps B & C – no nominations (Lisa Wolf states not interested in running again)

Secretary – Betty nominated Liz Walle. Liz says she will get back to us.

2nd Vice President – Betty nominated Anitra Wise. Anitra accepted the nomination.

1st Vice President – Gillian Reese (currently in position) nominates herself for intention to run again. Betty Lewis nominates Kari Madden. Kari accepts nomination.

Motion is made, seconded and approved to temporarily suspend the by-laws until May 9th only in order to get more nominations. Email 461communications@gmail.com by May 9th with contact information to nominate someone.

May 23rd monthly membership meeting will be held in person at 5:30 PM and will include elections.

**Other:** question asked about reclassification in order to have sped paras paid higher than previously named PA2 & 3. It is explained that reclassification would mean that we have to prove special ed paras job duties have changed from previously in order to grant a change in pay step. Duties have not changed, rather the reason being that historically special ed paras have been paid higher, so it was determined that the more appropriate action is to wait until the fall and open just the pay portion of the CBA. The timing of the fall allows it to be in a new budget as well as give time to plan and prepare.

We would like a representative from each job classification for future communications on needs.

Nothing else, for the good of the order.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36.

Minutes by secretary Kari Madden