Professional Association General Membership Meeting

April 24th, 2017 Meeting Minutes

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| **Item** | **Discussion** | **Action/Decision** |
| **Call to Order and Approve Agenda** | Meeting was called to order by President Norma Chrisman at 4:34pm |  |
| **Approve of Minutes** | Minutes of the January 13, 2017 General Meeting were displayed and discussed.  Corrections: Get rid of “an” under negotiation team update  Motion to Accept made by: Colleen Bolton  2nd by : Richard Thomas | **Minutes Approved** |
| **2017-2018 MVCC Professional Association Budget** | Income and expenses that are expected for 2017-18 were shared with the general membership with explanation as to what they are including but not limited to: PA member dues and Agency Fees, NYSUT Reimbursements, Interest Earned, Panorama Reimbursements, LAP Proceeds & Fund Balance.  An explanation as to where the PA spends money was also explained to the membership, including but not limited to: NYSUT and AFT Dues, Executive Board, Negotiations Expenses, Internal Communications, Education & Training, Research & Records, Community Outreach, Grievance, Member Services, New Member Services, and LAP Expenses.  A question was raised about the amount of money allocated for the Executive Board and the Grievance committee and what the money is specifically used for.  A discussion was had concerning dues for the 2017-2018. President Chrisman explained that NYSUT and AFT increased their dues for a total increase of $13.00 for 2017-2018. There has been a proposal to raise the local dues (PA) $.50 which would bring the dues from $34.55 to $35.05.  Dick Thomas brought up the idea of doing a graduated membership fee to increase the participation of the younger members. This was an idea that was brought up last year or the year before, but not discussed with the Executive Board. President Chrisman made note of this for this idea to be discussed. |  |
| **2017 PA Election Ballot** | The 2017-2018 PA Election Ballot was shared with the General Membership. The ballot will be mailed to home mailing addresses by 2nd Vice President Jim Roberts which should arrive by the weekend. Members can return their ballots to the ballot box in the Library on both the Utica and Rome Campuses starting Monday May 1st until Friday May 5th. After the election period is over, the ballots will be counted and those who won their position(s) will be notified after the next Executive Board meeting on May 18th followed by an email to the General Membership.  Motion to accept the Election Ballot as presented made by Dick Thomas  2nd by Kelly McNamara | **Motion passed** |
| **Negotiation Team Update** | Aaron Fried, co-chair of the Negotiations Team discussed impasse and mediation meetings. A legal opinion from NYSUT was received concerning the Fair Standards Labor Act (FSLA) which supported our position. However, the College does not accept that legal opinion and has reached out to an independent 3rd law firm for their legal opinion. A legal opinion is not a legal decision, but rather a review of case law for similar cases and decisions. The Negotiation Team and the College will meet again with a mediator on May 19th, at which that time the college is supposed to have obtained their own legal opinion.  Aaron asked that PA members help to spread the word to work on a strategy to ramp up support for the PA over the course of negotiations. Look for an email from the Negotiation Team Co-Chairs Aaron Fried or Alison Doughtie, regarding the ways to subtly start showing our presence on campus. Jim Roberts added that there will be an email asking members to wear blue (PA shirt or any other blue shirt) for solidarity. If you are in need of a shirt, contact Aaron Fried or Patti Antanavige for a PA shirt. It was noted that there are many 12 month PA members that are here over the summer who can wear PA blue and that we should not be waiting for faculty to return to show the presence of the PA on campus. |  |
| **Constitutional Convention** | President Chrisman went over the specifics of what a constitutional convention is, and what could happen if one should take place in New York. Members are strongly encouraged to vote “No” to Constitutional Convention referendum on November 7th and help to spread the word. |  |
| **Motion to Adjourn** | Motion to adjourn made by Carlos Pulquerio  2nd by Kelly McNamara  Meeting was adjourned at by President Norma Chrisman at 5:23pm. |  |