

Regional Council Meeting

September 21, 2017

Hector's Laconia

Attendance: Andrea Caruso, Brenda Walker, Caitlin Rollo Cherri Drake, Chris Long, Dawn-Joyce Daigneau, Diane Decker-Booty, Elaine Fabian, Jessica Scudder, Joan Cross, Karen McLoud, Kathleen Smith, Katie Bryant, Kim O'Neil, Laronda Clark-Patten, Mandi Stefanik, Mary Vishton, Meg Bedford, Megan Littlefield, Nancy Trowsdale, Pat Piscetta, Paula Young, Terry Burlingame, Tracy Schultz, Vicky Sweezy, Vivian O'Brien, Candace Lilyquist

- I. Introduction of New Officers: Kim O'Neil introduced herself and Vivian O'Brien as being the newly elected Co-Presidents of the Lakes Region Council as well as Dawn Lovell, Secretary. Kim also introduced Chris Long who is our UniServ Director for the Lakes Region and recognized Ally Snyder as our UniServ Assistant.
- II. Review of last Meeting's Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Karen McLoud's name was misspelled and the following sentence needed to be removed "The treasury position will be handled by Ally Snyder at NEA." A motion was made by Vicky Sweezy to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Andrea Caruso and then passed unanimously by the membership.
- III. New Educator Outreach Program: Caitlin Rollo was introduced as a NEA-NH Organizer. She distributed the results of the spring 2017 survey responses of the members throughout the state. The survey also included information about the responses of the Lakes Region membership. These data will be published in the next few months. This survey provides us with information about what our members are interested in. The bar graph clearly shows that classroom conditions, professional development and worker's rights/benefits are the issues of paramount importance to our region. Ms. Rollo is also working with locals to engage new hires through one-on-one conversations to try to get them involved. A folder of materials was provided to help us to recruit new members. The folder includes a brochure about member benefits, a pie chart showing where your dues dollars go (none of it goes to political activities or candidates). Ms. Rollo also talked about a \$ 3000 grant which is part of a new educator campaign. There is \$ 250 left available for our region.
- IV. UniServ Director Update:
 - a. Chris Long reported that 19 contracts were being negotiated last year out of 28 bargaining units. 17 out of 19 contracts were settled and passed. Prospect Mountain ran out of time, settled the 3rd week of August and will have the agreement presented to the community in March 2018 for a vote. Pittsfield had their agreement voted down twice and thus will be without a contract this year. Interlakes Support Staff negotiated a 4 year contract with 5% per year for all 4 years. Some members might get as much as 12 % depending on their step.

Laconia negotiated a 5 year contract with a revised wage schedule as well as a commitment of \$ 850,000 of new money from the city.

- b. Budget 2017-2018-was reported to be \$ 4000.00.
- c. Extra funding for some regional councils comes from charging its locals an extra dollar per member.

V. Sharing Back to School/Membership Drive Ideas

- a. Karen McCloud talked about the NEA-NH tent which is available for events that promote your local/school. She has found the tent to provide very positive advertising for her local union. The tent has been requested by another local for Halloween as a distribution point for candy and also for Pumpkin Festival. If you would like to schedule the tent, please contact Chris Long and he will deliver it to you.
- b. Kim O'Neil shared that her union gave new members a \$ 25 gift card for joining.
- c. Prospect Mountain uses banners as a way to advertise their local. (Staples offers customized banners at reasonable prices).
- d. Candace Lilyquist from NEA talked about the "Listening Tour" (or Blitz) which is a way to organize in order to have high quality conversations with your colleagues. NEA will train schools that are interested in using this technique to hear what their members and non-members care about. There is a "blitz" planned for Laconia. Training usually happens on a Sunday and then the event occurs over 4 days. Conversations last between 2 and 15 minutes and are a means to find common ground. Permission must be granted by the school administration to allow these events to happen in school. If permission is not granted, then these conversations might take place member homes. The "blitz" approach might also be used to find out what the membership wants for bargaining or to work to repeal a tax cap. Once a school/district has received this training, it would be expected that the union would be self sustaining for numerous years.

VI. Communications: Members shared how they keep in touch with their local. Some of the ideas included meet and greet, facetime, regular meetings and email. One local shared that they have 15 minute meetings followed by a 45 minute meeting which would focus on a different special topic every month such as their health care benefits.

VII. Raffle: A motion was made by Pat Piscetta to use part of our Lakes Region Council budget to fund a raffle at every meeting. The motion was seconded by Diane Decker-Booty and then passed unanimously by the membership.

VIII. Round Table Discussion:

- a. Financial Support-There was a discussion around how we might provide financial support for a member that is struggling to pay their dues. This issue might be better addressed at the delegate assembly. Some felt this might be better done at

the local level by setting up a “Sunshine fund”. Monies from the Lakes Region Council are sometimes used to send people to the delegate assembly or to a conference.

- b. Megan Tuttle was endorsed by Karen McLoud as NEA-NH President.
- c. Possible restaurant suggestions include Green Ginger and the Ellacoya Grill.

Next Meeting: Fugaky October 19

November Meeting: Harts

Respectfully submitted by Vivian O’Brien