

MINUTES
APEA/AFT SUPERVISORY UNIT
ANNUAL MEETING
June 29, 2016
NOON

John White welcomed all attendees and asked them please sign-in at each office or send an email attendance confirmation. He asked that everyone please include their personal email address. He announced that there was an aggressive agenda of topics to be discussed.

I. Approval of the Agenda

Tina Cochran motioned to approve the Agenda and Debi Kruse seconded. None opposed.

II. Approval of Minutes

Tina Cochran motioned to approve the Minutes of the last annual meeting and Debi Kruse seconded. None opposed.

III. President & Secretary/Treasurer's Report

John White summarized the busy year. Business leave accounts are good. The catastrophic leave bank has between 80,000 and 90,000 hours. Membership is staying stable at around 2200 members. Last year's membership was at 2300 members. Layoffs and retirements are reducing the numbers. We are in the midst of ongoing negotiations with the state. Just went through a couple of days of mediation. Cannot discuss details at this point. Hoping for an agreement in the next month. The budget and bank account are in good shape for going into the next year. The financials came in slightly under budget. The audit went well.

IV. Chapter Reports

Northern Region: Mike Lund thanked folks for coordinating and meeting at various conference rooms in the area. Tracy Dompeling has taken over as Secretary/Treasurer. Meetings are being held more regularly. If you are in the Northern region and interested in getting involved please contact Mike Lund. The Road Cleanup had a great turn out of "one" – Walter Evans. There are many great opportunities to participate.

South Central Region: Toni Bocci said attendance and interest in the meetings has increased. There has been an increase in agency fee payers becoming full members. A donation was made for a paralyzed sixteen year old to receive a service dog.

Southeast Region: Pete Ford reported that Southeast region has been busy. There has been an influx of new SU members transferring in from other areas. Staff has been busy with disciplinary actions and layoffs. Joel Hill has been assigned to be the point person for the layoffs in the Southeast area.

V. Old Business None.

VI. New Business

Secretary/Treasurer Election Results: Kelly McDonald was elected.

Proposed Operating Budget: John White explained there were not any significant changes to the budget other than normal fluctuations due to it being a caucus year and an election year. It was emphasized that the budget is not public information and should not be shared with anyone outside of the membership. *Tina Cochran motioned to approve the budget and Debi Kruse seconded. The Budget passed.*

Scholarship Program: John White announced that the Scholarship Program will continue with \$1,000 scholarships for 20 College Freshman who are children of active SU members. This is a popular program with 40 to 50 applications per year.

Negotiations:

State elections: We have the opportunity to change the state legislature. We have to get our members out there to vote. A number of the less friendly incumbents up for vote. It is critical that we be actively involved in the election process.

APEA Caucus: APEA Caucus will be held October 20-23, 2016.

VII. Committee Reports

Communication: Byron Walther reported that some documents on the website are password protected. That password is *****. If you are interested in being involved on this committee please let Byron know. He is enthusiastically hoping to hear from volunteers.

Health/Training: Dennis Geary reported that we have \$50,000 of training funds. If you have some thoughts in regards to the annual training, please pass those along to Joel Hill. Health care is in financial trouble due to the rise in the cost of health care and some errors that the State has made. Changes will need to be made to stabilize health care. Most likely those changes will be in benefit levels and/or contribution levels. The state is working on that right now. The state is obligated to establish a retirement plan for Tier IV. A draft plan is now available for review and comment.

John White said the SU membership is at about 2,300 members. He also mentioned that the SU Catastrophic leave bank is doing well and that the membership is fortunate to have it available for serious illness and other catastrophic events.

VIII. Staff Reports

Business Staff Report: Pete Ford reported that APEA is going through a transition. Dennis is retiring Sept 1. We are looking for a replacement for his position. In Fairbanks, Joel Hill and Dez Deraimer were hired in August. In Anchorage, we hired Annie Knight and Gene Christian. In Fairbanks, Jason Roach has been hired and will start soon. Michael Koskie reported that Sandra Toussaint is working on membership out of the Fairbanks office. Dennis Geary reported that SU is moving back to monthly general membership meetings. Our national affiliate, AFT, is celebrating their 100th anniversary and, in conjunction with that, we are reaching out to speak with every member in the next year. Dez is coordinating this project in Juneau, Gene in Anchorage, and Sandra Toussaint is on loan from AFT and working in the Fairbanks area. They are coordinating with Mary Jo Shannon and working on this ambitious task. They are also working on contacting the agency fee payers to encourage them to become full members. It is critical that we increase our member involvement in the legislature to affect positive changes in the workplace. This will ensure that the workplace is as appropriate, safe and as well compensated as it ought to be.

Political Updates: Pete Ford reported that Katherine Pfeiffer is our new internal political organizer in Anchorage. Cindy Spanyers reported that low oil prices and low production levels of oil have created a fiscal budget crisis for the state. The cuts that the governor made has had an impact on just about everyone. As long as the state does not have strong revenues from the oil industry there will be budget cuts and/or measures taken to increase revenue from other sources. This is a critical time for everyone to be involved to protect what is important to the membership. Pete stated that we have a very broad agenda. He strongly encourages everyone that has a particular item - whether it be pension, health insurance or a classification plan, that is dear to them - to call the office so that they can be grouped with others that have an interest in the same program. By organizing and pooling efforts, that group could maximize our impact on the legislative decision making process. There are many things that will need to be done and everyone's involvement will be critical.

IX. Good of the Membership

Question/Answer: John White encourages everyone that is retiring soon to join the RPEA. The RPEA is a very active group and is “watch dogging” the state especially in regards to the retiree health insurance program.

Dennis Geary was thanked for his 38 years of service.

Katherine Pfeiffer stated that we have a real opportunity to have a bi-partisan coalition in the senate and in the house. Now is the time to make a huge difference. Anyone interested in volunteering on a campaign please call Katherine Pfeiffer in the Anchorage office. We are poised for some major upsets.

X. Adjournment

John White thanked everybody for participating in today's meeting. Adjournment was at 1:16 pm.