

SEIU LOCAL 925
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2009
SEIU Local 775, Federal Way

Present: Brave, Breed, Cadwell, Carleton, Collett, Conrad, Cook, Edgerton, Eldridge, Fleck, Gasataya, Gerber, Harris-Davis, Kelly, Kling, Lawson, Layer, Lee, Mayorga, McPeek, Millard, Prado, Rabinashad, Ratty, Small, Sommers, Watkins

Excused: Alston, Lagasse, Lakey, Lenzi, Young

Meeting called to order 10 AM—Kim Cook, President

1. Introductions—Cook

- Two new board members: Larry Sommers (Instrument Tech, UW), Mary Watkins (Patient Services Rep, UW)
- Two board resignations: Donna Horne (FCC, accepted job with state of WA), Lisa Rankin (UW, moving to North Carolina)
- Cook nominated replacement for Horne: Barbara Frost, (Exempt FCC Provider)

M/S/C to approve Frost

- Staff resignation: Gretchen Donart, Communications Organizer (accepted position with IU in WA, DC, and will be doing communications work throughout the country)
- New staff: Dustin Lambro, Political Director (Interim) while Tricia Schroeder is working as Organizer/Rep at UW while Ida Kovacic is in Colorado

2. Minutes (November 2008) –Cook

3.

M/S/C to accept minutes as written

4. Change that Works Update—Dustin Rambro, Political Director, Interim

- Inauguration Day video from IU
 - SEIU goal at federal level is to hold the President and the Congress accountable for issues that SEIU supports:
- ✓ Economic Recovery Program(ERP): focused on infrastructure, health care, education; in general, rebuilding the middle class

Washington State has \$6 billion deficit; Governor cut \$4 billion out of her proposed budget; Hoped for money from Feds (\$1.4 billion) not part of ERP

- ✓ Employee Free Choice Act: the act will be aimed at private sector workers providing them the opportunity to choose to have a union; 1.5 million cards supporting the Act turned in to Congress on 2/5/09; Obama comments on the Act—wages/income flat for last 10 years; part of that is beyond our control; workers have little leverage; unions serve important role in this issue; how Bush handled the Dept. of Labor and the NLRB worked against unions; the basic idea of the act is the way to go; wants to talk with unions and business.
- ✓ Health Care Reform: SEIU supports health care package (people without health insurance can obtain affordable health care coverage; both WA senators and all WA representatives signed on in support.
- ✓ SEIU participating with several coalitions to get these reforms passed
- Report from Local 925 staff deployed to Colorado (Matt Wood, Ida Kovacic, Jim Crowe, Lisa Beaulaurier)
- ✓ Ida: Colorado Springs, CO, quite anti-union; system is to cold call and get someone to agree to have meeting in his/her home (20 calls for 1 contact) and invite about 10 others to the meeting to discuss health care reform; goal—develop a community that can be utilized for events; at house meeting, participants write letter to Colorado's US senators.
- ✓ Jim: first week spent in training on a model that incorporates story telling (i.e., sharing personal stories about need for health care with others), very powerful model; stories sent to the 2 Colorado US senators.
- ✓ Matt: List of people interested in volunteering for health care; have one strong union person who worked for Obama: he provided a list of 200 names of Obama volunteers to contact.
- ✓ Lisa: was at a meeting.

5. Report from Olympia—Adair Dammann, Political Strategist

- Child care center bill passed out of Commerce Committee
- News from Olympia very grim: elimination of programs happening every day,

budget is only subject being discussed; union plays important role to help get the state out of the mess it is in; Governor began cutting services before the election last

November 2008; there is a \$5.7 billion shortfall in her budget; governor chose to close gap with cuts (no revenue increases); suspending Initiative 732 COLAs and suspending Initiative 728 class size; imposing hiring freezes; State employee contracts not referred to Legislature

- What does \$5.7 billion look like?
- SEIU working with others to learn ways to increase revenue including doing research on efficiencies to decrease cost, studying what the public will support as far as maintaining services and what type of tax will it support.

6. Tax Fairness Coalition presentation—Ben Secord

- State spending has remained flat for last 10 years
- WA revenues (sales tax 61%, property tax 30%, and other 9%); average all states (income tax 25%, property tax 30%, and sales tax 30%, other 9%); WA has a “structural deficit”—overreliance on sales tax
- Services/revenue game: by small group, choose up to 6 budget
- Cuts and up to 4 revenue generators; come up with \$4 bil. to balance the budget

7. Massachusetts organizing—Sandi Conrad, FCC Board member

- Organizing FCC ; over 49% cards signed; 800+ signed (80%) by the time she left

8. PSE (SEIU Local 1948) Legislative Conference update—Scott Collett, Bremerton School District Board member

- January 18-19, 2009; Cook, Collett and Tyler Bass attended; 261 members attended; worked on legislative goals, Cook spoke on Change that Works (many postcards signed for Employee free Choice Act;) visited legislators
- PSE votes once more regarding retaining affiliation with SEIU (summer 2009)

9. embRACE Update—Carol Harris-Davis, Vice-President; UW Board member

- Met all 2008 goals; new officers elected (3 co-Chairs and Secretary); committee interested in learning about members of color who would like to be involved with embRACE (committee member will contact)

10. 2009 Local 925 Goals—Cook

- Goals developed with input from Executive Board
- Draft modified to remove reference to the international and the International Executive Board

M/S/C to approve 2009 goals

11. International Executive Board Report—Cook

- Large picture focus: Change to Win, UHC-W, Ethics Committee policy (IU discovered local leaders who were misusing/abusing members' dues, and conducting themselves unethically); IU President Stern position is that every local needs same policy regarding ethics.

12. Ethics Committee Policy—Irene Eldridge, Secretary-Treasurer

- Review results of study of the commission's study
- Local 925 is already complying with many of the recommendations
- IU wants locals to review and vote on accepting the commission's Proposals

M/S/C to adopt the Commission's recommendations when the IU adopts

13. Executive Committee Update (Board Responsibilities)—Conrad

- Review responsibilities/expectations of board members and the recommended changes
- Discussion: change "warning" letter to "reminder" letter; give a few examples of what responsibilities not fulfilling (as opposed to adding to the local's Constitution and Bylaws that a member must fulfill them;) add that the member who comes to the Board may include long term illness and family emergency as reasons for not attending; add to political activities to participate in at least one political activity; add a general statement at the end of policy about the reminder letters.
- Modify the draft from the executive Board to include the above (Eldridge to do and send to Board members)

M/S/C to adopt with above changes

14. Executive Committee Update (Possible bylaws changes)—Harris-Davis

- Changes recommended by Executive Committee (see handout)
- Also need to add to bylaws: membership meeting requirements, trial body for ethics violations
- Executive Committee scheduled to met twice before next board meeting and will bring additional recommendations to the meeting

15. Building update—Chris King, Office Manager

- Building carrying costs (see handout); in January Local 925 loaned \$13,000 to 925 LLC; in February and for rest of 2009 will loan \$16,000 (plus the \$10,000 budgeted) to compensate for the loss of renters due Construction of the space 925 will need.
- New building costs—a total of \$1.265 mil which is \$865,000 more than the \$400,000 already budgeted (see handout); discussion: need to look at used cubicles to get the cost of them down; some seismic and ADA bathroom retrofitting a necessary cost.

M/S/C to add \$865,000 to the new building budget

16. Financial Reports—Eldridge

- November and December 2008
Hold on approval pending correction to bottom line figure
- Due to the Organizing budget not spending its full budgeted amount, Remaining funds need to be carried into the 2009 Organizing budget

M/S/C to approve moving \$236,136.62 to 2009 organizing budget

- January 2009

M/S/C to approve as presented

17. Washington State Investment Board pension fund—Joe Dear, Executive Director, WSIB

- From 2007 to 2008, the WSIB lost \$13 bil. (17.8%); first year this has happened;
- Near term situation is dire
- No reason to make change in investments and every reason to stay with current investments (worst time to sell is when market in dire straits)

Meeting adjourned 4 PM—Cook

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Eldridge
Secretary-Treasurer