UNITE HERE Local 7 General Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 24, 2022

11:00am and 5:00pm (Via Zoom)

President Roxie Herbekian opened both meetings at 11:11am and 5:10pm for the start of the first General Membership Meeting of 2022. Due to the ongoing challenges still being had by this Virus the Union is taking precautionary measures to protect our members by still meeting virtually at this point in time.

President Roxie sent through our website the necessary Documentations for this meeting to our members for their perusal including the minutes from 12/16/21 meeting and financial report.

11:00am

Financial Secretary Krista Strothmann motioned for approval on waiving the reading of the Minutes from December 16, 2021.

Union Organizer Alberta Palmer seconded.

All were in favor.

5:00pm

Recording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned for approval of waving the reading og the December 16, 2021 General Membership Minutes.

Both Members Ruth Gough and Nedra East Miji seconded.

All were in favor.

11:00am

Member Jean Nussbaum motioned for approving the minutes from the General Membership Minutes from December 16, 2021.

Member Tony Copper seconded.

All were in favor.

5:00pm

Recording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned for approval of the Minutes from the General Membership Meeting on December 16, 2021.

Krista Strothmann seconded.

All were in favor.

Financial Secretary Krista Strothmann shared with the members the Financial Reports on the Income, Expenses, and Balance for both December of 2021 and January of 2022. Which reflects the ongoing challenges that Local 7 has due to so many members not working.

One of our responsibilities is to pay back the Pre-Covid Liabilities to our International Union in the amount of $95, 985.22 which will be done in payments of $3,000.00 a month until paid back in full.

The P.P. P. Loans (Paycheck Protection Program) were followed to the letter which resulted in Local 7 not having to repay the PPP loan we received.

11:00am

Recording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned for approval on the Financial Reports from December of 2021 and January of 2022.

Member Tony Copper seconded.

All were in favor.

5:00pm.

Sergeant-at-arms Nnameke Onejeme motioned for approval on the Financial Reports from December of 2021 and January of 2022.

Both Member Nedra East Miji and Member Ruth Gough seconded.

All were in favor.

Staff Director Tracy Lingo shared with our members the ongoing battle with the Merriweather Lakehouse Hotel. The hotel owner David Costello refuses to bring back the workers who were laid off in April 2020 due to the Pandemic. Local 7 was successful in passing a Recall Bill for Hospitality Workers in Howard County in January of 2022. There will be more actions as this campaign to win justice for the hotel workers continues. A number of Organizations, as well as Elected Officials have taken a pledge to not patronize this hotel, as well as our Congressman Mfume.

President Herbekian spoke about the importance of electing politicians who “SUPPORT THE WORKERS” and “GOOD PUBLIC POLICIES.” Examples are laws that increase wages, healthcare coverage, good public services and workers’ rights.

President Roxie presented to the members the four candidates that are running for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General that the Board recently vetted by the executive board. The board is recommending endorsement of Comptroller Peter Franchot for Governor, Council Member Monique Anderson Walker for Lieutenant Governor, Delegate Brooke Liermann for Comptroller, and Congressman Anthony Brown for Attorney General.

Comptroller Peter Franchot who sits on the Board of Public Works has been a friend to our Union on a number of occasions when needing to call upon him, especially when it comes to our BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. His running mate for Lieutenant Governor, Council Member Monique Anderson from Prince George’s County is a great advocate of strengthening the Workforce.

Both Congressman Anthony Brown and Delegate Brooke Liermann are great believers in improving the Standard of Living for workers. They know that union jobs help our state to flourish.

Committee member Andre Eldridge Jr. spoke about his experience doing political work with the Union in 2020. Board member Kim Randall and Vice President Step Bethea also spoke of their experiences doing political work with UNITE HERE.

The four candidates each spoke at the morning and evening meetings.

11:00am

Lead Organizer Alberta Palmer motioned for endorsing these 4 Candidates Peter Franchot, Monique Anderson Walker, Brooke Liermann, and Anthony Brown for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General.

Union Organizer Craig Carter seconded.

All were in favor.

5:00pm

Sergeant-at-arms Nnameke Onejeme motioned for the endorsements of these offices for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General, that the 4 elected officials being, Peter Franchot, Monique Anderson Walker, Brooke Liermann, and Anthony Brown.

Board Member Kim Randall seconded.

All were in favor.

Lead Organizer Alberta Palmer spoke to the members about what we have gone through during the course of the Pandemic, as well as our challenges with employers who are not recalling workers. She stated that we will win by “GOING OFF!”

On Saturday, April 2, 2022, Local 7 will be meeting outside the parking lot of our Headquarters in holding a press conference with Peter Franchot, and Monique Anderson Walker for Governor and Lieutenant-Governor This will kick off the start of our Door Knocking in Baltimore City in support of our endorsed candidates.

President Herbekian informed the members that Local 7 is holding negotiations with nine of our shops (Tracks, BCC, Martins, Sky Chef (nationally), Hyatt, Marriott Waterfront, Camden, Horseshoe and Ocean Downs).

With the Arena closing down, Local 7 is working to negotiate a severance package and working on job placement for the members who need assistance.

The Radisson and the Holiday Inn are shutting down permanently. Local 7 is also negotiating a Severance Package and job placement.

President Herbekian reported that Local 7’s Hospitality Academy is moving forward. Baltimore City has given a 2 year Grant in the amount of $743, 000 to the Mid-Atlantic Scholarship and Training Fund for the development of the Academy in Baltimore

Our Financial Secretary Krista Strothmann has agreed to be the Director of the Baltimore program at the same salary she had with the International Union. President Herbekian explained that she would be an employee of Local 7 and Local 7 will be reimbursed for her salary and benefits by the Mid-Atlantic Scholarship and Training Fund through the Train Up Grant. Her annual income will be $79,000.00 with the normal benefits for full time Local 7 employee. She asked that approval be retroactive to Feb. 2022.

11:00am

Member Gerard Hall motioned for approval of the employment of Krista Strothmann at $79,000.00 and normal Local 7 benefits to be director of the Baltimore Hospitality Academy with such salary and benefits to be reimbursed by the Mid-Atlantic Scholarship and Training Fund as of Feb. 2022

Member Robert Caine seconded.

All were in favor.

5:00pm.

Recording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned for approval of the employment of Krista Strothmann at $79,000.00 and normal Local 7 benefits to be director of the Baltimore Hospitality Academy with such salary and benefits to be reimbursed by the Mid-Atlantic Scholarship and Training Fund as of Feb. 2022.

Both Caesar Lathan and Tracy Days seconded.

All were in favor.

President Roxie Herbekian shared with the members that after 41 years with the Union she is ready to retire, starting in June. She plans to continue to support Local 7 as needed.

She informed members that in accordance with the Local 7 ByLaws when she resigns this will trigger a special election for the office of President.

She reported that she is ending her employment with the International Union. Local 7 has been reimbursing the International Union for her salary and benefits.

Krista Strothmann made a motion that Local 7 pay President Herbekian $700.00 a week with reimbursement for work expenses and no benefits starting in April 2022.

11:00am

Member Karen Selckmann motioned for approval of President Roxie Herbekian being paid a wage of $700.00/week with reimbursement for work expenses and no benefits starting in April 2022.

 Member Novella Gardner seconded.

All were in favor.

5:00pm

Recording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned for approval of President Roxie Herbekian being paid a wage of $700.00/week with reimbursement for work expenses and no benefits starting in April 2022.

Member Robert Caine seconded.

All were in favor.

The final slide reminded members of:

Door Knocking on Saturdays, April 2, 2022, and April 30, 2022.

Leadership Training on Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

Our next General Membership Meeting to be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 in person (depending on COVID19)

11:00am

Recording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned to adjourn the morning meeting.

Board Member Lisa Brown seconded.

All were in favor.

5:00pm

Recording Secretary Betty Schueler motioned to adjourn evening meeting.

Vice-President Step Bethea seconded.

All were in favor.

 Recording Secretary

 Betty Schueler

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