**UNITE HERE Local 7**

**Minutes**

**General Membership Meeting**

**June 24, 2021**

**11am and 5pm**

**Via zoom**

At both meetings, President Herbekian opened the meeting and welcomed all members. She explained that Local 7 has 4 general membership meetings each year, this is the second meeting of the year.

President Herbekian explained that in accordance with the UNIITE HERE Local 7 Bylaws, all of our local union officers and executive board members are elected every 3 years. 2021 is an election year. She introduced the members of the Local 7 2021 Nominations and Election committee.

11am - Mishy Leiblum and Angela Featherstone

5pm - Mishy Leiblum and Amber Miller

At both meetings, the members of the committee described the process and reported that there was only one person nominated for each position. Since there were no contested seats, there was no need for an election. As per the Local 7 bylaws the chair of the committee cast one ballot for the nominated members.

The officers and board members are as follows. They were installed on Saturday, June 19, 2021. Their term will run for three years from June 19th.

* President: Roxie Herbekian
* Vice President: Stephen Bethea
* Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Schueler
* Financial Secretary: Krista Strothmann
* Sargent of Arms: Nnameke Onejeme
* Board member 1: Lisa Brown
* Board member 2: Kimberly Randall
* Board member 3: Deborah Green
* Board member 4: Malique Parker

President Herbekian thanked the members of the 2021 Nominations and Election Committee for their work.

President Herbekian explained that Recording Secretary Betty Schueler had to work today and could not attend the membership meeting. President Herbekian said that the minutes are on the Local website. She asked Financial Secretary Strothmann to present the minutes from the March 18, 2021, general membership meeting.

11:am Financial Secretary Strothmann read the minutes.

Rajeev Bhaskaran (Hyatt) made a motion to approve the minutes.

Caesar Lathan seconded the motion.

Tracy Lingo said that the last name of the member at the Horseshoe Casino listed as Wayne is Moss.

President Herbekian asked for a vote to approve the minutes with that one correction.

All were in favor.

5pm meeting

Mishy Leiblum made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the 3/18/21 meeting.

Alberta Palmer seconded.

All were in favor.

President Herbekian reported that the 11am meeting had approved the minutes with the addition of Wayne Moss’ last name.

Alberta Palmer made a motion to accept the March 18 minutes with the addition of the last name.

Kim Randall seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

At both meetings Financial Secretary Krista Strothmann gave the financial report. She gave members the link to the Local 7 Website where Profit and Loss Statements and Balance Sheets for Jan., Feb., March, April 2021 were posted. She gave a summary of the reports and stated that the leadership of the Union is being very conservative in all of our expenditures because we don’t know how long it will be until all of our members return to work.

11am Marie Allen made a motion to accept the Jan -April 2021 financial reports.

It was seconded by Angela Featherstone.

All voted in favor of the Motion.

5pm Dominique Andrews made a motion to accept the Jan -April 2021 financial reports.

It was seconded by Amber Miller.

All voted in favor of the Motion.

Financial Secretary Strothmann also reported the Local 7 had applied for and received a PPP loan in the amount of $62,896.85. She went over the requirements to have the loan forgiven and said that we are following the guidelines.

President Herbekian went over the status of each of our shops in terms of what is open and closed and the estimated number of our members who are working. We still have a large number of members laid off particularly in the Hotels (chart attached).

She went on to talk about the many problems that our members are still having with receiving Unemployment Benefits. Several members commented on their experience. President Herbekian reported on the Press Conference that Local 7 held to protest Governor Hogan’s announcement that he was going to prevent Maryland residents from accessing the Federal UI programs starting July 3. This cut off the program 2 months early. She reported that Local 7 is exploring if any legal action can be taken.

At the 5pm meeting President Herbekian reported that she had been in a meeting with the Public Justice Center this afternoon and that it appears that we do have a legal avenue to challenge Hogan’s decision.

5pm Alberta Palmer made a motion that Local 7 should advance legal challenge.

Dominique Andrews Seconded

All were in favor of the Motion.

Staff Director Tracy Lingo went over the status of our recall rights in our Union contracts and under the Baltimore City Law that was passed last December. She reported that we are having a serious issue with the Merriweather Lake Hotel (formerly the Sheraton Columbia). The Hotel closed at the beginning of April 2020. Management told the Union that it was going to move forward with the renovations that were already planned for the property. The reopening date has been announced as August 2021. Our members have been meeting and putting together a plan of action. There will be a delegation on July 1, 2021. We will meet at 12:45pm in the Merriweather Hotel parking lot.

Lead Organizer Alberta “Birdie” Palmer reported on the Voting Rights Freedom Ride. Local 7 has two buses leaving on Friday, June 25 that will go to the rallies in Richmond, VA and Washington DC. We have an additional bus that will leave on Saturday, June 26 to go to the DC rally. She went over the importance that we protect voting rights that were fought for 60 years earlier with the 1961 Freedom Rides. There are still seats available or the two-day trip. Anyone who is interested should contact Birdie.

11:00 Alberta Palmer made a motion to spend up to $6,000.00 for busses and expenses for the Voting Rights Freedom Ride to be reimbursed by the International Union.

Caesar Lathan seconded.

All were in favor.

Organizer Craig Carter announced that the next leadership training would be on July 13. He explained that normally the trainings are the first Tuesday of every month. This one is later due to the July 4/5 holiday. He said that the trainings have been very useful for shop stewards and committee members in improving their leadership skills. If members are interested in participating, they should contact their organizer.

11am meeting. President Herbekian reported on the strong voice for workers rights that we have in State Delegate Lorig Charkoudian. She helped push for our Recall Bill for Airport workers. She is launching her re-election campaign. President Herbekian recommend a donation of $500.00.

Dorothy Mortan-Bowser motioned that Local 7 contribute $500 to Charkoudian’s campaign.

Krista Strothmann seconded the motion.

All were in favor of the motion.

President Herbekian announced that the next general membership meeting will be in September.

11am meeting

Krista Strothman made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dorothy Mortan-Bowser seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

5pm meeting

Alberta Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dominique Andrews seconded the motion.

All were in favor

Respectfully Submitted by

Krista Strothmann

Financial Secretary