



New York State
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AFL-CIO**

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OFFICERS:

Kenneth Brynien
President

Arlea Gabe Igoe
Secretary-Treasurer

Patricia Baker
Tom Comanzo
Joe Fox
Vice Presidents

REGIONAL COORDINATORS:

Kevin Hintz
Region 1

Bonnie Wood
Region 2

John Prince
Region 3

Peter Banks
Region 4

Mary Twitchell
Region 5

Kevin Conley
Region 6

Tom Donahue
Region 7

William Wurster
Region 8

Vivian Street
Region 9

Vernetta Chesimard
Region 10

Jemma Marie-Hanson
Region 11

Constance Batts
Region 12

TRUSTEES:

Gail Noble
Adam Sumlin
Olubiyi Sehindeyi

1 NYS Public Employees Federation

2 Executive Board Minutes

3 March 3 & 4, 2011

4 Crowne Plaza, Albany

5

6 President Brynien called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. Members joined in the
7 Pledge of Allegiance. The President asked the members of the Board to remain
8 standing for a moment of silence for those who lost their lives in the Triangle
9 Shirtwaist Factory.

10

11 President Brynien swore in two new Regional Coordinators, Peter Banks and
12 Connie Batts. The President also swore in the following new Executive Board
13 members: Fletcher Barnes, Patricia Biski, Beverly Bowen, Elizabeth Cheese,
14 Andrew Coates, Bill Cruz, Joe Donahue, Frank Flack, Bill Nolan, John Rozell,
15 Lorraine Turturro, Barbara Ulmer, Charles Whitford and Dan Winkler.

16

17 The President asked for any members of the board who are retiring to step
18 forward. Board member James Malloy announced that this would be his last
19 meeting.

20

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

21 President Brynien stated that the recall of a local PEF leader, Stanley Lemel, was
22 being appealed. The President moved to add consideration of the appeal to the
23 agenda. A vote was taken and it passed. President Brynien asked for a motion
24 to amend the agenda and move consideration of the appeal before the Secretary-
25 Treasurer's Report, which would allow travel time for the appellants. An
26 unidentified board member moved to add the item before the Secretary-
27 Treasurer's report. The motion received a second, a vote was taken and the item
28 was moved. President Brynien moved to accept the agenda as amended. The
29 motion was seconded, a vote was taken and it carried.

31

32

1 Agenda as amended

2 1. Call Meeting to Order

3 2. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

4 3. Swear in Newly Elected Board Members

5 4. Retirements

6 5. Approval of the Agenda

7 6. Approval of General Session Minutes

8 7. Approval of Executive Session Minutes

9 8. Recall Appeal

10 *10:00 a.m. on Friday, if Executive Board votes to hear

11 9. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

12 a) Proposed Budget Amendments

13 b) Budget

14 10. President's Report

15 11. Committee Reports

16 a) Political Action

17 b) Convention Committee

18 1) Proposed Agenda for Convention – Niagara Falls 2011

19 2) Requests for Proposals Upcoming Conventions

20 12. Member Items

21 a) Executive Board Accommodations – T. Fahey

22 b) Reimbursement of Division Elections – T. Fahey

23 c) Relationship between PEF and the PEF Benefit Fund – R. Goldstein

24

25 APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL SESSION MINUTES

26 The President asked for any changes to the General Session Minutes. Ron Goldstein stated that

27 on page 4, top of the page, line 4 should say "Delegate Elections Committee." President

28 Brynien agreed to the change. The President moved to accept the minutes as amended. The

29 motion received a second, a vote was taken and it carried.

30

31 APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

32 President Brynien moved to go into Executive Session to approve the minutes. A second was

33 received, a vote was taken and the board went into Executive Session.

34

35 Executive Session concluded and General Session resumed.

36

37

38

1 **RECALL**

2 President Brynien introduced Secretary-Treasurer Arlea Igoe to give a synopsis of the Stanley
3 Lemel recall appeal. The Secretary-Treasurer explained that Mr. Lemel is questioning whether
4 the procedures for recall outlined in the special rules of order were followed. The Secretary-
5 Treasurer noted that copies of the appeal were provided to the board members and asked for
6 questions.

7

8 Ron Goldstein moved to refer the appeal to the Divisions Committee. The Secretary-Treasurer
9 stated it could not be referred to the Divisions Committee, as the special rules of order require
10 the Board to hear a recall. The Secretary-Treasurer ruled the motion out of order. Mr. Goldstein
11 challenged the ruling of the chair. President Brynien stepped in to chair the vote. The President
12 asked the members of the board to vote on whether or not they wanted to sustain the ruling of
13 the chair. A vote was taken and the board sustained the chair. Secretary-Treasurer Igoe moved
14 to hear the appeal, the motion received a second and debate followed. Tom Fahey called the
15 question. A motion was taken to close debate, a second was received and the vote carried. The
16 Secretary-Treasurer moved to hear the recall, a second was received, a vote was taken and it
17 failed. Secretary-Treasurer Igoe stated that by voting not to hear the appeal, her decision was
18 upheld and is final.

19

20 **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

21 Secretary-Treasurer Igoe introduced Scott Ray, Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee to
22 present the budget. Mr. Ray gave a detailed presentation to the Board and stated that for the
23 coming fiscal year, they had to close a 1.2 million dollar gap. Mr. Ray moved that the budget be
24 adopted, it received a second and debate ensued.

25

26 Jim Blake moved to cut the budgets of the Divisions and Standing Committees by ten percent,
27 which would result in approximately \$190,000 to be moved into the contingency fund. The
28 motion received a second. A question was raised as to whether the motion was in violation of
29 Division Policy or the PEF Constitution. After consultation, President Brynien announced that
30 the Constitution gives the Board the authority to make monetary decisions and debate resumed.
31 Ken Dischel moved to amend the motion and have one vote for the Divisions and one for the
32 Standing Committees. The motion received a second and debate ensued on the Divisions
33 portion of the amendment. Joe Greenfield called the question on the Divisions portion, it
34 received a second. A vote was taken to close debate and it carried. A vote was taken on the
35 Divisions amendment and it failed. Mr. Ray asked the Board to consider the amendment
36 regarding Standing Committees and debate ensued. Greg Lazzaro called the question. A vote
37 was taken to close debate and it carried. A vote was taken on the amendment and it failed.
38 Debate resumed on the main motion.

1
2 Ronald Goldstein moved to cut political action contributions by \$25,000 and have that amount
3 moved to the contingency fund. The motion did not receive a second.
4

5 Secretary-Treasurer Igoe moved to adopt the 2011-2012 PEF Budget as presented. A vote was
6 taken and the motion carried.
7

8 The Secretary-Treasurer addressed members of the Board and emphasized the need for PEF
9 leaders to think about how they are spending Division and Regional monies. She stated that
10 everyone needs to look at their PEF budgets as if they were their personal budgets at home. She
11 added that it is the members' money and she is always aware of this when doing budgets, even
12 more so this year.
13

14 The Secretary-Treasurer noted that a request for a \$1million grant has been made to AFT for the
15 fight-back campaign. Secretary-Treasurer Igoe answered several more questions from members
16 of the Board.
17

18 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

19 President Brynien stated that U.S. business had a \$1.2 trillion profit last year, but 80 percent of
20 that profit has gone to the people at the top of the economic ladder. The President added that
21 one in six workers are out of work, making people angry and making public employees the
22 scapegoats. President Brynien stated that across the country, there are states trying to abolish
23 right-to-work laws and weaken or completely abolish the right to collective bargaining. The
24 President added, "This is a crisis that's been coming for a while, and it's now at a head."
25

26 President Brynien introduced Margaret Messer, Director of Mobilization to share her
27 experiences working as a marshall for AFT at the rallies in Madison, Wisconsin. Ms. Messer
28 shared photographs and messages from union members in Wisconsin. After Ms. Messer's
29 presentation, President Brynien announced that a collection would be taken for the Wisconsin
30 AFL-CIO.
31

32 The President stated that labor is responding to the attacks in different ways. President Brynien
33 explained that AFT, NEA and AFSCME have formed a coalition to promote the good things
34 that public employees do. The President added that SEIU is focusing on creating a good jobs
35 effort. President Brynien also discussed SEIU, AFT, NEA and AFSCME working together on a
36 "Retirement Security for All" program, which promotes getting retirement security for those
37 who don't have it, rather than take it away from those that do.
38

1 President Brynien added that PEF is working with New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness and a
2 coalition of community groups to promote the millionaire's tax. The President stated that PEF
3 is also working with NYSUT to coordinate our messages about public employees.

4
5 The President stated that in addition to the coalitions, PEF is participating in rallies, giving
6 testimony and has developed a statewide ad program, which features PEF members from
7 around the state. President Brynien added that PEF is holding its first tele Town Hall meeting,
8 with calls being placed to 50,000 phone numbers. In addition to providing information to the
9 members, the President explained that it is an opportunity to obtain e-mail addresses to expand
10 the database, which will be helpful for planning future events.

11
12 President Brynien stated that he has met with the Governor, with Howard Glaser, Sheldon
13 Silver, Dean Skelos, John Sampson and Brian Kolb. The President said that in each of these
14 discussions, he stated that we would be willing to sit down with anyone and try to reach
15 reasonable agreements and solutions. President Brynien continued that PEF is willing to
16 sacrifice if necessary, but is not willing to be sacrificed and layoffs are unacceptable.

17
18 The President stated that PEF is against the attempt to recalculate sick leave accruals and will
19 fight against it. President Brynien indicated that there may be potential attacks on the Taylor
20 Law and the Triborough Amendment as well as an attempt for a Tier 6 Retirement System.

21
22 The President concluded his address to the Board and announced that a contribution of
23 \$1,951.00 was collected for Wisconsin.

24
25 At this time, the President announced that the Board would recess for lunch.

26
27 Upon returning from the break, President Brynien moved to go into Executive Session. The
28 motion received a second, a vote was taken and the board entered Executive Session.

29
30 Following the conclusion of Executive Session, the President announced that they received
31 notification from GOER regarding leave calculations. President Brynien stated that GOER does
32 not concede that they are obligated to bargain with us, but they believe they are obligated to
33 give appropriate notice, so they will stand down and come back to the issue at a later time.

34
35 The President received a question regarding monies being paid to SEIU and he asked the
36 Secretary-Treasurer to respond. The Secretary-Treasurer stated that SEIU and AFT both raised
37 dues at their Conventions. Secretary-Treasurer Igoe added that SEIU has the new American
38 Dream, plus additional monies for the old American Dream, which we agreed we would not

1 pay. The Secretary-Treasurer stated that she believes the contributions required for these
2 programs are excessive and will request remediation from SEIU.
3

4 President Brynien stated that there were several things the board should take back to their
5 members. The President said, "Tell your members the Governor is demanding 450 million from
6 state employees and if we do not come to a deal or arrangement by April 1, he will initiate the
7 process to lay off 9800 people." President Brynien continued, "We are in talks, but we do not
8 want to see any layoffs and we have an objection to long-term solutions for short-term gain. In
9 addition, anything we do will be done in the context of our fully negotiated collective
10 bargaining agreement."

11
12 The President noted that PEF received a favorable decision regarding the 29 medical titles that
13 were to be changed from competitive to non-competitive. In addition, President Brynien
14 announced that our debt to AFT relating to the case that PEF lost to AFT in 1991 has been paid
15 in full.
16

17 President Brynien announced that he was asked to be the Chair of the Capital District Heart
18 Walk in the fall. The President accepted the position and is encouraging other labor and
19 business leaders to participate and raise money for the American Heart Association.
20

21 The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 3.
22

23 The meeting resumed at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, March 4.
24

25 President Brynien introduced Ryan Delgado, PEF Political Organizer/Lobbyist to give a
26 presentation on pensions.
27

28 After the presentation, President Brynien introduced Janette Clark to show a brief clip from a
29 rally held in Region 9 by the Hudson Valley Labor Federation the previous day.
30

31 At this time, President Brynien introduced Vice President Joe Fox to give the Political Action
32 and Convention reports.
33

34 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

35 *Political Action*

36 Vice President Fox noted that they are planning for Lobby Day and discussion topics have been
37 distributed. The Vice President said that the areas of concern are the job losses expected in

1 SUNY, OMH and possibly Corrections, as well as the merger being discussed between Parole
2 and Corrections.

3

4 *Convention*

5 Vice President Fox explained the proposed changes to the agenda. The Vice President stated
6 that the Dessert/Awards Reception, held in the past on Sunday evening has become very
7 expensive. Vice President Fox stated that moving the Resolutions Committee Meetings to
8 Sunday evening in place of the Dessert/Awards Reception would allow more time for the
9 production and printing of Resolution changes. In addition, it would be a substantial cost
10 savings to PEF.

11

12 The Vice President moved to accept the Convention Agenda. The motion received a second
13 and debate ensued.

14

15 Ron Goldstein moved to schedule the workshops on Monday from 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and
16 Tuesday from 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. In addition, the Caucus meetings would start at 8:00 p.m.
17 on Monday and the Committee meetings would start at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, in order to allow
18 sufficient time for dinner. The motion received a second and debate ensued. Tom Donahue
19 called the question and received a second. A vote was taken and debate was closed. A vote
20 was taken on the substitute motion and it failed.

21

22 Sue Stepp moved to remove the Engineer's Luncheon from the agenda. The motion received a
23 second, a vote was taken and it passed.

24

25 Lyndon Jones noted that the Credentials Report was not included on Wednesday. Vice
26 President Fox stated that it was a typographical error and would be corrected.

27

28 Greg Lazzaro noted that the Pledge of Allegiance was also omitted from the draft agenda. Vice
29 President Fox agreed this would be added to the final version.

30

31 Marie Carmel-Souffrant requested that several PEF Committees would like to incorporate
32 cultural awareness into the Farewell Dance on Tuesday evening. Vice President Fox agreed that
33 it would be done. The Vice President said he would discuss the details with the Convention
34 Committee and follow-up with Jemma Marie-Hanson.

35

36 Vice President Fox moved to accept the agenda as amended. The motion received a second, a
37 vote was taken and it passed.

38

1 The Vice President asked the Board members where they wanted PEF to seek bids for the 2015
2 Convention. After receiving responses from the Board, Vice President Fox stated that we
3 would send bids out to Niagara Falls, Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Lake Placid, Saratoga and
4 Albany. The Vice President agreed to look at the possibility for smaller areas in the state for
5 consideration as well.

6

7 **MEMBER ITEMS**

8 *Executive Board Accommodations*

9 Tom Fahey moved that a sentence be added to the Executive Board housing memo, notifying
10 them that it is possible to share a room with other board members in an effort to reduce costs.
11 The motion received a second. President Brynien asked for the will of the body to add the
12 sentence as requested. The board members agreed to the addition.

13

14 *Reimbursement of Division Elections*

15 Tom Fahey moved, "It shall henceforth be the policy of PEF that if and only if a division of PEF
16 based on a majority vote in the division council voluntarily requests permission to reimburse
17 PEF for the cost of running the division elections, PEF shall, one, send to the division a
18 statement indicating the amount the division election costs PEF and two, accept any payment
19 which the division elects to send. Further, PEF shall inform the division that they are under no
20 obligation to pay anything by adding the disclaimer to the statement indicating the cost.
21 Further, PEF shall at the time of arranging for the division that if and only if the division so
22 chooses, they have the right to request the statement, but that absent such request, no statement
23 of expense will be sent. They shall further clearly indicate that there is no expectation or
24 requirement on the part of PEF that the division shall make such a request." The motion
25 received a second and debate ensued. A vote was taken and the motion failed.

26

27 *Relationship between PEF and the PEF Benefit Fund*

28 Ron Goldstein asked if there were any agreements in writing between PEF and the Benefit
29 Fund. Mr. Goldstein also asked if any PEF staff is paid by the Fund and if PEF receives any
30 money from the Fund. President Brynien asked Vice President Joe Fox, Chair of the PEF
31 Membership Benefits Trustees to respond. The Vice President stated that there is a Trust Fund
32 Agreement between PEF and the Benefit Fund, giving the PEF President the authority to choose
33 the members of the Trustee Board. Vice President Fox continued that PEF charges the Benefit
34 Fund for leased space and leased employees. The Vice President explained that staff who are
35 doing Membership Benefits work are paid by Membership Benefits. In addition, the Vice
36 President added that the Director of the PEF Retirees Office is also paid by the fund, as his role
37 is to promote PEF Membership Benefits and mobilize PEF Retirees.

38

1 Gerard Riconda requested to move the agenda. The motion received a second, a vote was taken
2 and the agenda was moved.

3

4 President Brynien made several announcements at this time.

5

6 Dave Chudy moved to adjourn. The motion received a second, a vote was taken and the
7 meeting adjourned.

8

9

10 Respectfully submitted,

11 Kim Partridge

12 Executive Board/Conference Coordinator

13