

TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY MEETING – February 15, 2006 (12 noon – 1 p.m.)
Meeting Summary

Board Members Present: Eric Mandel, President/Acting Treasurer
Patty Overby, Secretary
Keven Sandquist, Treasurer
Roger Browne, Wastewater Bargaining Chair
John Phillips, Council of Reps. Chair

Election to Fill Vacancy of Vice President

Eric Mandel stated that today's election would be to fill the vacant term of Vice President, left with the election of Roger Browne to Wastewater Bargaining Chair. The two candidates running are Ade Franklin and Susan McDonald-Wright.

Eric thanked the Nominations Committee for presenting the slate of candidates. He also thanked John Phillips for hosting a candidate forum giving TEA members an opportunity to meet the candidates and ask questions.

Patty stated that she had received a request to hold off counting the ballots until ballots could be delivered from the Brightwater office. Eric said that the office has an auditor there and the Council of Rep. cannot leave. Patty said she should be receiving those ballots at 2 p.m. and she would need volunteers to help count.

The following people volunteered to count the ballots: Jeff Suter, Iha Khilfeh, Jo Sullivan and Valerie Garza.

Status of Wastewater Contract Negotiations

Roger Browne reported that the Team has been meeting weekly with King County. TEA has completed its opening proposal and gave the County a revised Memorandum of Agreement on health care. The County has not indicated that they are willing or interested in giving TEA anything for the medical package. The MOA added liability language, access to VEBA. Currently an employee retiring gets 35% of their earned sick leave, which does not carry over for your retirement unless you are in PERS 1. If you go to VEBA, money goes into a separate account, which continues your medical coverage when you retire using King County's system. If you retire earlier than when Medicare kicks in, you can continue your medical and vision until you become Medicare eligible. Another provision added by the Team was if we do not reach agreement, we will continue bargaining and the County agrees TEA has access to Gold status.

Eric added that everyone should have gotten their new ranges and pay which should have been reflected in the last pay check. If Wastewater members have any issues or concerns or find errors, please inform either Roger or Eric.

The retro pay will be received in the next pay period via a separate check.

Despite clear language in the contract, the County is telling TEA that they excluded any members previously classified in class comp from getting their additional step bump the first of July. TEA is preparing a class grievance on this, and is prepared to go to an arbitrator if necessary.

Status of Transit Contract Negotiations

Eric said that Transit participated with Wastewater Bargaining Team in a joint session with the County last week to address the medical question and how those would proceed if TEA and County could not reach agreement. Roger discussed the MOA. TEA members would continue to be covered under current coverage until this is resolved. The Negotiating Team representatives meet with the County tomorrow to find out the County's response to TEA's proposal.

There is disagreement on how the County wants to move forward on wages for Transit TEA members versus what TEA proposes. The County has indicated a willingness to go to mediation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Following are the results of the vote for election of the vacant position of Vice President (this position fills the vacated term from Roger Browne's old position and will be up for a two-year election at the Annual meeting this Fall).

There were 319 ballots distributed and 165 received (1 of which was disqualified). The final vote was:

- 105 Ade Franklin
- 59 Susan McDonald Wright

Patty Overby, TEA Secretary