

HSU BRANCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE YORK CONFERENCE & FUNCTION CENTRE, 99 YORK STREET, SYDNEY ON WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 3.29 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: G Hayes, R Dunn, J Holgate, S O'Riley, C Lee, S Haynes, G Partridge, C Charles, A Wilcock, G Reilly, P Mitchell, J Chester, and P Reid.

CHAIRPERSON: M Sterrey (President)

APOLOGIES: D Neumann, S Davis, S Fraser, W Lloyd, S Joseph, L Burns, L Twyford, L Snow, P Iffland, L Martin, L Lillicrap and L Burns.

Moved S O'Riley/J Chester that the apologies be accepted.

Motion put and carried.

VISITORS: A McDonald, W Boon, D Perry and S Champness.

Moved C Charles/S Joseph that the visitors as listed above be admitted to the meeting.

Motion put and carried.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Nil

MINUTES: Moved S Haynes/A Wilcock that the Branch Council minutes of 25th June 2013 be received and adopted.

Motion put and carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORTS:

Over the past month there has been a lot of activity in relation to the ongoing O'Farrell cuts campaign. I have visited Albury, Bankstown, Prince of Wales and Broken Hill. Throughout these visits there still need to be more works done in relation to the engagement of members and the need for members to seek out information from the Union.

Each Local Health District is under pressure to reduce costs and I am firmly of the view that we will see more attacks upon our membership due to the state Government's focus on front line services.

The Committee will have noted the result of the federal elections and some of commentary in relation to where the Abbott will seek to make savings. An example is being 12,000 public sector jobs. This federal approach combined with the State Government that sees utility in acknowledging 48% of the health workforce in favour of focussing the remaining frontline services.

Clearly the State Government will continue to progress its privatisation and contracting out agenda and it has been particularly noticeable that the negotiations within the Public sector and Ambulance are becoming increasingly difficult.

We are progressing to resolution with respect to Albury Wodonga Health which should culminate its activity on the 26 September. It would appear that an imminent resolution to the ISS dispute will forthcoming which will affectively see 45 positions created at Royal North Shore Hospital.

We are progressing to protected industrial action for the first time with respect to Australian Red Cross. It's interesting to note that this Organisation has now ceased payroll deductions for Union fees.

In terms of membership we have crossed the 30,000 member mark which is 3 months ahead of projection and we are now targeting 30,500 members prior to Christmas. This being said the staff were taken out for lunch as part of recognition of their hard work and as a team building exercise that brought everybody together particularly the 18 new staff that have been engaged over the last 9 months.

The Union is supporting the Alcohol Fuel Violence concerns of the people of Byron Bay area and as such we have written to support their activities and assist in any way we can to ensure that the Community of Byron Bay and our members at Byron Bay Hospital are able to live and work in a safe environment.

On my trip to Broken Hill I was able to meet representative of the Town Employees Union and Barrier Industrial Council. Both groups were keen to have a closer association with Union and the Barrier Industrial Council has requested that we affiliate.

RESOLUTION

Moved G Reilly/S O'Riley that the Secretary's report be received and noted.

Motion put and carried.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:

- The refunds, waivers and new members report was tabled for Committee members' inspection and approval.
- CRM – Assistant Secretary/Treasurer has managed to get a very good outcome with Bruce Daniel going forward he has been able to cut costs significantly.
- The sale of Level 4 at 370 Pitt Street was finalised. The sale of Level 3, 370 Pitt St is progressing at the moment.
- An urgent meeting will be called of Property Review Committee as soon as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer is back. The property at Botany is just sitting there idle. A real estate agent was called in to have a look at the property. Wollongong and Newcastle properties are also not being utilised.
- It was also advised that the media tender had closed a week ago and more information will be provided at the next Council meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved G Partridge/S Haynes that the Assistant Secretary's report be received and noted.

Motion put and carried.

FINANCE REPORT:

As per attached.

RESOLUTION

Moved J Holgate/P Reid the finance report be received and noted.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – FEES REVIEW

Over the last many months the Fees Review Committee has met to determine a recommendation in relation to fee reduction for the membership. The Fee Review Committee has considered a range of different approaches and whilst a tiered approach is of great interest at this time the Union does not have the necessary data from the membership to ensure sound financial decision making. A recommendation from the Audit & Finance Committee is that a fee cut of 50c per week should be applied and this should take effect from the 2nd of December 2013 or the nearest fortnightly cycle. Documents attached.

RESOLUTION

Moved C Charles/R Dunn that the Union Council endorses the reduction of Union fees with a cut of 50c per week to take effect from the 2nd December 2013 or the nearest fortnightly cycle.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – RULES

The Union Secretary has been involved in extensive ongoing discussions regarding the Rules of the Union at the National level and at the time of issuing the business papers, the National Executive is preparing to discuss and potentially endorse a range of Rule changes that will see consistency with respect to Rules across the Union Branches. These Rule changes will ultimately be referred to National Council and is envisaged that Union Council will also be in a position to consider similar changes to ensure consistency.

RESOLUTION

Moved P Reid/C Lee that the Union Council notes the advice with respect to the National Union and the NSW Union.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – INSURANCE BROKERAGE & POLICIES

As per attached.

RESOLUTION

Moved P Mitchell/C Charles that the recommendations of the Audit and Finance Committee and endorsed by the Union Committee be accepted and that Coverforce be selected as the HSU insurance broker going forward. Further, that Coverforce be asked to place the insurance policies with the insurers proposed. Final details of the insurance policies will be negotiated between the HSU and Coverforce.

Motion put and carried.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – LITIGATION

The Secretary has been involved in mediations with the previous employees including Michael Williamson at the direction of the Supreme Court. That mediation process is ongoing and there may be an offer of settlement at some time the short to medium future in relation to some of these matters.

RESOLUTION

Moved S O’Riley/J Chester that the Council of Health Services Union NSW Branch notes that the Deed of Settlement which was expressly subject to Council approval was entered into on 24th September 2013 between Michael Alexander Williamson, Julieanne Williamson, J & M Investments Pty Ltd, Health Services Union NSW being a Deed which also operates as a Deed Poll in favour of others including certain Branches, Superannuation Trustees, and any insurer of the Union Deed and being resolves to approve the Deed to authorise the Secretary to issue a Certificate that the approval has been obtained.

Motion put and carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Secretary advised a Christmas party will be organised at the end of the year. It was proposed that a Christmas party be held with Council and staff to be held at The York Conference & Function Centre. It probably will cost in the vicinity of \$8,000. It is something all the organisations do. This is in recognition of all the hard work that all of the Councillors and staff have done throughout the year.
- It was also proposed that the next Council meeting to be held on Friday 6th December 2013 and the Christmas party on the same evening.
- Secretary advised that a special council teleconference will be held early next week to put a plan to the Council.

There being no other general business the meeting closed at 3.43 p.m.

Chairperson