

SEIU-UHW
Special Meeting of the Executive Board
December 14, 2011
Minutes

Called to Order:

The special meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Regan, after a quorum was established, who welcomed members and summarized the two resolutions. 1) Approve funding for the signature gathering and campaign support for two healthcare ballot initiatives 2) Approve salaries for President and Vice President of SEIU-UHW. He reviewed previous discussions with members regarding the four strategic planks to win the future that were adopted, the need for healthcare workers to occupy a different space, and what we want to accomplish as a union. The Charity Care Act of 2012 increases the amount of charity care California hospitals provide by setting the minimum level of charity care at 5% of patient revenue. The Fair Healthcare Pricing Act of 2012 will prohibit hospitals from charging more than 25% above the actual cost of providing patient care in order to stop hospital overcharging and lower the cost of healthcare. These two initiatives can reposition UHW but we will need to collect 550,000 signatures of registered voters for each initiative to present to the Secretary of State. We have conducted a scientific poll of the California electorate on these proposed initiatives and the results were overwhelming positive. Under the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Board is the governing body that must approve key financial decisions. Our estimate is that it will take \$5.5M to get these initiatives on the ballot. Since we want to change the public discourse, occupy a different public space, and improve the healthcare industry in California, we must make a decision to make the initial investment.

Joe Delgado, St. Bernadine's Hospital, member of the budget committee, presented the resolution on Compensation for the President and Vice President.

The Budget Committee is in the process of reviewing the budget for 2012 that will be presented to the Executive Board for approval at the February 2012 meeting.

Points that were raised during member discussion:

- Does restricting funding to hospitals affect our jobs and bargaining?
- How will members be involved in working on these initiatives?
- What category of our budget will fund these initiatives?
- How are salaries determined for officers?
- The urgency of making such a significant decision

Explanations

- Hospitals that are following the best practices will not be affected by these initiatives and the hospital industry is sitting on \$42 billion – approximately half of the state of California's general fund budget.

SEIU-UHW Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Presented: 2/4/12

Adopted: 2/4/12

Amended: _____

- Members will have many opportunities to work on the initiatives but given the number of signatures that need to be collected, we need the help of a professional firm.
- The \$5.5M will be part of the 20% of the budget dedicated to organizing in compliance with the International. The overall proposed budget has ample funding for additional organizing and a re-run of the Kaiser election.
- The salaries are in-line with what Officers earn in other large SEIU Local Unions and President Regan will no longer be receiving compensation from the International in 2012.
- The urgency was acknowledged and in a large union, with a leadership body that meets quarterly, it is not unusual that a special meeting might be called on certain issues when a board decision is needed.

Triana Silton, Director of Organizational Development, described the process for voting on the resolutions by mail, email, and telefax. Ballots were due December 20, and will be counted by the Election Committee on December 21. Results will be emailed and posted on the SEIU-UHW website.

Both resolutions were moved and seconded.

Resolutions:

- Resolution 10-11 – Transforming Our Union to Win a Better Future adopted by majority vote. *(Passed on December 21, 2011)*
- Resolution 11-11 – Compensation for Full Time SEIU-UHW Officers adopted by majority vote. *(Passed on December 21, 2011)*

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned December 21, 2011.