**PEF Region 8 PAC Meeting Minutes**

**\*Amended\***

**Tuesday, May 17th 2022**

**6:00 PM Hybrid Meeting (In-Person & Zoom)**

**Attendees (Remote):** Mike Kuzia-Carmel, Alfred, Kate Richardson, Maddie Shannon-Roberts, Mario Chiarello, Sheila Ambrose, Kevin Jones, Jim Desso, Lauren DeAngelis, Aseem Kumar, Ron, Sharon De Silva

**Attendees (In-Person):** Danielle Bridger, Prakash Lal, Sheryl Sperry, Jeanette Santos, Catherine DellAngelo, Gustavo Santos, Chris O’Neill, Mickey Dobbin, Myron Getman, Martin Robinson, Tom Kearner, Margaret Ann, **Ray Moroz\* (via amended minutes)**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Danielle Bridger.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Danielle Bridger informed the attendees that the planned guest, NYS assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara had a conflict and would not be able to attend the meeting. Danielle proposed amending the agenda to strike out the agenda item where Mr. Santabarbara was to be a featured guest. Myron Getman made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Margaret Ann seconded the motion. The amended agenda was accepted without objection.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the April 2022 meeting were discussed. Margaret Ann requested that the minutes from the April 2022 meeting be amended to include her as an attendee. Margaret Ann made a motion to accept the amended minutes from the last meeting. Jeanette Santos seconded the motion. The amended minutes from the April 2022 meeting were approved without objection. **\*Mike Kuzia-Carmel amended the April 2022 meeting minutes and sent them to Danielle Bridger.\***

1. REGIONAL COORDINATOR COMMENTS

Please see the other topics for comments from Danielle Bridger.

1. ~~GUEST - ANGELO SANTABARBARA~~
2. CANDIDATE VOTES

The Region 8 PAC voted by voice vote regarding an endorsement in the Democratic Primary for the NYS Assembly District # 111. Mr. Angelo Santabarbara (the incumbent) is running against Justin Chaires in the primary. Mr. Santabarbara has requested an endorsement from the Region 8 PAC, and his office sent over a completed questionnaire earlier today. Chris O’Neill asked how the questionnaire was developed. Martin Robinson indicated that the Statewide PAC developed the questionnaire. Chris O’Neill and Gustavo Santos stated that Mr. Santabarbara has been consistently supportive of PEF. Mickey Dobbin asked if Mr. Santabarbara is running on the Working Families Party ticket as well. This is unknown. Chris O’Neill made motion to provide an endorsement for Mr. Santabarbara and Gustavo Santos seconded. The PEF Region 8 PAC voted on the endorsement of Angelo Santabarbara in the Democratic primary for the NYS Assembly district #111. The results of the vote were as follows:

Aye: 15 (Ron, Jim, Kate, Aseem, Kevin, Mike, Maddie, Algred, Sheila, Sharon, Prakash, Chris, Margaret Ann, Catherine, Gustavo)

Abstain: 2 (Mickey, Myron)

The PEF Region 8 PAC voted to endorse Angelo Santabarbara by a final vote of 15-0 (2 abstentions).

The PEF Region 8 PAC voted by secret ballot on an endorsement in the campaign for NYS Governor. As Region 8 Coordinator, Danielle Bridger abstained from the secret ballot. Catherine DellAngelo asked how many credentialed PAC members were present and eligible to vote. There were 20 credentialed members present (10 members present in-person, and 10 members present via Zoom). Jim Desso asked what the rules are for a quorum. Quorum is defined as 10 credentialed members being present from 5 different divisions. There was a quorum of members for the vote. Tom Kearner assisted with the secret ballot over Zoom. Kelly and Sheryl assisted with collecting and counting the ballots from the members who attended in-person. The three candidates on the ballot were: Kathy Hochul (incumbent), Tom Suozzi, and Lee Zeldin. A member asked if this was an endorsement for the primary or for the general election? Given that the candidates represent both the Democratic and Republican parties, this endorsement would encompass both the primary and general elections for NYS Governor. Additionally, the three candidates were the only ones who responded to the PEF questionnaire.

The secret ballot for an endorsement of one of the NYS Governor candidates was held. The tally was as follows:

In-Person Zoom

7 - Hochul 9 - Hochul

1 - Suozzi 1 - Abstain

1 - Zelden

1 - Abstain

Total

16 - Hochul

2 - Abstain

1 - Suozzi

1 - Zelden

**\*\*Amendment\*\* Chris O'Neill questioned the draft meeting minutes language on the endorsement for the governor's race process and discussion. Chris said that he felt that the endorsement vote discussion/debate was rushed, stifled and inordinately shortened. Several attendees disagreed with Chris' statement and felt that the attendees were able to discuss the endorsement. Herb Hennings added that primary election endorsements are a regular PAC activity, but Herb was not present for the May 2022 endorsement vote. Gustavo Santos stated that he would have liked more details to have been discussed regarding the primary endorsement and how that related to general election endorsement of the same candidate. Chris also questioned the way that the discussion of primary endorsement vote of Abstain meant for the primary endorsement vote. Chris said that Abstaining was discussed after the actual vote and it meant no candidate endorsement for the primary. All attendees agreed that the May 2022 meeting minutes should be edited to reflect that the endorsement vote of Abstain discussion occurred after the endorsement vote. Danielle Bridger and Mike Kuzia-Carmel recommended edits and all attendees agreed to the changes. The minutes from the May 2022 meeting have been revised accordingly.**

1. PAC RULES (CREDENTIALED MEMBERS STATUS)

Danielle asked members to reach out to her with concerns regarding the rules governing credentialed members and attendance requirements. Danielle has formed a rules committee that consists of three members: Jeanette Santos, Martin Robinson, and Margaret Ann. Danielle asked PAC members to submit rule suggestions to the committee. The region 8 PAC is seeking consistency with the statewide PAC and other regions. Jim Desso asked for clarification on the rules that are the basis for review (are they the October 2007 rules)? Correct, the October 2007 rules are the working rules that will be reviewed. How will the committee decide on opposition positions? Danielle stated that the PAC will have to vote on the rules. Myron Getman asked for clarification on the rules committee: is this committee a draft committee? Yes, it is. Chris O’Neill asked what is the total of potential credentialed members in the Region 8 PAC, and the overall Region 8 PAC population? Unknown.

1. COMMITTEE FOR RULES (3 NEW APPOINTEES; 2 actives, 1 retiree)

See above for discussion of the rules committee.

1. PAC PAL DISCUSSION

The NYS legislative session is scheduled to end on Thursday June 2, 2022. The PEF end of session (after-budget) priorities have been posted on the official union website. They are:

1. [Amend “Less is More” (S.9266/A.9500)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/amend-less-is-more-s9266a9500)
2. [Cost/Benefit Analysis Legislation (S.5356/A.8159)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/costbenefit-analysis-legislation-s5356a8159)
3. [Requiring Public Inspectors on Taxpayer Funded Construction Sites (S.7244/A.6664-A)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/requiring-public-inspectors-on-taxpayer-funded-construction-sites-s7244a6664-a)
4. [Sanction for Violation of Mandatory Overtime (S.1997-A/A.286-A)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/sanction-for-violation-of-mandatory-overtime-s1997-aa286-a)
5. [Limiting Emergency Exemptions for Nurse Mandatory Overtime (S.8063/A.8874)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/limiting-emergency-exemptions-for-nurse-mandatory-overtime-s8063a8874)
6. [¾ FAS Disability for Fire Protection Specialists (S.1889-C/A.4084-B)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/fas-disability-for-fire-protection-specialists-s1889-ca4084-b)
7. [Telecommuting (S.159/A.464)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/telecommuting-s159a464)
8. [NYSHIP Contribution Rates (S.4149/A.3357)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/nyship-contribution-rates-s4149a3357)
9. [Salary Protection for Provisional and Temporary Employees (S.8210/A.4080)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/salary-protection-for-provisional-and-temporary-employees-s8210a4080)
10. [Stony Brook Nurses ORP (S.8959/A.4460-A)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/stony-brook-nurses-orp-s8959a4460-a)
11. [Abusive Conduct/Bullying Prevention Training (A. 10367)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/abusive-conductbullying-prevention-training-a10367)
12. [OPWDD Staffing Report (S.9086)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/opwdd-staffing-report-s9086)
13. [COVID-19 Payment Calculations (S.1989/A.1105)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/covid-19-overtime-payment-calculations-s1989a1105)
14. [Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for State Retirees (A.10723)](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/cost-of-living-adjustment-cola-for-state-retirees-a10273)

The group discussed the plan to develop mentorship programs through PAC PALs. Sheila asked what is a PAC PAL? Maddie Shannon-Roberts responded that PAL stands for Political Action Liaison. Members are encouraged to contact Danielle Bridger if they are interested in becoming a PAC PAL.Prakash asked is there is a current list of PAC PALs. Danielle will get the list of current PAC PALs and will provide it on request.

Catherine asked how many PAC PALS are there? There are two PAC PALs assigned to each representative within the region. Mario Chiarello stated that there are eleven assemblypeople without second PAC PALs and three without any PAC PALs. Mario is the PAC PAL for Patricia Fahy and Jim Tedisco. A member noted that the new assembly districts have Breslin and Tedisco in the same district.

1. QUESTIONS

There was some discussion on the ethics memo regarding dual employment and involvement in volunteer/political activities. Myron Getman stated that new positions within NYSDOH are restricted and that he will be raising this issue at the June Labor/Management meeting. Catherine DellAngelo stated that OSC has put out a new memo outlining restrictions on dual employment. Jim Desso stated that ITS requires a disclosure form for all outside activities (including volunteer activities). Kate Richardson also stated that the Justice Center requires full disclosure of outside activities. Sharon De Silva stated that the official form is called a Dual-Employment Disclosure Form, and suggested bringing up this issue at the Labor/Management meeting.

Mickey Dobbin stated that the Latham Starbucks just successfully voted to unionize.

Mario Chiarello discussed the COLA bill and cost estimates prepared by NYS and NYC. NYC costing was nearly 20x higher than NYS ($800 million vs. $47 million) because the NYC actuary assumed that the entire cost would be paid in the first year.

1. ADJOURN

Danielle Bridger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeanette Santos seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.