



Connecticut State Employees' Campaign Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2009
1:34 p.m. ~ 2:30 p.m.

MDC Training Center
Maxim Road
Hartford

Members Present

Joseph Duberek (*Emergency Mgmt & Homeland Security*)
Richard Emonds (*CT Culture & Tourism*)
Kathleen Gensheimer (*Judicial*)
Burt Gold (*State Retiree*)
Peggy Gray, Vice Chair (*Comptroller*)
Marilyn Kaika (*Transportation Dept.*)

Charles Kistler (*State Retiree*)
Tim Newton, Chair (*Correction*)
Claudia Helfgott (*Banking*)
Lt. J. Paul Vance (*Public Safety*)
Ina Wilson (*Education*)

Members Absent

Bryan Gunning (*Environmental Protection*)
Chris Taylor (*Legislative Management*)

Denise Worster (*Labor*)
Peggy Zabawar (*Admin. Services*)

Federation Representatives:

Debra Hutchins (*EarthShare*)
Steve Kirck (*Community Health Charities of NE*)

Ann Pean (*UW Cent. NE CT, rep. CT United Ways*)
Judy Weinstein (*Greater Hartford Arts Council*)

Campaign Staff Present

Jan Gwudz (*Campaign Director*)

Joyce LeBaron (*Campaign Coordinator*)

Meeting Called to Order – Tim Newton

Tim Newton called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

Approval of Previous Meeting Summary – Tim Newton

A motion was made, seconded, and was carried to approve the October 22, 2009 Meeting Summary as presented.

Nominating Committee – Kathleen Gensheimer

Nominations and a unanimous vote was taken to have Timothy Newton and Peggy Gray serve again as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Campaign Update – Jan Gwudz

Jan Gwudz explained that whereas the projected Campaign totals would be a “very tough race to call,” the staff is hopeful for at least \$1.5M. She compared 2008 figures for the first week of December with those of 2007, during the same week. Retiree totals were up from the previous year by \$3,420, and Employee donations were also up by \$50,000. The Campaign can only take what it receives and we can be very appreciative.

The collaborative effort with BJ’s Wholesale Club continues to generate funds with 140 applications gleaning \$700 to date.

Jan reported that accessing the pledge form on line seems to need tweaking based on calls, comments, and staff interaction.

Richard Emonds said that Jan should “Do what you know is best; we trust you.” More conversation ensued with Kathleen Gensheimer and Claudia Helfgott offering to help Jan by acting as liaisons with DOIT.

Subcommittee Report – Claudia Helfgott

Claudia Helfgott chaired two meetings regarding the significance of the portion of the Regulations dealing with the 25% administrative cost and its bearing on whether a charity receives a waiver, how long a charity would be withdrawn from the campaign when exceeding the 25%, and when the organization would be allowed to participate again.

Present policy dictates that if a charity exceeded 25% for a second straight year, it would not be allowed to participate for 5 years. The subcommittee suggests changing that to only 3 years. From the December 11, 2007 subcommittee minutes: Historically, we’ve used the 25% since the CSEC was created by state statute. The committee has always adhered to this percentage in that it reviews each individual charity. There is a potential of losing some agencies due to hard economic times thus the consideration of changing the current policy of 5 years to three years. There is some concern that if the percentage is kept at 25 then some agencies will not be approved for participation.

Steve Kirck stated that he felt the original premise was to consider what the Combined Federal Campaign does, which is to drop all percentage restrictions. He did feel that each charity should be handled on a case by case consideration by the entire Committee, not just a 3-4 person subcommittee. Tim Newton interjected that this could leave the Committee open to liability. Additionally, he said that the Campaign could potentially lose 30 -35 charities which would result in a loss of 6 figures to the Campaign.

Another proposal mentioned would be to limit the percentage to 30%, since the 25% is capricious. Claudia said that the rules should be made to be consistent.

Peggy Gray commented that 25% is historical and that it makes a difference when speaking to employees. She feels it is a matter of integrity and while the CSEC could lose some charities, presenting the Campaign in a consistent manner is of primary concern. Further, the Campaign might collect less in its overall total, but more per charity. She mentioned that the bonus for the Campaign staff should be restructured because she felt that although the campaign goal may not be reached staff is working as hard as before, if not more.

Claudia asked that the Committee consider its purpose: to raise lots of money or to present the employees with a choice that has been checked, is legitimate and correct.

Further discussion revealed that perhaps all charities should be granted a waiver for the 2010 Campaign in view of the economic downturn and that discussion should be on the agenda for discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Federation Comments

Deb Hutchinson commented that she has noted that donors seem to really look at administrative costs.

Steve Kirck was concerned that 990’s do not reflect the true financial standing of an agency because for instance, in-kind donations are not taken into consideration. If a charity receives a lot of goods donated it does not appear on a 990 but does appear on an audit, thus skewing figures. He said he could provide an example but Claudia objected because then the Committee would have to work with two different sets of criteria.

Ann Pean says that the Federal stance is caveat emptor in that it is up to the donor to do the research. She mentioned that smaller charities do not have money for a CPA or a specialist who deals in non profit accounting. She also feels that up to 1/3 of the present charities might go under.

Judy Weinstein said that the CSEC is a top 10% contributor to her federation. Recently, the Mark Twain House and the Hartford Symphony have lost State grants. She works with these organizations and they have stripped their staff to the bones. She wanted to assure the Committee that they are trying but that it will take a couple of years to recover. She asked the Committee to consider what the community would be like without the arts and culture.

Meeting Dates for some 2010 Meetings

The following are the meeting dates for 2010 through June:

January 12
February 9
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8

Other Business

Peggy Gray made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded and approved. A motion to return to the regular board meeting was made at 2:29 p.m.

Adjournment & Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

DATE: ***Tuesday, January 12, 2009***

TIME: ***1:30 p.m.***

PLACE: Judicial Learning Center, 101 East River Drive, 7th Floor – Room 707, East Hartford

(Respectfully submitted by Joyce LeBaron)