

Signed: _____

Date: _____

**CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES' CAMPAIGN
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Office of the State Comptroller, 3rd floor Conference Room F

55 Elm Street, Hartford

1 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Members Present

Cindy Cannata (*OGA/FOI*)

Valerie Clark (*OPM*)

Kathleen Gensheimer (*Judicial*)

Peggy Gray, *VICE CHAIR (Comptroller)*

Charles Kistler (*State Retiree*)

Kristen Miller (*Legislative Mgmt.*)

Tim Newton *CHAIR (Correction)*

Ina Wilson (*Education*)

Members Excused

Jason Crisco (*DAS*)

Joseph Duberek (*DESPP*)

Jacqueline Henry-Rafiq (*DOT*)

Sheila Hummel (*DECD*)

Patrick Kilby (*CHRO*)

Federation Representative

Ann Pean (*UW*)

Campaign Staff

Jan Gwudz (*Director*)

Joyce LeBaron (*Coordinator*)

Guests

Jacqueline Kozin, (*Comptroller's Office*)

John Rasimas (*Auditors*)

Meeting Called to Order --- Meeting Summary --- Tim Newton

Chair Tim Newton called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. The Minutes from the previous meeting of March 15, 2016 were approved, and were unanimously accepted.

Application Review --- Tim Newton

Based on the review summary, the Committee voted to accept the application overview as presented with the following additions: Independent Charities of America charities: **Catholics United For Life** is denied because the non-discrimination policy that was submitted is a slightly altered version of the CSEC's policy. The statement "The organization follows the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church in regard to sexual conduct outside of traditional marriage," was added to their signed policy. The other charity, **Half of the Sky**, is denied because their IRS 990 shows a board member is compensated. A motion was put forth and unanimously accepted in regard to the 2016 Application Review.

Proposed Tennis Tournament---John Rasimas

John summarized how the idea for a tournament, formulated just a few months ago, quickly became a reality after one committee member was able to secure a location for one of two weekend dates available in September. John explained that the core committee has been sharing updates via email since their first introductory meeting. The confirmed location is the Yale University tennis courts in New Haven, with the final championship played on center court where the CT Open is held in August. The weekend dates being considered are Sept. 10-11 and Sept. 24-25. John said that the committee is leaning towards the later date as the courts are being resurfaced following the CT Open and he is concerned that the project will not be completed by Sept. 10.

Registration for the tournament would be \$20 or \$25 per person and would preferably be handled through a website. Several options to find the best website will be explored. John is hoping to get many participants and spectators to attend the championship match on Sunday by having various activities, including music, food and possibly a children's tennis clinic. A motion was made and unanimously approved to support the idea of the tennis tournament in New Haven this September.

Campaign Update --- Jan Gwudz

The annual Recognition Luncheon was held on May 5, 2016. Jan said that she felt the recognition was the best event held so far. She thanked those committee members who volunteered to help make the event a success.

A discussion ensued regarding the appointment of the 2016 Statewide Campaign Chair. Peggy Gray suggested Secretary of the State Denise Merrill since she is a great "cheerleader" for the campaign. Committee members felt that Ms. Merrill is a good choice. Peggy agreed to contact her and ask for her support as the honorary statewide campaign chair.

The date for the annual kick-off is set for August 18th at the State Capitol. The theme centered on food. Since it would not be possible to park food trucks in the Capitol building parking lot it was suggested that the vendors who are on Elm St. every week day be asked to give a portion of their food sales on the 18th to the CSEC. The vendors could offer their regular menu, a special food item or a tasting. If this idea does not materialize it was suggested that hot dogs be grilled, and given out for free, or sold for \$1. A recommendation was made to invite Gengras motorcycles back for the event. Volunteers will be recruited to help out that day.

The BJ's promotion is not doing as well as it has in the past. The price has changed as has the number of months added onto a renewal or given to a new membership.

Jan said that a representative from the CT Tigers in Norwich has contacted her about selecting a game date for a fundraiser. The tickets are \$8 and the CSEC would receive \$4 from each one sold. Fireworks are set off following every Friday night game. Committee members told Jan to move forward on selecting a date and promoting it. Jan would also look into whether or not the Hartford Yard Goats have a similar fundraising program.

Federation Comments---Tim Newton

Ann Pean expressed her thanks to everyone for their continued support. She said that she knows that this year will be a tough one and she offered her assistance on working collaboratively in support of this year's campaign.

Other Comments---Tim Newton

Jacqueline Kozin explained that some legislative changes have been made to the campaign's regulations. She says they will not become law until signed by the Governor. She also said that an audit of Community Health Charities is being done now as one has not been done in the last ten years. She said that one of two auditing firms registered with the state was chosen to conduct the audit.

Meeting Adjournment — Tim

A motion was presented, seconded and accepted to end the meeting 2:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 13th

(Respectfully submitted by Jan Gwudz)