

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Labor Relations Committee

DATE: September 9, 2009

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: Legislative Conference Room, 6th Floor

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Honorable Philip C. Terpening (Chair), Honorable Wayne Harris (Deputy Chair), Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson, Legislators Roy Hochberg, Richard Gerentine, and James Maloney

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators Decker and Stoeckeler

OTHERS ATTENDING: Jen Fuentes (HVALF)
Joe Libonati (LIUNA 17)
Matt Stoddard, BSOIW 417
Susan DelGiorno, HVALF
John O'Connor, NYSNA
Debbie Barton, Nurse, Kingston Hospital

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman Terpening at 4:09 PM

2. Previous Minutes

Legislator Harris motioned, seconded by Matt Stoddard to Minutes from minutes from previous meeting. Copies available.

3. Housing Consortium

-Labor Representative needed for Housing Consortium, which addresses the crisis of the lack of affordable housing in Ulster County

-Meets in Kingston every 3rd Thursday of the month from 8:00-10:00am

-Representative needed by end of September (by next Labor Committee meeting)

4. Whistleblower Resolution

-There have been alterations to the resolution as it has been looked over by different committees and the Democratic caucus. Current status of resolution is not yet known.

-Jen Fuentes suggested looking to Westchester County as a model.

5. Home Improvement Contract Licensing

- Resolution still out to County Attorney, have heard no response
- Consensus is that the current resolution may lead to misinterpretation and that most contractors would be in favor of county-wide licensing rather than by town
- Phil Terpening suggests that the resolution move to public hearing by next month

6. Ulster County Community Service Initiative Projects

- Home Depot has offered a \$25 gift card
- Herzog's may be able to provide materials at cost

7. Health Alliance

Guests John O'Connor, NYSNA and Debbie Barton, a Kingston Hospital Nurse, gave the Committee an update on the bargaining process with Health Alliance—negotiations are slow going

John explained that NYSUT is filing Unfair Labor Practice charges against NISTEL, an employer within the Health Alliance network that employs surgical services nurses at Benedictine

- There have been attacks on nurse leaders at Benedictine connected with union activity; management is really waging an anti-union campaign
- Nurses told that they cannot wear union insignia, yet other pins, etc. are ok
 - Lundquist has told nurses that he is against unions
 - Focus of his fight is still on having union reps on nursing floor
- John acknowledged that a recent contract at Vassar Brothers Hospital allows reps on nursing floor as long as they don't disrupt care
 - Health Alliance is losing nurses to Vassar because of their better pay and working conditions

- Debbie Barton explained that she has not had a raise in 3 years and is overworked
 - 16 hour shifts at Kingston not unusual, nurses are intimidated and scared
- NYSUT is asking for calls to David Lundquist
- Matt Stoddard suggested having both parties in to Committee meeting
 - Jen Fuentes suggested inviting rank and file nurses to meet with Lundquist

6. Next Meeting

October 14, 2009 at 4:09 PM

7. Motion to Adjourn

4:56pm by Legislator Maloney, seconded by Joe Libonati