

# General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 6pm

BCFPE UNION OFFICE

**(MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6PM)**

## WELCOME

Hello and Thank you for taking this time out of your very busy schedules to be here. You are the Union and for us to be successful, all membership must take the same vested interest you have show by being here tonight.

## INTRODUCTIONS

### A. Executive Board Members

President - John Ripley, Executive Vice President – Christopher Morgan,  
Secretary – Donna Neumeister & Treasurer – Kasia Gatchalian

Josh Tormey - Area 1 VP, Ben Little - Area 2 VP, Matt Madairy - Area 3 VP, Angela  
Spencer - Area 4 VP, Danielle Drell - Area 5 VP, and Hermes Rios - Area 6 VP.

**(VACANT)** Area 7 – DEPS, OIT & PAI

### B. AFT Maryland Representatives and Other Guests

## **BCFPE TREASURES REPORT AS OF May 1, 2024**

- President Ripley read account totals and advised all accounts have been reconciled thru **April 2024**

All accounts are Annually Audited by AFT National Auditor. FY2023 Audit was completed in the fall of 2023 & final report has been issued dated 09/26/2023. Review Summary & Conclusion – nothing came to the attention of the auditor involving the internal control process that is considered reportable conditions. Financial records and internal controls found to be in good condition. Full FY2023 Audit Reports are available for review upon request.

FY2024 AFT Annual Audit is scheduled for the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>.

The BCFPE Executive Board will review and approve the FY2025 Proposed Budget at the June 2024 scheduled Executive Board meeting.

### **Dues Increase Notice**

Per pay dues will increase from \$25.43 to \$26.92 on October 1, 2023. These are pass-thru increases from our affiliates and dues have not increased since 2021.

## **STATE OF THE UNION**

### **A. BCFPE FY2025 – FY2027 Tentative Agreement (TA) beginning July 1, 2024**

### **B. Membership accepted the contract by a vote of 97.27%**

- **1 % COLA Jan. 1, 2025, 1% COLA Jan. 1, 2026 & Jan. 1, 2027**
- **Added Longevities: 8/9 year FY2025, 8/9 year FY2026 & 11 year FY2027**
- **32 Pay Schedule 1 Upgrades**
  - **Guaranteed steps and longevities thru FY2027**
  - **Guaranteed no furloughs or lay-offs thru FY2027**
  - **Pension Re-Opener for FY2026**

### **C. Health Care Review Committee (HCRC) UPDATE**

- ✓ **Post 2007 employees will drop down to the pre 2007 rates. Saving based on current rates;**
  - **The will add 10 / 20 million to the budget**
  - **Family Coverage - Savings \$116 per pay or \$3019 a year**
  - **Employee & Spouse Coverage - Savings \$65 per pay or \$1701 a year**
  - **Parent & Child Coverage – Savings \$25 per pay or \$673 a year**
- **Quarterly HCRC meeting have been scheduled for 2024**

### **D. 514 BCFPE Union Members for April 2024**

- **BCFPE is Strong but membership is dropping due largely to slow hiring and employee access due to pandemic.**
- **Let us know if you would like to help plan membership recruitment effort in a specific area of the county or if you have county employees interested in more information about the union.**
- **Shop Steward Training this sometime fall**

## **BCFPE UPDATE**

### STAY INFORMED

- Website (looking for BCFPE activist to volunteer to be our website coordinator)
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Emails (AFT/Baltimore County)
- **Update Contact Information (Home address / Email address)**

### **E. Legal Benefit Plans for Members.**

- BCFPE Legal Plan Brochures (HANDOUT)
- AFT Occupational Liability Coverage for members
- Give us your feedback regarding this benefit

### **F. County / State Legislation**

- ✓ **HB2 – Union Dues Subtraction Modification. (PASSED/SIGNED)**
  - **100% of union dues can be subtracted from your Md. taxable income.**

### **G. 2024 Presidential Election**

- Voter Registration Training
- Ways to get more involved / fundraisers
- As Baltimore County Employees, we have the unique opportunity to help elect or un-elect our bosses.
- **GET INVOLVED & MAKE MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

## H. SAVE-THE-DATES: CY2024 General Membership Meetings

- The Executive Board has approved 2024 General Membership Meeting Dates and they have been posted on the union website.
  - ~~Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 6pm~~
  - ~~Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 6pm~~
  - Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 6pm

## I. Help make us MORE visible

- To be influential - WE must BE influential
- Get involved
- BCFPE Hats and Shirts (Now in women's cut t-shirts)
- Facebook & Twitter
- New Union Giveaways

## J. MISCELLANEOUS & NEW BUSINESS

- AFL-CIO Night at Camden Yards
  - Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 10pm
  - BOGO ticket maybe available thru the union - PENDING
- Union Office Address
  - 1801 Glen Keith Blvd.  
Suite 100  
Towson, Md. 21286  
(Loch Raven Center)

## Q and A Session –

- Josh asked about a possible 2025 healthcare rate increase. John advised that rate increases are likely due to increased costs.
- Josh asked if there is a cap on what a possible healthcare rate increase could be. John advised that there is no cap. John advised that the national average

for rate increases is about 10% however historically we have always come in below the national average.

- Angela asked about possible interim county executive if Johnny O wins a seat in Congress. John advised that an interim county executive would be appointed by the county council to finish out the remainder of the term.

**THANK YOU - STAY INFORMED**

***Meeting adjourned 6:45pm***