

TEAM 2013 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2014

Truman Hotel, Jefferson City

www.TEAMissouri.com

www.facebook.com/teamissouri

www.twitter.com/teamissouri

In attendance:

Nicole Kreisel, State President

Robert Tripp, State Vice-President

Duke Wrisinger, Retiree Representative

SW, SE, KC, SL, and CD Chapters represented. NE and NW Chapters were absent.

Meeting called to order by Nicole Kreisel, TEAM President at 9 am.

Harry Hill was asked to report on the Legislative update:

Harry informed the group that Deferred Comp returns July 1, 2014 with a \$25 match and that a 1% Raise for state employees goes into effect on January 1, 2015.

In 2010 deferred compensation was put on hold and in 2011, the program was removed altogether. In 2013, TEAM began to focus their efforts on getting it back. In 2014, TEAM lobbied for its return by pushing the personal responsibility aspects of the program. In the future, hope to move the dollar amount up from the starting point of a \$25 match and will continue to lobby for that.

The 1¢ sales general sales tax increase will go up for vote in November and was not stopped by filibuster this time.

The dinner with the appropriations committee was held January 28. That group was chosen because they are the first committee that recommends expenditures to the House Budget Committee and Harry has had good luck with this group in the past. Dinner cost somewhere between \$550 and \$560 and there was a general consensus by the members that attended that the dinner with the House Appropriations Committee was more effective than lobby day has been in the recent past. Harry agreed that dinner with the House Appropriations Committee was effective and continuing to remind the legislature about deferred comp also helped - persistence pays off. Everything added up to get the match returned for state employees. As far as Harry is aware, TEAM was the only group trying to get deferred comp back. Governor Nixon must line item veto the return of deferred compensation and the 1% raise, but Harry is fairly certain that we will be okay on those issues.

The Legislature will not be back in town until January, 2015.

A few days after the dinner, Jay Wunderlich called Nicole regarding a citizen advocate complaining about MoDOT spending taxpayer money on a dinner with the appropriations committee. Nicole clarified that this was not the case. Wunderlich also mentioned this to Harry, who reiterated that TEAM is an employee group only, not part of MoDOT and that the dinner was to advocate on behalf of employee benefits and was not about the proposed sales tax increase. The complaint went all the way

to the Director. Committee Chairman Mark Parkinson and the citizen's advocacy blogger traded accusations on Twitter and threats to report the chairman to the Ethics Committee were made. Truth of the matter is that these dinners happen all the time and this is someone making a big deal out of nothing.

Duke Wrisinger expressed concern about information transmission. Harry Hill discussed his reports. Nicole replied that there really hasn't been much going on legislatively that affects us, and not a lot to report. Some years there a more but this year hasn't been as busy as in years past.

Discussion regarding the dedicated general sales tax increase; MoDOT cannot advocate directly and will only release a list of the project that the increase will fund. Public partners/contractors want the increase; hope to educate the public about transportation needs and funding issues as well as job creation, etc.

Harry has not heard anything this year about taking away state holidays.

Suggestion as to whether dropping the requirement that 10 hour employees have to use 2 hours of comp or vacation time is something we want to push for next session?

Discussion regarding retirement eligibility, buy backs added to back drops, etc. Harry suggests a guest to a future meeting, Ronda Stegmann, Executive Director of the Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement, who knows these laws very well.

Statewide Business

Dave Taylor was called into work and will not be at the meeting. Please email him with request for chapter checks and/or mileage.

January minutes, motion to approve as presented, seconded and all in favor.

Statewide Officer elections will be held in August. Nicole will not be seeking another term and asks if anyone has expressed an interest in holding statewide office in the chapters? Vice President, Robert Trip will also not seek another term. Nicole requested that chapters put the word out that we are looking for the next statewide president.

Discussion regarding the continued purpose of TEAM; the culture has changed, are we still viable as an active employee organization?

Kansas City reports a complaint about the website not being updated. Suggestion to publish the minutes as unapproved right away instead of waiting for them to be approved. Nicole again requests that Chapter officers provide her with current contact information so she can update the website. Nicole to put a link to the GR Report on TEAM site.

Chapter Reports

All members are welcome to attend the statewide meeting.

Nicole relays an email from a St. Louis member questioning statewide “sitting on a lot of money” and suggests that money be spent on shirts, BBQ events, a statewide event, sporting or theme park event for members. Chapters report feeling accountable for what their money is spent on and report lack of participation in planned events. Suggestions that money be spent on promotional items to be given away at the Fall Employee Meetings. Possibly allowing members a choice between two or three items. JP Promotions has TEAM logo already. One chapter reports a monthly \$25 random drawing for members. Nicole will talk to Harry about the suggestion of fruit/gift basket for legislators. Discussion regarding Harry’s yearly rate and that he has not raised his rates to TEAM. Thoughts on having MoDOT merchandise on TEAM website, KC has a link on their Sharepoint site and other districts report having the ability to purchase MoDOT items.

Discussion regarding various links and sites for finding who your representative is.

Nicole has contacted Ed Hassinger re attending a meeting, nothing scheduled yet. Nicole will meet with Dave Nichols and with Beth Wright re highway gardens and the excess funds from the Fallen Worker’s Memorial. Discussion about what we would like to purchase, park bench, picnic table, etc. Department of Agriculture controls the Highway Gardens. Some of the money will need to be held back for maintenance costs associated with the Fallen Worker’s Memorial.

SE Chapter – 320 - 325 Members; \$11,300 or so in accounts. Chapter is losing 2 – 3 members a month to retirements. Willow Springs had a 5K run/walk and the southeast chapter bought drinks and refreshments.

Central Chapter – 339 members; \$12,890 in accounts. Held their joint CU/Association meeting at the end of March. Central Chapter has committed to putting some money toward a Fallen Worker Memorial at the District Office.

SW Chapter – 544 Members; \$18,000 in accounts. The southwest chapter purchased 4 season tickets for the Springfield Cardinals that were available for members to use once per season. The tickets were a success last year, the games were well attended and the chapter plans to buy season tickets again this year. If you are in the area and want to attend a game, Shawn Nigel is the contact.

KC Chapter – 265 Members; \$27,459.00 in accounts. The Kansas City Chapter picked up 25 new members during the Spring Employee Meetings. Provided candy and items from storage during the event.

SL Chapter – 227 Members; \$1,421.61 in Savings & Checking. Chapter held spring quarterly meeting on April 15 and continues to move quarterly meeting to membership areas, the latest was held in the City of St. Louis. Chapter provided a basket at a MoDOT employee’s trivia/silent auction event.

NE Chapter – not present – 195 Members.

Items from the Floor

Discussion regarding the August statewide TEAM meeting. All attending chapters agree to tentative scheduling of next meeting for Friday, August 8, 2014.

Discussion regarding added incentives to officers in order to garner more interest in serving. Nicole will begin looking into a plan for compensation involving adjusting mileage, per diem for lodging and meals, etc. Nicole will look into IRS mileage compensation.

Motion to adjourn meeting, seconded.

Next Meeting – **August 8, 2014** – Truman Hotel, Jefferson City