

State Highway and Transportation Employees Association of Missouri
Fourth Quarterly Meeting
Clarion Inn
Springfield, MO
May 8, 2003

General Business

President Steve Cox called the fourth quarterly meeting of the State Highway and Transportation Employees Association of Missouri to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. The names of those in attendance are attached. Announcements were made. Chapter 8 announced their annual picnic, scheduled for this evening, has been cancelled due to severe weather. Introductions were made. There was discussion on the benefits of holding our quarterly meetings in different areas. Any chapter interested in hosting a quarterly meeting should let Steve know.

The minutes of the third quarterly meeting were presented. Don Cotter made a motion to receive the minutes as presented. David Wyman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented. Wayne reported both good news and bad news. The good news is we are about \$1000 ahead over last year; the bad news is payroll deductions are declining. We decreased our Lobby Day expenses by about \$1000 over last year. There was some discussion on ways to meet with legislators that are not as expensive as Lobby Day. Steve encouraged chapters to continue to think about this issue. David Wyman made a motion to receive the treasurer's report as presented. Ron Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chapter Reports

Chapter 1: No report.

Chapter 2: Approximately 300; \$6770 in account; T-shirts were given away during the membership drive; in process of planning the annual meeting.

Chapter 3: No report.

Chapter 4: Have gained several new members since last meeting as well as 3 retirees; State officers and chapters were invited to the annual picnic to be held June 28 at Lake Jacomo; having a membership drive and trying to instill interest and participation.

Chapter 5/Central Chapter: Steve reported \$12,425.41 in accounts due to chapter president's illness.

Chapter 6: No report

Chapter 7: 216 members; \$595.64 in accounts; had 2 Gold Card members; about 30 attended the annual crappie tournament held May 30; currently working on plan to recruit new members and planning several pizza feeds; President Derik Campbell will be inactive until mid-September, as he has joined the Air Force National Guard and is attending boot camp in San Antonio, TX.

Chapter 8: 384 members; \$2000± in account; the annual picnic, scheduled for today, will be rescheduled; still struggling to keep members interested.

Chapter 9: 185 members; \$2692.58 in accounts; Steve was one of about 50 who attended the annual picnic on April 19; it was a good meeting with an egg hunt for the children.

Chapter 10: 229 members; \$7220.42 in account; they have new hats and visors that are selling well.

Legislative Report

State employees making \$40,000 or less per year will receive a \$600 annual pay increase. A Democratic governor and a Republican legislature with many new house and senate members as a result of term limits created major politicking in the legislature this session. Harry Hill has stated he is amazed at what is going on. Nothing, including our bills, is moving at the present. It is reported retirement bills would be a detriment to the retirement plans with the present state of the stock market. Steve reported he had been asked by one legislator to drop 3 of our bills and go in favor of the retirement bill. Steve told him, "No." We will need to look over our bills for next year and decide what we want to go with. Harry's report is on the website (www.moshea.org)

Steve stated he is still not getting any information from the chapters for the website. The session ends on Friday, May 16. Harry has stated he does not see how they can get it all done, and will probably have to go into extra sessions. The Association did not make the decision to support SB450 (the bill that would group all state agencies health insurance together) because we did not have enough information. Steve stated MoDOT might have an open period coming up.

District 7 reported their Vice President, Brian Atnip, is a member of a group that entertained at the Freshman Dance and about 100 representatives were there. Besides providing entertainment, he lobbied for the Employees Association and MoDOT issues. Steve encouraged other chapters to talk with their legislators – take them out to dinner and discuss issues with them, but be sure to know what you are talking about.

Brian Atnip attended a Blue Ribbon Panel meeting. He reported the panel thought that MoDOT employees knew everything about the job study and were concerned when they found otherwise. It was also brought up that management should take some responsibility for funding loss. Steve encouraged anyone who had opportunity to attend one of these panel meetings to speak up and be honest. He also encouraged chapters to bring issues to him for his meetings with management.

It was again stated that all our bills are not moving at present, but this could change. Much work has been put into supporting them, but the budget is the big issue right now. The importance of going ahead and building a bond with our legislators was emphasized, as this will help in the future.

A question was asked regarding the proposed 3-year "buy out" plan; this would supposedly save the state \$30 million. Larry & Steve will check on this, but it is probably dead. The Governor did not have figures to back up his bill, and it is also dead. Members were encouraged to think about what they would like to do for next year.

There were questions about the extra \$10/month some were given several years ago and health care insurance. There was a question about increasing the wellness insurance to \$200 per employee and have to option to use it for vision or other family members. It was reported there had been discussion on raising the wellness amount from \$100 to \$200, but still only for physicals and only for the employee. Steve will discuss this with Jeff Padgett and get his thoughts are on this issue, then put the answer on the website. There was a question about using wellness for health club dues. This has been brought up before, but Steve will check on this also.

Steve stated we need more people at our meetings; we need to find out what our members want.

Old Business

It was noted that the Association did not pursue any new bill with a cost associated because we were advised that nothing with a price tag would pass and that it would be detrimental to the Association to do so.

New Business

Pens and calendars have been ordered. The calendars are black with an American flag and the phrase, "United We Stand" on the front. It was noted we need to add our website to the information on the calendars. Steve will try to get this added. They have an October delivery date.

Items from Floor

Fundraisers were discussed. It was noted chapters must pay taxes on items they sell. Chapter 9 has had success with raffles for rifles. They issued a Wal-Mart gift certificate to the winner on account of gun control issues. They have also given some to charities. It was noted that fund raisers might be a good opportunity to promote the Association.

Steve was asked to check into a comment the HR Director had made at Lobby Day about making our website an approved site for viewing on State time.

Steve encouraged the chapters to contact him with problems and he will check into it. For example, an employee was recently told they could not serve as an Association officer and keep their position in Public Information. This is not true. Steve and Larry did not attend the NASHTU conference in Washington, D.C. this year due to low funds.

Steve thanked everyone for attending and encouraged chapters to try to get more people to attend the meetings. Our next meeting will be General Assembly on August 8 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Chapters need to hold their elections before General Assembly. Both old and new officers are encouraged to attend this meeting. Chapters were challenged to come up with ideas to recruit new members.

Brian Atnip made a motion to adjourn. Gary McClanahan seconded the motion. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilma J. DeGraffenreid

Members Attending – May 1, 2003

Name	Chapter
Steve Cox	State
Mark O'Dowd	State
Wilma DeGraffenreid	State
Wayne Hinkle	State
Eldon Jones	Chapter 2
Kent Wray	Chapter 2
Ron Wheeler	Chapter 4
Gary McClanahan	Chapter 4
Debra Lioubinski	Chapter 7
Brian Atnip	Chapter 7
Kevin Clayton	Chapter 8
Janice Moore	Chapter 8
Linda Dickison	Chapter 8
Don Cotter	Chapter 8
Mike Roberts	Chapter 9
David Wyman	Chapter 10