

Transportation Employees Association of Missouri
Lobby Days
March 17, 2010

In Attendance:

Archie Daily-State President
Duke Wrisinger-State Retiree Rep.

Leann Hagee-Vice President

Chapter 1 1 Member-Roger Wittler

Chapter 3 0 Members

Chapter 5 1 Member-Duane Kliethemes

Chapter 7 2 Members-Dee Powell -Todd Tyler

Chapter 9 1 Member- Mike Roberts

Chapter 2 1 Member-Eldon Jones

Chapter 4 0 Members

Chapter 6 0 Members

Chapter 8 1 Member-Joe Horned

Chapter 10 1 Member-Robert Tripp

Meeting called to order by President Archie Daily at 9:00. Archie welcomed members, and guests. Our guests were Lobbyist Harry Hill, Michael Micholsen, and Sandy Hedgen, Chris Daily, Mrs. Robert Tripp and Crystal (Leann Hagee's daughter).

New Business: Coming out in the April Connections there will be an article on the Fallen Worker Memorial, and there will be a contribution form for automatic payroll deduction. Sandy Hedgens has written the article, and President Archie Daily approved the content. President Archie Daily read the article as follows:

In April 2009 a Memorial for MoDot workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty was just names on a list. This April, the Transportation Employees Association of Missouri is nearly halfway to their goal of raising \$94,937.00 to build a memorial in Jefferson City on the Capitol grounds. They have raised \$41,000.00, to be a real tribute to the people who gave their lives. The MoDot Association officers in District Chapter of T.E.A.M. across the state have been raising funds through various activities, including a Motorcycle Ride and Rally last March. Last month they added a new way for MoDot employees to contribute to the fund by electronic payroll contributions. MoDot employees can visit the Intranet, a sign up form is also included in this month's issue of Connection, if you would like to fill it out, and send it in. The proposed memorial is intended to be placed on the Capitol grounds just to the west of the main entrance to the MoDot Central Office on Capitol Avenue, however the site has not been yet approved by the second Capitol Commission, a group of legislators who oversee the Capitol facilities, and grounds.

We met with them last fall, and showed them the proposed designs, but they have not given the approval to build the memorial in the spot we requested. The Association officers are planning to meet with the Commission again soon. The proposed design includes a black granite obelisk in the center with 3 black granite panels surrounding it in a triangle formation. Each panel will feature a single word at the top. **Respect-Honor-Remember**, and depict MoDot workers through engraved photographs. Red granite pillars will flank the panels, and each of the three sides will have a black granite bench featuring the MoDot logo. The panels will also list the names of the Fallen Workers at the bottom. The entire monument will rest on a 35 ft. triangular plaza made from gray stone pavers.

There will be photographs in the Connections, and it will refer to the drawings on the page listed for an artist rendering of the memorial. If you have any questions, comments or to make a donation please contact Transportation Employees Association State President Archie Daily at 417-880-4207, or home email address: everyday@getgoin.net.

Questions were asked from the members concerning the hold up on the location for the memorial. Harry Hill responded that the commission hasn't met, but he had spoken to the Chairman and the Commission would be meeting soon.

Workzone awareness is April 19-23, and questions were asked of Harry if the commission would meet before Work Zone Awareness Week. Harry said we would be notified when they met.

The Ride for Remembrance will be on June 12, 2010. The Rally will be at the Jefferson City Fairgrounds, which is located south of the Capitol mall. Maps have been sent to the districts, and the maps will be posted on the website. Duke Wrisinger suggested updating our website from the 2009 Ride for Remembrance to the 2010 Ride for Remembrance. Ashley Halford requested a bouncing jumping gym for the children to play on at the rally. A motion was made, and seconded for the Association to make the purchase.

District Five is creating a cookbook, and it will be on their website. They will available for purchasing.

Sandy Hedgens said they are going to put up an exhibit in the Central Office Main Lobby of the Headquarters building. Archie furnished samples of the granite to be used, and photographs for the display. The red granite that is on display is lighter then the original to be used. Sandy asked about the overall height of the memorial, which will be approximately 9 ft. in height from the gray stone to the stainless steel on top. The memorial is a size larger than the Office of Administration had given their specifications. Since the original plan, the administration has changed. The Legislature and OA would like to purchase the MoDot Building. If the sale would ever occur, OA would want the memorial moved. The conversation of the purchase has been an ongoing topic for years.

Legislative Report: Lobbyist Harry Hill

Due to the state of the economy, the budget is a priority topic. Harry encourages T.E.A.M. must approach everything with an open mind, and be willing to work with people, work with decision makers. The most important agenda is to try to preserve jobs. President Archie Daily and Harry Hill will set in the Pro-Tem office when the retirement bill comes up. Retirement changes are very drastic. The conversation for retirement is with new employee's contribution, to change from 80 and out, to 90 and out. When defined contribution, or benefit they all start January 2011. The first obligation too retirement is for our current employees. The goal is to try to pressure as much as we can.

Credit Union Information: House Resolution #70 is to keep offices open. Thirty-six House members have asked to keep them open. Duke Wrisinger replied that the Commission voted to have the Credit Union move, which is to sever Credit Union relation September 30, with offices staying open to December 31. There was a lot of testimony to keep the CU workers. The five year resolution to reduce employees to 6000 by 2012. Seventy five percent of all vacancies will be abolished. At the present time it does not sound like layoffs, on through attrition. In 1970, and 1980 there were people who took demotion just to keep their jobs. There are similarities from the early era to the present dilemma that MoDot is in. Employees with poor performances will be gone. This is an important message to employees who are not meeting expectation. We must be flexible as time changes, but we must work with legislatures, and show a willingness to work together.

Next fiscal year we are going to try to have the \$25.00 put back in Deferred Comp. The budget is in the House, and then it will go to the Senate. If we can survive with the Deferred Comp in the House, it will make it to the Senate. The House is going to start taking amendments on bill today. Mike Michelson (Harry Hill Asst.) said he thought it would be tough to keep the Deferred Comp. in the Senate. Harry, and suggested we have a Retirement Summit come in. The Senate came out this week with a rebooting of the state government. There has been interest in the Retirement system, Myers, which has not been seen in recent times. Much of the agenda is the retirement system, which is not sustainable. There will have to be changes made, and the focus is on preserving the Retirement System. It will require \$155 million to keep the system functioning. Bill 896 is the Retirement Bill that is on the debate calendar, and could come up today. There is a possibility that it may not come up until after the Retirement Summit, next week. If the bill passes there will be very drastic measures that will begin Jan 1, 2011. Employees hired after that date will have a minimum of 1% of their salary contributed to an account to 6%, to a specific retirement account for each individual employee. Mpers has negative feelings about the plan, but hopefully to put a plan together that will work. Senate Bill 1048, by Jason Crowell is a little less severe, and this bill changes the formula for the time you can retire, you have to be 67 years of age to get an annuity. There is a 90 and out instead of 80 and out, and changes in the back drop. These plans are for the new hires, and up to 4% employee contribution system.

Jim Viebrock, Retirement Committee Chairman of the House, says he is not going to pass any retirement bills this year. Jim believes their actions are too quick. Jim said he was told by the Speaker that some of these bills are coming to your committee from Jim Viebrock, but these bills would not pass this year. Harry encourages T.E.A.M. to talk with our legislators, and take time on passage of bills, until thoroughly researched. Harry has visited with the members of the Office of Administration, and he has reservations about OA purchasing the MoDot building due to the economic state.

There is discussion to consolidate Moshers, and Mpers. Mosher has a number of systems, possibly 4 to 5 systems. (ex. judges, legislators)

Insurance issues for future retirees were discussed. Harry is going to check into the information on the bills, and ask questions of the contents. The governor is recommending loss of holidays for employees. The salary grid is being discussed.

Mike Michelson said if the economy returns, the deferred will have a chance to return also. Mike encourages us not to push items to hard, but keep communication open to stay informed. Have positive negotiations with legislators.

Archie presented an envelope to each chapter with a form letter for new employees to become a member of T.E.A.M. The letter gives information to the new employees about T.E.A.M.

Dave requested expenses be forwarded, as he had been detained, and he will mail checks to those with expenses.

The next meeting bill is our General Assembly on August 13, 2010.