



**AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PSEBA ISSUE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 13, 2008**  
**IRMA Office**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Kelly Amidei, Chair  
Lisa Jepson  
Coleen Nigg  
Jason Bielawski  
Art Malinowski, Vice Chair  
Jeff Moline  
Paula Schumacher  
Bryan Lewis

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chuck Vaughn  
Robert Buhs  
Mark Fowler  
Mary Henzler  
Larry Bury  
Rick Curneal  
Larry Bush  
Susan Garvey

**ABSENT:** Bill Brimm  
Sandra Mikel  
Barry Krumstok  
Andri Peterson

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Malinowski at 9:30 a.m.

**II. WELCOME**

Malinowski welcomed everyone and, because of several new faces in the group, asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**III. INTRODUCTION TO CHUCK VAUGHN, VAUGHN CONSULTING SERVICES**

Garvey introduced Chuck Vaughn of Vaughn Consulting Services, who is IRMA's PSEBA lobbyist in Springfield. Garvey explained that Vaughn has taken Bill Anderson's position and has agreed to abide by Anderson's contract.

Vaughn gave a brief synopsis of his career indicating that most recently he has been involved in extensive representation with a lot of governmental units, especially fire districts and the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, and various agencies that are involved in issues like the one IRMA is working on now.

Vaughn reported that when he started with IRMA with three weeks left in the session of the General Assembly, he made it clear that he thought we could accomplish some short-term things in the veto session in the fall, and would begin building a platform to get some good things done in the next one or two years. Vaughn noted that there are some issues that needed to be regulated between us and the unions, who will be our major competitors on these issues. Vaughn reported that Bush, Garvey and he had recently met with the Associated Firefighters new union president and he felt the meeting went very well. He is willing to listen to what we have to say and vice versa. We now have to do the same with the police unions.

**IV. LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY**

### **A. Review of Responses to Action Packet**

Garvey indicated that the report that was distributed to the group was the summary that was put together and sent to Pat Devaney of the AFFI, who had asked for some examples of PSEBA Beneficiaries that we had.

Garvey reported that there was a pretty good response to the survey. We had less of a response to our Action Packet. Six of our members had put through the Action Packet. Garvey asked the group if they had any suggestions about how we go about getting more responses.

Robert Buhs suggested contacting Jerry Groupy on the firefighters' side of the Illinois Public Risk Fund, because they represent a lot of fire protection districts and are someone that we would want to partner with. Ron Dukes would also be a good contact because they have a lot of statistics that we could add to our summary sheet. Buhs gave Garvey Dukes' phone number - (630) 889-3510 X-3513.

Malinowski commented that he felt the timing of our Action Packet was not good, as the IML had just came out with their Pension Package and the municipalities were dealing with that.

Vaughn stated that when the IML first came out with their package, anything that would cost unions money was taken off the table. By the end of the session they had agreed on a lot of things, but there were still some meaty things left in it. Vaughn noted that tradition is that pension and anything involved in that gets done in one bill at the end of the session. At the end, they consolidate everything into one package and that is almost always voted on in the veto session.

### **B. Discussion of Meeting with President of AFFI**

Garvey reported that Vaughn, Bush and she had met with Pat Devaney, the new president of the AFFI about a month ago. Garvey noted that he listened to our concerns and he had asked for some detail of the information that we had, so he could look at it and bring it back to his members. Garvey noted that changing the definition of catastrophic injury was probably not going to happen, but there may be other things that they may work with us on.

Bush noted that one of the points that Devaney brought up was that he was willing to talk to us about certain things, but wanted to have some knowledge that he's not going to work out something with us and then get down to Springfield and have the IML and some of the cogs oppose what he has worked out with us. Bush noted that one of the things the committee needed to do at this meeting is talk about what we can do to make sure that the IML and cogs support us.

Vaughn explained that there were three reasons that Devaney will be difficult to deal with, but possible.

- 1) He doesn't like to go back to any membership and say that he has negotiated away anything that they already have.
- 2) He realizes that everything that he does to keep money in the pot and not unnecessarily flush money out, he wants to have more control over.

- 3) They have an internal battle ongoing between their existing members and their retired members. Their existing members are young and pensions are not on the top of their radar and the retired members feel abandoned.

Vaughn reported on a recent wave of municipal Fire Departments entering into contracts with fire protection districts to replace the municipal Fire Departments. This is happening around the state and the distinctions of who and what the entities are that are making these claims is going to be morphing in a new direction. Vaughn noted that the layout of how we going to go about what we are trying to do is going to change because of the changing character of the fire side.

### **C. Objectives of 2008**

The committee discussed the following objectives for the balance of 2008, concentrating on requiring notification of secondary employment and other benefits:

- 1) Notification of secondary employment.
- 2) Notification of eligibility for benefits.
- 3) Requirement to accept those benefits.

Vaughn stated that he thought this was a very good starting point for us this year.

Garvey noted that we would add spousal benefits to the eligibility of benefits.

### **D. Legislative Schedule**

Vaughn indicated that he would send Garvey the legislative schedule. Vaughn reported that the veto session always starts the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November (2 weeks after the general election).

Vaughn noted that there is one other chance that you can get something done. The legislature comes back usually a day and a half before the end of the legislative year and it's possible to do some action even the morning of the swearing in of the new legislators. However, Vaughn said his goal is to get something done in the veto session. Vaughn indicated that if we can convince leadership that we have made a deal with the unions and have an agreed bill, then leadership will find a way to get it done in the six days of the veto session. What they do is find a bill that has already passed one chamber and sitting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house ready to be acted on, they will amend our language onto that and send it back to the 1<sup>st</sup> house for concurrence. In other words what we are going to do is amend onto a bill that is already halfway through the process.

## **E. Future Action**

Garvey reported that one of the things that we want to work on is getting the police unions involved.

Vaughn asked that if any of the committee members have begun to have discussions with their local police or if this is a bargaining issue that you have with your local firefighters, they relay that information to Garvey and Bush and then they can relay that information to him.

Vaughn stated that, with the committee's permission, he was going to start contacting the members of the various police union groups that will have to sign off on this. We will start having the same kind of meetings we have had with the Associated Firefighters to see if we can get them to be as responsible and reasonable as Devaney was when we talked with him.

Bush stated that we should probably redo our bullet points on the PSEBA Issue that we initially gave to our members, focusing more on getting those who have benefits available to use them, rather than the changing of the definition of catastrophic injury.

Amidei stated that another concern is that now we end up paying 100% of the insurance premium for the disabled person, where previously we paid 90%. Is there any way that we can get them to pay what they were paying before their disability. Garvey agreed that this was something to think about.

Garvey stated that she would send out the revised bullet points to the committee members and to the cogs.

Bury asked when the bullet points would be available, as he had a legislative meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and wanted to present this at that time. Vaughn indicated that he would try and get something to him before September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **V. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Garvey asked whether there were any additions to the agenda. There were none.

**VI. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Garvey stated that the committee really didn't need to set a meeting at this time; however, if needed, she would poll the committee for a date sometime in October, before the veto session.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Malinowski and seconded by Nigg to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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Susan Garvey  
Director of Legal Services

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Kelly Amidei  
Ad Hoc Committee on PSEBA Chair