

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF ARBITRATORS MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

An arbitrators meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday November 18, 2019 at 38 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut, 06109.

Present: Gerald T. Weiner, Esq., Chairman
 Dennis C. Murphy, Esq., Deputy Chairman
 David A. Ryan, Management Member
 Raymond D. Shea, Labor Member

Excused Absence: Michael C. Culhane, Esq.
 Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member

Guest: Patricia A. Fitton, Director/Mediator

The Monday, November 18, 2019 meeting of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration was opened by Dennis C. Murphy, Deputy Chairman at 8:40 a.m.

- 1) Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on September 16, 2019 was made by Raymond D. Shea, Labor Member, and was seconded by David A. Ryan, Management Member. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- A. The requirements of records retention were discussed. Requests have been submitted to the Legal Department of the DOL for advice regarding specific documents. The Director will continue to follow up with the Legal Department and will keep the Board informed.
- B. The objection to a Union's selection of their party arbitrator was resolved between the parties and that case is moving forward in binding arbitration.
- C. The ongoing Motions to Vacate awards were reviewed. The Motions to Vacate continue to make slow progress through the Court system.
- D. Progress is being made on providing increased security for hearing rooms and the entire building. Hand-held panic buttons are again available and have been tested. Staff and Security will coordinate regarding the disbursement and retrieval of the buttons.
- E. Holiday festivities are scheduled for December 12th at the Gallery and for the 19th for the in-house party. Save the date notices were already sent, flyers will be mailed out this week.

New Business

- A. The issue of late filings for arbitrability was discussed. The staff will be directed to include the notice of the deadline for arbitrability filings in the letter for the initial hearing.
- B. The expected length of the work day for arbitration hearings was reviewed. While exceptions are always made for particular circumstances, the regular work day is 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- C. The Board noted that there are inquiries made about adding arbitrators to the Board. The Board observed that there was no need presently for additional arbitrators.
- D. The staff worked diligently to achieve the MBA-1 form on the internet in a fillable format. This has been achieved and staff anticipates a higher response rate. The Board expressed their appreciation for the staff efforts.

- E. The need for an all arbitrators meeting was raised by the Board. The all arbitrators meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Director's Report

- A. The pressing need to fill the full time mediator position was reviewed by the director. The necessary paperwork was completed and the finances were approved. Final approval by the Commissioner to fill the position is pending.
- B. The director reported that the staff continues their efforts to become cross trained in the essential functions of each position. These efforts were delayed with the transition to new phones and new multi-function devices that replaced the old copiers.
- C. The Board and the staff congratulated Labor Member Raymond D. Shea for the achievement of his 89th birthday.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gerald T. Weiner, Chairman. Dennis C. Murphy, Esq., Deputy Chairman, seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Patricia A. Fitton, Director