

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF ARBITRATORS' MEETING

Monday, September 19, 2022

A meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, September 19, 2022. This meeting was held virtually, via Zoom.

Present: Gerald T. Weiner, Esq., Chairman
Dennis C. Murphy, Esq. Deputy Chairman
Michael C. Culhane, Management Member
Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member
Peter Carozza, Labor Member

Guest: Douglas Cho, Esq., Director/Mediator

The Monday, September 19, 2022, meeting of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was opened by Gerald T. Weiner, Chairman, at 8:30 a.m.

- 1) Acknowledgement: The recent passing of a long-serving and highly respected SBMA Board Member, Attorney Louis Smith Votto, was acknowledged by the Board.
- 2) Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Peter Carozza to accept the minutes of the July 18, 2022, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Betty Kuehnel and passed unanimously.
- 3) Old Business:
 - A. Review of Outstanding Arbitration Hearings: The number of pending arbitrations, the number of cases held in abeyance, scheduled and re-

scheduled were examined by the Board. There are approximately two hundred and fifty-nine (259) cases pending, which decreased by 6 cases from 2 months ago; cases held in abeyance decreased from 38 to 33; scheduled cases increased from 140 to 152; and rescheduled cases decreased from 29 to 27.

- B. Review of Fiscal Year Figures: The SBMA fiscal year figures were compared to the past year time period and has decreased slightly; revenues collected to date have also decreased slightly; however, state cases filed have increased significantly.
- C. Outstanding Overdue Awards: There are no overdue awards for this time period.
- D. Status of Applications for Neutral and Party Arbitrators: A number of applications for proposed new arbitrators are still pending with the Governor's office; the Board is still hopeful for their approval in the near future. Janis Jerman, a recently appointed neutral arbitrator, has completed new arbitrator orientation and has been assigned grievances to hear.
- E. David Ryan cases: Of the two remaining open cases that were assigned to David Ryan, one has been completed, with the parties agreeing that the neutral arbitrator can issue the award by himself. The other case has been reassigned to Michael Culhane as the replacement management arbitrator.
- F. Honoring Retired Arbitrators: In order to honor recently retired arbitrators, the Labor Commissioner has agreed to forward the Board's requests to the Governor in order to create commemorative documents signed by the Governor.
- G. Court Decisions on Two Applications to Vacate: Two arbitration awards that are the subject of applications to vacate have been upheld in decisions issued by the Superior Court. These decisions were provided to the Board.

4) New Business: There was no new business to report.

5) Director's Report: The SBMA staff did a superlative job issuing all binding arbitration letters during the month of August 2022, for contracts that expired in July of 2022. This process is labor-intensive and typically takes SBMA staff a number of months to complete but was accomplished in an especially efficient manner this year.

- 6) Executive Session: Chairman Weiner called for a Board vote to go into executive session to discuss a number of persons who have applied to be arbitrators with SBMA. The Board members unanimously voted to go into executive session. After completing the executive session, the Board entertained a motion made by Michael Culhane and seconded by Dennis Murphy to approve Tamara Titre and Tina Ann Collins to be recommended by the Board for appointment by the Governor as alternate management arbitrators. The Board members, by unanimous roll call vote, approved Ms. Titre and Ms. Collins' applications to be forwarded to the Governor.
- 7) Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Betty Kuehnelt and seconded by Michael Culhane; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 a.m.

Douglas A. Cho, Esq.
Director/Mediator

September 19, 2022