President Gulla called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., asking to amend the agenda by moving Executive Session to the end.

Brenda Thomas motioned to accept the agenda as amended. Ken Muske seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Gulla motioned to add Keith McCrea and Brendon Drew to Political Education Committee; Melissa Kelleher and Ralph Mecheau to Finance; and Angela LaBreck to Organization Committee. Motion duly seconded. Motion approved.

President Gulla presented the President’s Report. He reported on his meeting with the House minority leader. House democrats are not supporting the bill that includes state employee raises. President Gulla expressed disappointment. We need to be aware of this for the next election cycle.

Ralph Mecheau added that SEA endorsed some SEA members who were elected to legislative seats, and they have a fiduciary responsibility to the SEA.

Brenda Thomas motioned to form an Ad Hoc Exploratory Committee on the headquarters and building. Ralph Mecheau seconded the motion. Motion passed. The Committee will consist of Rich Gulla, Avis Crane, Melissa Kelleher, Ralph Mecheau, Mary Fields, Gary Snyder, and Jasmine Gosselin.
Germano Martins motioned to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review the dues scale and propose any changes. Ken Muske seconded the motion. President Gulla asked if the motion could be amended to refer the concept to the Finance Committee. Both the maker of the motion and the second agreed to the change. Motion passed.

Kristy Blanchette motioned to form an Ad Hoc committee to look at combining/reducing the number of standing committees. Melissa Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed. Committee will consist of Kristy Blanchette, Brenda Thomas, Avis Crane, John Hattan, Christine McManus and Cullen Tiernan.

Ken Muske motioned to form an Ad Hoc committee to renegotiate the SEIU affiliation agreement. Ralph Mecheau seconded the motion. Motion passed. The committee will consist of Betty Vanlandingham, John Hattan, Rich Gulla, Gary Snyder and Justin Jardine.

President Gulla reported he will be having a chapter presidents call week after next and will be talking about what occurred at the Board retreat, as well as thoughts on the June council meeting. President Gulla hopes to have Lorrie Rudis attend the June council meeting and talk about the state classification system project.

Jake Krupski added the state is seeking to make some changes to the personnel rules that are concerning. Suggested changes could be viewed as direct dealing. They are seeking to allow department heads to ask for reclassification/reallocations. The state is also seeking to add non-competitive promotions. Can they promote people at will without competitive process? Some changes give the director more power. Some changes would be detrimental to the employees.

The state has said they wanted to do this new system because old system was broken. They put back in the rules that they will not take into their consideration any economic factors. This was one of the major reasons for the reclassification project. We feel this is a bait and switch.

President Gulla discussed the June council meeting. This had always included a barbeque from chapter 1. We are seeking participation and engagement at council meetings. We struggle with lack of engagement. Some groups want to be more social, others prefer virtual meetings. We are offering a hybrid format. President Gulla is concerned about offering food when we are in contract negotiations.

Mary Fields stated we are not getting people who really want to be there, and wants an agenda that people want to come to.

President Gulla added that he is hoping the Constitution and Bylaws committee consider reducing the number of council meetings to two and as needed for any additional meetings.
Dave Honeman advised the Board that there is a blood drive at SEA on June 12, 2023 from noon to 5:00. 46 spots will be available.

President Gulla stated chapter 19 members are joining chapter 34.

Justin Jardine added chapter 34 had their annual meeting this week, installing new officers. They voted to incorporate HHS chapter 19 members into their chapter. Chapter 19 is defunct. This would be the north country HHS chapter. 70 members from chapter 19 will go into 34.

Mary Fields motioned to allow these chapter 19 members to join chapter 34. Melissa Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Gulla noted there is a proposed policy on committee expenditures in Board members' packets. This will be on the agenda for discussion and vote next month.

Brenda Thomas motioned to approve the March 9, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Ralph Mecheau seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mary Fields motioned to go into executive session. Ralph Mecheau seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Into executive session at 1:42 p.m.

Out of executive session at 2:06 p.m.

John Hattan motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Ralph Mecheau seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ralph Mecheau provided the Political Education report. He advised that the endorsement committee is finishing its first phase of reviewing endorsements. They are working on redesigning our questionnaire, aiming for simplicity.

Cullen Tiernan added that Representative Leachman is chair of finance division and the only democrat who voted for the budget. He may be on the committee of conference. He is strong proponent of state employee raises. Progress continues to be made with legislators. Public defenders insurance bill is going to hearing 4/26.

Melissa Kelleher motion to accept the tentative agreement from Coalition of Union Employees (CUE). Gary Burke seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Brenda Thomas advised the Finance and Treasurer’s reports are in the packets.

President Gulla stated there is a new format for the Organization report. It is in the packet. This shows that February had 5662 full-time members, January had 5634.
Brenda Thomas motioned to approve two requests for dues assistance. Ken Muske seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ken Muske presented the Stewards Committee report. He reported ten stewards appeared for the last Stewards Committee meeting. The next meeting is next Thursday at 5:30. Chapter presidents and any member can come to the meetings. If chapters have a steward vacancy, recruit.

Germano Martins reported on the Retirement Board of Trustees. All reports are on the website NHRS.org. Board of Trustees have links for every meeting. We follow bills in the legislature. When it comes to the legislative tracker, Germano sends it to Cullen, Bob and Rich. We are working with the Retirement Committee for ways to inform our members on what is important for them to know.

John Hattan presented an application for Associate membership. Gary Snyder commented this is a former state employee. She wants to continue with the SEA college. Mary Fields motioned to approve the application for Associate membership. Ralph Mecheau seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Motion made and duly seconded to accept all reports into the record. Motion passed.

There was no new business for the Board.

Brenda Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mary Fields seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Vanlandingham
SEA Board Secretary