President Gulla called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Ken Muske motioned to accept the agenda. Elizabeth Howell-Woodbury seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Betty Vanlandingham motioned to accept the May 11, 2023 board meeting minutes. Avis Crane seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Cullen Tiernan and Bob Blaisdell (both SEA staff) updated the Board on political and legislative news. Cinde Warmington is the first person to enter the gubernatorial race. Joyce Craig has established an exploratory committee.

President Gulla added that he met with Senate President Bradley. Senator Bradley stated he envisions the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) commission being populated by legislators, the employer, and the union to come up with a long term fix for COLAs. Senator Bradley also stated diet COLAs are not sustainable.

Cullen Tiernan stated during discussion at yesterday’s Senate hearing on House Bills 1 and 2, Senator Bradley talked about state employees.

President Gulla stated Senator Bradley called last week and asked for state employees to be present at the State House for the Senate vote. Last Friday, President Gulla met
with Senator D’Allesandro. They were going to try several amendments to get more money for affordable housing and fix Group II. If those did not pass, Senator D’Allesandro and others would vote for the budget for the state raises.

President Gulla brought up an idea from a field representative that the SEA consider having corporate sponsors as a revenue stream. The Board discussed the possibility of charging Aflac, Liberty Mutual, and Colonial Penn for access to our members. The Board had discussion on the issue. The Board opted not to pursue this avenue at this time.

Bob Blaisdell notified the Board members that the House had just voted 351-25 to concur with the Senate’s amendments in House Bill 1. A motion to table House Bill 2 was defeated.

Board members reported out on Ad Hoc work groups. All groups continue to work on their Ad Hoc committees. More reports as warranted.

President Gulla opened up discussion for the Financial Expenditures for Committees draft policy. Betty Vanlandingham motioned to approve the new policy, with the comma removed after “Duly appointed committees”. Brenda Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bob Blaisdell advised the Board that the House had just voted to concur with the Senate amendment on House Bill 2 by a vote of 326-53. This bill includes the COLA commission, raises, and removes the social security offset deduction from state pensions. The bill also includes $25 million for affordable housing.

Jake Krupski discussed proposed personnel rule changes, specifically the section about reclassifications. The proposed rules say members can have assistance when looking to make changes for reclassifications.

Mary Fields asked if SEA currently has the experience and bandwidth to work on these.

Jake Krupski responded we do have the experience, and that it was up to the Board whether SEA has the bandwidth.

Ken Muske commented whether we have the experience and bandwidth or not, it is going to be in the personnel rules, so we have to do it or we will lose our members.

Jake Krupski stated there will need to be training for our people.

Melissa Kelleher asked if assisting with reclassifications would be required to be done for non-members.

Jake Krupski responded no. Group reclassifications would be for the whole, which could include non-members. Jake Krupski added if the agency Human Resources is
not supportive of a reclassification request, after 30 days, the employee can bring the request to Department of Administrative Services.

President Gulla next discussed the Board’s past First Vice-President, Ken Roos, who passed away five years ago. There is a bench outside the building that his family put up. We are looking into what else could be done in Ken's honor. Ad Hoc committee established to review and report back.

Justin Jardine (SEA staff) reported that Belknap County voted to decertify from the SEA by a 8-1 vote. This group will be affiliating with the Teamsters. The Town of Hampton, currently affiliated with the Teamsters, signed cards to the PELRB to have an election to join SEA. There are more potential members with the Town of Hampton than we lost from Belknap County.

Mary Fields motioned to go into Executive Session. Avis Crane seconded the motion.

Entered Executive Session at 2:40 p.m.

Exit Executive Session at 3:38 p.m.

Ken Muske motioned to hire the recommended candidate for the Field Representative I position. John Hattan seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention.

Ralph Mecheau motioned to accept the consent agenda. John Hattan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Political Education: Ralph Mecheau, nothing additional to report.

Finance Committee: Finance report in Board members’ packets. The Finance Committee is reviewing dues scales.

Steward Committee: Ken Muske reported the committee meets the third Thursday of the month at 5:30. The committee has been having a lot of good discussion. The committee plans on having another in-person steward training in September, 2023.

Dues Assistance: John Hattan motioned to approve two Dues Assistance applications. Germano Martins seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Retirement Board of Trustees: Germano Martins reported the Board had not met yet this month. He will have more to report at next month’s meeting.

President Gulla stated he thought Germano Martins would be a good representative for Labor on the COLA commission.
John Hattan reported he had three associate member applications. All three individuals work in the mental health field. Avis Crane motioned to approve the associate membership applications. Mary Fields seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Germano Martins motioned to accept all reports into the record. Ralph Mecheau seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There was no new business before the Board.

Melissa Kelleher motioned to adjourn. Germano Martins seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Vanlandingham
SEA Board Secretary