

AFGE Local 2578 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The members of AFGE Local 2578 met at 12:01 PM, Tuesday, September 29, 2020. The monthly meeting was held via audio-conference and virtual connection with NARA employees on telework and weather and safety leave status.

A quorum of members was present.

President Ashby Crowder called the meeting to order.

Roll Call of Officers: Officers present were President Ashby Crowder, Executive Vice President Kimberlee Ried, Treasurer Jimmie Greenlee, Sergeant at Arms Joe Byrnes, and Secretary Daniel Dancis.

Meeting Minutes:

Dancis read the August meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report:

Greenlee reported on the Local's transactions, assets, spending, and membership for the month of August. Greenlee thanked his predecessor Yolanda Bean for helping during his transition into the position.

MOTION by Kimberlee Ried to approve the reports as read. SECONDED by Mitchell Buffone. The motion was APPROVED by voice vote.

Representational Activity:

Crowder reported that AFGE and NARA signed a new MOU on incentive payments for employees who have been recalled to facilities. See the NARA notices for more information. Crowder recognized Sharmila Bhatia and Mitchell Buffone for their continued work on this.

A number of additional NARA facilities have entered phase 2 of reopening but no further COVID-19 updates.

Crowder reported that grievance activity continues to be light and that there are no local cases on the docket and that a number of union reps attended training in the past month

Safety and Health Committee:

No Report.

Legislative Committee:

Crowder reported that today is the day before the end of fiscal year. A federal budget is expected to pass, but that there is no guarantee.

Staff were reminded in the case of a government shutdown not to use any government equipment such as logging into your work email, since so many have become accustomed to do so from home. In addition, if you contact your legislators, also do so from your private equipment and do not use government equipment for this purpose.

Organizing Committee:

Crowder reported on the Sept. 22 event held virtually, this was the second virtual event.

Communications Committee:

No report.

Women's and Fair Practices Committee:

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Crowder reported on the Hatch Act litigation. An appeal was filed with the fourth circuit in Richmond. Crowder reminded members that our legal representation is on a pro-bono basis.

The delegates from locals in District 14 have elected new officers: National Vice President for District 14 is Ottis Johnson of Local 1831. Tyra McClellan of Local 727 was elected Women's Advisory Coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS & Q&A Open Discussion:

Crowder reported that the Executive board is preparing a budget proposal for 2021 and plans to have it ready for a vote during the October membership meeting.

Mitchell Buffone reported that employees on weather and safety leave are still accumulating leave and reminded them that they will need to use leave accumulated beyond 240 hours or risk losing it. They may also donate it.

In addition, appraisals are coming up. For reference, there is guidance in the MOUs about work during COVID-19 and how it will be appraised.

Questions were raised about the tax deferral for federal employees. This affects employees across the federal agency and the Union has not provided any additional information. It will be up to each individual to pay back what has been deferred at tax time. However, if you have

questions, you may submit them to Ashby Crowder who will collect them and submit them for responses.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE LOCAL:

None

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Kimberlee Ried. SECONDED by Mitchell Buffone. The motion was APPROVED by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned by President Crowder at 12:24 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of AFGE Local 2578 will be held October 27, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted September 29, 2020.

Daniel Dancis, Secretary, AFGE 2578