

AFGE Local 2578 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The members of AFGE Local 2578 met at 12:00 PM ET, Tuesday, November 28, 2023. The monthly meeting was held via virtual connection with NARA employees with an in-person option in Room 5220 at Archives II.

A quorum of members was present.

President Ashby Crowder called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm ET.

Roll Call of Officers: Officers present were President Ashby Crowder, Vice President Kimberlee Ried, and Secretary Heidi Holmstrom. Treasurer Jimmie Greenlee joined the meeting after the roll call and Sergeant-at-Arms Daniel Dancis was absent.

Meeting Minutes:

Holmstrom read the October minutes.

The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report:

Greenlee was not yet present, so the report was postponed until later in the meeting.

Crowder said that Local 2578 has opened the CD and new savings account, both with a much better interest rate than our old account. He also noted that while it looks like we have overspent on the organizing budget, this is because of the recruiter incentive, which is partially reimbursed by AFGE. The reimbursements will need to be reconciled when received.

Safety and Health Committee:

No report.

Legislative Committee:

Mitchell Buffone reported that there might be a 4.5% COLA in the next budget. He noted that the Council negotiated a new contract which still needs to be ratified. Negotiations began a year earlier than required to make sure the contract is in place before the 2024 elections.

The AFGE Legislative Conference is coming up in February and Buffone encouraged members to get involved in legislative activities.

Organizing Committee:

Crowder reported on the November 9 virtual lunch & learn and noted that new members joined after the event.

Crowder announced that Kyellye Winkey will be hosting a recruiting event in the A2 cafeteria.

Treasurer Greenlee joined the meeting and reported on the Local's transactions, assets, spending, and membership for the reporting period of October 2023. The report may be accessed on the AFGE Local 2578 Google Drive.

A MOTION to approve the October report as read was put forth by Ried, SECONDED by Dara Baker. The motion was APPROVED by voice vote.

Communications Committee:

Ried announced that she will post a list of union friendly businesses for holiday shopping on the Local 2578 Facebook page.

Women's & Fair Practices Committee

No report.

Representational Activity:

Crowder reported that the telework grievance was denied as expected, and arbitration has been invoked. He reminded members to "obey now and grieve later" and will provide more information when it's available.

Crowder said there are a number of individual representation cases, some disciplinary, some related to promotions/career ladder, and many performance appraisal-related. The deadline for the agency to issue performance appraisals is approaching.

Crowder announced Saira Haqqi as a new union rep at A2.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS/Q&A/Open Discussion:

Crowder addressed a member question submitted for the agenda concerning forced temporary reassignments to other offices. Crowder said the agency has the power to assign work to employees, which includes positions. The authority comes from Title 7 of the Civil Service Reform Act. There are currently procedures in the contract for notification of reassignment. The new contract established that the agency will first seek volunteers when projects and business needs arise.

Jesse Wilinski asked what happens if an assignment puts an undue burden on an employee, such as requiring them to report to a more distant location. Crowder said that commuting issues would be addressed on case-by-case basis.

Crowder noted that while Local 2578 is under budget overall, it is currently over budget for the organizing line item. He asked for a motion to increase the line item.

A MOTION to approve an additional \$3000 dollars for the organizing budget was put forth by Ried, SECONDED by Greenlee. The motion was APPROVED by voice vote.

Crowder noted the success of the 2022 AFGE end-of-year membership appreciation and recruitment event at A2 and proposed an increase to the member appreciation budget line item to allow for a similar 2023 event.

A MOTION to approve an additional \$2000 for the member appreciation line item to support an end of year event at A2 was put forth by Ried, SECONDED by Wilinski. The motion was APPROVED by voice vote.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE LOCAL:

Crowder reminded members that the December meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 30.

Crowder noted that the continuing resolution NARA is operating under runs through Feb. 2, 2024.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Baker, SECONDED by Ried. The motion was APPROVED by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned by President Crowder at 12:30 pm ET.

Approved on January 30, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Heidi Holmstrom.