

**A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 2627  
NYC Electronic Data Processing Personnel  
General Membership Meeting  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Agenda: Election Committee Report  
Installation of Officers  
President's Report**

**President Robert Ajaye called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM.**

**Election Committee Report:**

**Aria Pride, chair of the Local 2627 Election Committee which also included Ron Leone and Susie Yuen, introduced Ron Zaino of the American Arbitration Association. Mr. Zaino read the results of the Local's August 2008 run-off election.**

**The Run-off Election results were certified as follows:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President**

Gary Goff	493 - declared the winner
Gilbert Sambolin	436
Blanks and Voids	18
Total	947

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Artie Kellam	398
Cynthia Perkins	496 - declared the winner
Blanks and Voids	53
Total	947

**Executive Board (4)**

Cody Childs	509 – declared a winner
Robert Fishburne	498 – declared a winner
You Sun (Frederic) Liu	469 – declared a winner
Charles McClain	392
Portia Perkins	367
Seth Solomon	331
Patricia Taylor	420 – declared a winner
Fanghua Xia	356
Blanks & Voids	446
Total	3788

**Secretary**

Judy Briggs	452
Peter Jablin	460 - declared the winner
Blanks & Voids	35
Total	947

According to the American Arbitration Association, 3,472 ballots plus an addition 4 were authorized by the union to be mailed to eligible voters on Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Local 2627 provided the American Arbitration Association with a list of persons who were eligible to vote. During the course of the election, 58 duplicates were mailed out at the request of Local 2627 members. In order to be counted, ballots had to be received by AAA, no later than 9 a.m., Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008. 950 envelopes were received by AAA, of which three were set aside and not counted.

Aria Pride gave a report of various protests that were filed by members. She stated that a few of them have proceeded to the AFSCME Judicial Panel while others have been denied. She then concluded her report. A motion was made by Julie Leibowitz to accept the Election Committee's report. Robert Fishburne seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

A number of members wanted to know how current the mailing list was. Terry Dunne (CUNY) asked what the timing was between a member's submission of a green card and the updating of the DC 37 mailing list. He questioned whether the mailing list is of any use if it is not being updated on a timely basis. President Robert Ajaye commented that the list is not always updated immediately and sometimes 6 or 7 months will pass before members are actually added to the list. He said that the Election manual states that there will never be a perfect mailing list. Artie Kellam (HRA) asked whether the same mailing list was used in the run-off election as in the first election. AAA's Ron Zaino stated that the same mailing list was used in the two elections except for an additional 4 members being added in the run-off election. A member wanted to know how many ballots were received after the election deadline. This amount will be reported to the election chair by the AAA.

Gilbert Sambolin (DOE) made a motion to call the question. The motion was seconded by Peter Jablin and it passed. A vote was then taken on the motion to accept the Election Committee Report and it passed.

#### **Installation of Officers:**

The officers were sworn in by DC 37 representative Marianela Santana. President Ajaye introduced the new officers to the members.

#### **President's Report:**

President Robert Ajaye informed the members of the problems that he had encountered during his election as President.

President Robert Ajaye stated that 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Gary Goff rescinded his own release-time without giving him any advanced notification. Robert said that he did not become aware that Gary was no longer working on release-time until after the delegates returned from the AFSCME Convention, when Ed Hysyk told him that Gary would no longer be working in the Local's office.

President Ajaye said that after dealing with Gary Goff for 3 years, he decided not to include Gary on his slate. He said that when he ran unopposed for President in May 2008, the members were never notified that he was the President-Elect. He said that none of this information was posted on the web-site or thru the Local's e-alert system. He said that members were kept in the dark.

President Ajaye stated that Gary Goff removed members' grievances from the Local's office when he rescinded his own release-time. Robert said that since the Local has no way of knowing what grievances were filed, he urged members who have pending litigation or grievances of any type to call the Local's office. Robert said that what Gary did with those grievances was criminal and it was suggested that he be brought up on charges.

President Ajaye said that during the election, Gary Goff was using the Local's membership list to send out mailings to members to solicit funds for his campaign. Robert said that he has retained copies of the mailings.

Terry Dunne (CUNY) asked if a motion could be made to recall the election of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gary Goff. President Ajaye said that a recall would have to be decided upon at another time. At this time, he said he wanted to just let members know what's going on. He further stated that there will be no more secrets and no planting of members in the audience to make motions to adjourn meetings to stop the flow of information.

Cardonel Lohier (HRA) asked that the members hear 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gary Goff's interpretation of what took place. Gary then addressed the members.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gary Goff said that President Ajaye has not returned his calls for 3 months. Gary said that he offered to help Robert Ajaye in the Local's office during the transition. He stated that this is not the appropriate time to go over everything that President Ajaye has said. Gary said that he was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President by a majority of the members that cast votes and that he will serve in that capacity. He said that he has answered these charges at the Local's Executive Board meeting when President Ajaye first brought them up. He added that he doesn't intend to spend the next three years answering these same charges. He said that those members who want to talk to him privately can do so. Members asked him if the allegations made against him were true. He answered "no".

President Ajaye then asked if any other member wished to speak.

Aria Pride (DoITT) said that she would like to speak as a shop steward and as a member of Local 2627. She stated that during the Local's election, there have been some very ugly things that happened. She stated that as far as grievances were concerned and as far as the membership was concerned, the Local's former president, Ed Hysyk, was there to help a lot of the members. But she said that she was very disappointed by a lot of the things that she has seen as Chair of the Election Committee. Aria said that it almost brought tears and sadness to see the state that the Local is in. She said that it is going to require a concerted effort by the shop stewards, activists, and all concerned members to work together to strengthen the Local. She urged members to bring things up with the membership when they see things that are wrong. She said the membership must hear what's going on.

Fred Gibson (DoITT) stated that he has been a member of Local 2627 for 23 years and he is appalled at what is presently going on with our Local. He told 1st Vice President Gary Goff that he doesn't know if he (Gary) lost those grievances or not, but members lives will be affected. Fred stated that members who might be entitled to money won't be able to obtain the money if the grievances are missing.

Ed Hysyk (HRA) said that he wanted to correct a few things that were said about the release-time resignation of Gary Goff. Ed said that Robert was not the President when Gary Goff resigned. He

stated that Gary notified the proper authorities about his resignation. Ed said that Gary sent memos to the Professional Division, Dennis Sullivan, and the Comptroller's office. He said that Gary had a right to resign. Ed Hysyk further stated that he offered to stay working in the Local's office until President Robert Ajaye acquired full release-time but they canceled his release and back-dated it. Ed said that the Local's office is now uncovered most of the time.

President Ajaye stated that although he is not on full release-time yet, he will do everything in his power to get the Local's office up to speed. Treasurer Bruce Heigh stated that 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Cynthia Perkins will eventually be working in the Local's office on full release.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Cynthia Perkins stated that the Local has to get the missing grievance files from Gary or give him the opportunity to bring them back in order for the Local to move forward. Aria Pride suggested that the grievance reps meet with Gary Goff to locate the files. President Ajaye said that he received memos from members inquiring about grievances that can not be found in the Local's office. He said many of these grievances never made it to the Professional Division where it is entered into the grievance tracking system and given to the chief Council Representative.

DC 37 Representative Marianela Santana said that if the grievances do not get to the grievance representatives, they have no way of knowing what was filed if it never reached to step 3. She said that many members are calling about grievances that she has never seen in her life. She said that the Professional Division had a meeting with President Ajaye and it was decided that the grievance reps will file new grievances for the members since it will be tracked by the Professional Division.

President Ajaye said that some of the grievances will have to be restarted from the beginning because of the lost time and the statute of limitations.

President Ajaye said that the Local is in the process of creating its own grievance tracking system.

The DC 37 Representatives introduced themselves to the membership.

Lisa Riccio represents members from NYPD and DOF, and NYCHA.

Raul Martinez represents members from DOHMH, HHC and DEP.

Rhonda Johnson represents members in C.U.N.Y.

Marianela Santana represents members in all the other mayoral agencies.

President Ajaye said that there will be a shop steward/activist meeting on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Gilbert Sambolin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Fishburne seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cody Childs

Secretary

10/2005 – 9/2008