

AFSCME Local 2627
NYC Electronic Data Processing Personnel
General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2009

Agenda:
Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Trustee's Report
President's Report
New & Old Business
Good & Welfare

President Robert Ajaye called the meeting to order at 6.15 PM.

Minutes

Brother Peter Jablin (ACS) distributed the minutes of the November 18, 2008 general membership meeting. Brother Steven Boyarsky (HRA) made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Brother Mike Lanni (TRS).

The following corrections were made;

Pg. 2 – second paragraph change “The motion passed unanimously” to “The motion passed with no nay votes or abstentions”

The motion to accept the minutes as corrected passed with no nay votes or abstentions.

Brother Jablin read the actions made by the executive board for November and December 2008.

November

Motion to appoint Brother Mike Lanni as trustee to fill the remainder of Sister Cynthia Perkins's term – motion passed

Motion to purchase cell phone for \$195.06 for Marianella Santana – motion passed

Motion to purchase cell phone for \$99 for Sister Cynthia Perkins – motion passed

Motion to purchase cell phone for \$200 for Brother Ajaye – motion passed

Motion to contribute \$150 towards the cost of members' tickets to the annual Housing Authority Diwali luncheon – motion passed

Motion to contribute \$600 towards the cost of members' tickets to the annual Chinese-American Association dinner – motion passed

Motion to increase the budgets of the African-American, Asian and Women's History committees from \$1500 to \$2500 – motion passed

December

Motion to send Brother Bruce Heigh to the National Labor and Management Conference in Hollywood Florida at a cost of \$3000 – motion failed

Motion to give holiday gifts to DC 37 staff members at the same level as was given in 2007 – motion passed

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bruce Heigh distributed the local's financial statements for the months of October and November 2008.

Gilbert Sambolin (DOE) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Robert Fishburne (HRA) seconded the motion.

For the month of October, 2008, the local had a total income of \$189,394 and total expenditures of \$198,243. The local had an excess of expenses over income for the month of \$8,849 and ended the month of October 2008 with a cash balance of \$209,457.

For the month of November, 2008, the local had a total income of \$176,380 and total expenditures of \$197,931. The local had an excess of expenses over income for the month of \$21,551 and ended the month of November 2008 with a cash balance of \$187,905.

Brother Eugene Olmstead (HRA) asked why there was a \$13,000 difference in the excess of expenses over income between the months of November and October. Brother Heigh said that the November statement included expenses related to the AFSCME convention and a furniture purchase of \$5803, related to the office renovations which was budgeted around 1997.

Brother Artie Kellum (HRA) asked for a breakdown of the office furniture expense. Brother Heigh said that the purchase included 2 desks, lateral filing cabinets and a hutch with hinge doors.

Brother Kellum asked if the furniture purchases were completed. Brother Ajaye said that the original motion was for \$10,000. Brother Ajaye said that there was a carpet purchase made, and that the carpet still had to be installed and the office painted. Brother Ajaye said that eventually another computer will have to be purchased. Brother Ajaye said approximately \$2,000 remained in the original budget, and that if additional money was needed he would ask the executive board to approve it.

Brother Steven Boyarsky (HRA) asked why it was necessary to increase the budget of the three heritage committees by \$1,000 each. Brother Ajaye said that in the past he had chaired the African-American history committee and that because of the cost of the food and other expenses going up, \$1500 was no longer sufficient to cover the expenses of the event. Brother Ajaye asked the membership to increase their participation in these events.

The motion to accept the Treasurer's report passed with no nay votes or abstentions.

DC 37 Council representative Lisa Riccio sworn in trustee Brother Norman Horowitz (Transit Authority).

Trustee's Report

The Local's three trustees, Brother Artie Kellum (HRA), Brother Mike Lanni (TRS) and Brother Norman Horowitz (Transit Authority) read the Local's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007. (audited by Peter DeCarlo, CPA)

The local ended the year with total assets of \$176,316. Total dues for the year were \$2,082,167 and total interest was \$4,396 comprising total revenues of \$2,086,563. Total expenses were \$2,041,057 and the change in unrestricted net assets for the year was \$45,506. Unrestricted net assets at the beginning of the year were \$130,810, and at the end of the year were \$176,316.

Brother Steven Boyarsky (HRA) asked what unrestricted net assets are. Peter De Carlo said that unrestricted net assets is a term used in non-profit accounting that means that the local can use those assets to do anything that the local is allowed to do.

Brother Eugene Olmstead (HRA) made a motion to accept the trustee's report. The motion was seconded by Brother Charles McClain (HRA) and passed with no nay votes or abstentions.

President's Report

Brother Ajaye began his President's report by giving the vote counts for Local 2627 for the ratification of the recently approved citywide economic contract. 2986 ballots were mailed, of which 1900 were received back. There were 1829 Yes votes, 50 No votes, 14 were from people not on the membership list, 1 had no identification, and 4 were agency shop.

Brother Ajaye said that the local will be making efforts to reduce the number of agency shop fee payers by getting them to join the union.

Brother Ajaye said that there was a delay in establishing payment dates at the Transit Authority because they are awaiting ratification of all the contracts.

Brother Ajaye said that we still don't have a payment date for the .34% longevity increase from the last contract, and that the .1% at the end of this contract will also probably be used for longevity increases.

Brother Gilbert Sambolin (DOE) asked if the local could print out a salary chart with the new contractual increases. Brother Ajaye said that he was waiting for Research and Negotiations to provide it, and as soon as they did he would put it on-line.

Brother Heigh said that the local's dues will be increasing by 70 cents per paycheck for full-timers and 50 cents bi-weekly for part-timers due to AFSCME and DC 37's per capita dues increases.

Brother Ajaye said that as on January 1 Transit Authority members will be eligible for DC 37 education benefits. Sister Cynthia Perkins said that on-line courses are now reimbursable through the DC 37 education fund.

Brother Ajaye said that the open-competitive Computer Service Technician exam has been scored and rated by DCAS, but that the list has not been established yet. Brother Ajaye also said that the local is planning on having a review class for the upcoming promotional Supervising Computer Service Technician exam, and is attempting to locate a member with the proper skill set to teach the course. Brother Jablin said that it is very important that the Computer Service Technician list be established as soon as possible because it will give provisional members an opportunity to become permanent. Brother Jablin also said that if persons on the Computer Service Technician list have the opportunity to take the Supervising Computer Service Technician exam, it is very important to provide them with clear instructions on how to do so.

Brother Ajaye said that it looks unlikely that there will be an early retirement incentive offered.

Brother Ajaye said that \$107 for the legal benefit will be included in the W-2's of members who are eligible for it.

Dorothea Lawrence of the World Trade Center Health Center program made a presentation on the services her program offers to individuals who have 9/11 health related problems. The program is available at three sites, Bellevue Hospital, Elmhurst Hospital and Gouverneur Healthcare Services and the phone number for more information is 1-877-WTC-0107. Ms. Lawrence's phone number is 1-212-815-1692.

Brother Ajaye said that DC 37 Research and Negotiations must be notified first prior to any agency layoffs.

Brother Ajaye said that a member may be replaced by someone on a civil service list for their title if they are provisional. He also said that the DCAS five-year plan to reduce provisionals is available on-line at the DCAS website. He said that provisional members should take any civil service exam that is open that they are eligible for.

Brother Ajaye said that every provisional in a title must be laid-off before a permanent employee can be laid-off.

Sister Florence Smith (Corrections) asked if layoff procedures could be posted at worksites so members would know them. Brother Ajaye said he would consider posting them on-line.

Brother Ajaye asked Francisco Guzman (BMCC), the local's webmaster to address the meeting. Brother Guzman said the local has approximately 1700 e-mail addresses for approximately 4000 members and asked members for suggestions on how to improve the e-alert system.

Brother Paul Daniels (DOE) asked if it is only pure provisional members who are at risk of losing their jobs due to replacement from civil service lists. Brother Ajaye said that this is true.

Old Business

Beth Hillelson (HRA) asked if there was any resolution on the missing grievances. Sister Cynthia Perkins said that Council Representatives Marianella Santana, Lisa Riccio and Raul Martinez were working on resolving any outstanding questions.

New Business

Brother Ajaye said that he is the co-chair of the DC 37 Black History Committee, along with Deborah Pitts, President of Local 1113. Brother Ajaye said that Local 2627 will be co-sponsoring the opening night event with Local 1113 on February 2. Bill Lucy, International Secretary-Treasurer of AFSCME will be the guest speaker.

The annual Black History Family Day will be Saturday February 7, and the closing event will be Friday night February 27. Brother Ajaye encouraged members to attend as many events as they can.

Brother Steven Boyarsky (HRA) said that since members have the right to make an appointment to visit the office and see the executive board minutes, in the spirit of transparency and easy access he would like to make a motion that the executive board minutes be made available at the general membership meetings for members to see. The motion was seconded by Brother Paul Slapikas (HRA). A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Brother Jablin said that page 8 of the December 2008 issue of the Public Employee Press had an article entitled "Progress in Salary Review Discussions." Brother Jablin said that he knew that our local had made two salary review presentations, one based on research by a committee of members from HRA on the Computer Specialist (SW) title, and that former President Brother Ed Hysyk had made a presentation on the Computer Programmer Analyst Trainee title. Brother Jablin asked Brother Ajaye if he had any information on our presentations. Brother Ajaye said he knows that DC37 is in meetings, and that we need a member of the local to be an active member of the salary review committee. Brother Ajaye said that any member who wants to be part of the committee should submit their name to the local.

Brother Jablin asked for a moment of personal privilege to recognize that today was the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Brother Jablin said that President Obama has been a long-time friend of AFSCME and labor, and that today is a hopeful and historic day for both labor and civil rights.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8.15 PM.