

AFSCME Local 2627  
NYC Electronic Data Processing Personnel  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2009

Agenda:  
Minutes  
Treasurer's Report  
Approval of 2009 Budget  
President's Report  
New & Old Business  
Good & Welfare

President Robert Ajaye called the meeting to order at 6.17 PM.

Brother Ajaye began the meeting by introducing guest speaker, Councilman Bill de Blasio who is a candidate for Public Advocate. Brother Ajaye said that Councilman de Blasio has been a very good friend of DC 37.

Councilman de Blasio said that he would like to talk about what is going on in the city that is pertinent to the work 2627 members do, and the issues that Local 2627 and DC 37 face. Councilman de Blasio said the policies of the current administration leave the families and workers of the city out, and that government is the ultimate safety net to protect vulnerable families. Councilman de Blasio said government should use its power and resources to stimulate the economy, and that layoffs and contracting-out are the reverse of economic stimulus. Councilman de Blasio said the labor movement is essential to the future prosperity of the country and is the reason that we have a middle class today.

Councilman de Blasio said that the city work force has been a source of pride to us all for what it has achieved, and that contracting-out is corporatizing government. Councilman de Blasio said that he had been one of the leading opponents of the Mayor's extension of term limits and that the voice of the people needs to be heard. He said that the position of Public Advocate is a check and balance to the mayor. Councilman de Blasio said that the work Local 2627 members do makes it possible for the city to function and he feels that the current administration doesn't value the city work force.

Brother Gene Olmstead (HRA) commented that contracted consultants are not held accountable for the work they do. Councilman de Blasio said that the accumulated knowledge and ability of city workers is something the city should cherish and hang on to. Councilman de Blasio also said its important to educate the public on the quality differences and accountability of work done by city workers.

Brother Mitchell Goldberg (NYCHA) asked what councilman de Blasio's position on DCAS's proposal to classify Local 2627's computer titles as non-competitive is. Councilman de Blasio said that the city had built up a civil service structure and career ladder that has worked and that he opposed the proposal. Councilman de Blasio said that he would help oppose the proposal and thanked the members for the opportunity to address the meeting.

Brother Ajaye introduced Sister Barbara Terrelonge of the DC 37 Research and Negotiations division to discuss the DCAS proposal to reclassify Local 2627 represented titles under DCAS's jurisdiction from competitive to non-competitive status. Sister Terrelonge said that DC 37's position is that the union opposes the proposed change in the status of our titles from competitive class to non-competitive class.

Sister Terrelonge said that this proposal is part of the DCAS five-year plan to reduce the number of provisionals in city service. Sister Terrelonge said the proposed reclassifications include not only the computer titles, but also many other titles represented by other DC 37 locals. She said that the hearing on the computer titles is not the first hearing that DC 37 has attended. She said that the hearing on the computer titles will be held on April 6 and the next step after the DCAS hearing is a hearing at the State Civil Service Commission. She said that the objective of the union is to ensure that the due process and seniority rights that members have as competitive class employees are preserved.

Sister Terrelonge said that the possible reclassification of titles from competitive to non-competitive presents some issues that are uncharted territory that the union will address. Sister Terrelonge said that this issue has been created by many years of DCAS not doing their job of giving more exams. Sister Terrelonge said that the proposed reclassifications created issues that are citywide and not just Local 2627 issues. She asked that members submit their concerns and thoughts on this issue to President Ajaye.

Brother Lenny Days (HRA) asked if the reclassification issue has any effect on health insurance. Sister Terrelonge said that this should not affect health insurance.

Sister Aria Pride (DoITT) asked if the new titles are created, would they be union titles. Sister Terrelonge said that they would be union titles.

Brother Ajaye said that the proposed reclassifications are just one of the issues our members face, and that is why it is important to get involved and support the local's activities.

## Minutes

The minutes of the January 20, 2009 general membership meeting were distributed. Sister Laura Pyrtle (FDNY) made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Brother Gene Olmstead (HRA).

The following corrections were made;

Pg. 2 & 3 – Brother Artie Kellam’s name is spelled “Kellam”, not “Kellum”

Pg. 5 – The name of the local’s webmaster is Brother Francisco Olvera, not Francisco Guzman.

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

## Motions passed by Executive Board

There were no motions passed at the January or February executive board meetings. At the May general membership meeting, a report will be given of motions passed at March and April executive board meetings.

Brother Ajaye recognized former President Brother Ed Hysyk who was present at the meeting.

## Treasurer’s Report

The local’s financial statements for the month of December 2008, the cumulative financial statement for calendar year 2008 and the financial statement for the month of January 2009 were distributed.

Brother Ed Hysyk (HRA) made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report. Brother Mike Lanni (TRS) seconded the motion.

For the month of December, 2008, the local had a total income of \$ 176,808 and total expenditures were \$191,628. The local had an excess of expenses over income for the month of \$14,820.

The local ended the month of December 2008 with a cash balance of \$ 173,084.

For calendar year 2008, the local's total income was \$2,225,970. The local's total expenses were \$2,229,201. The excess of expenses over income for the year was \$3,231.

The local ended calendar year 2008 with a closing cash balance of \$173,084.

For the month of January 2009, the local's total income was \$250,711. The local's total expenses were \$188,645. The excess of income over expenses for the month was \$62,066.

The local ended the month of January 2009 with a closing cash balance of \$235,150.

Brother Gene Olmstead (HRA) asked why total income for December was approximately \$176,000 and January was approximately \$250,000. Brother Heigh said that January was a three pay period month.

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

#### Approval of 2009 Budget

Treasurer Brother Bruce Heigh distributed the approved budget for calendar year 2008 and the proposed budget for calendar year 2009.

Brother Heigh reviewed the line items in the budget. Brother Heigh said that the budgeted Audit expense is significantly larger in 2009 since the local did not pay for an audit in 2008 and will have to pay twice in 2009.

The total income in the proposed 2009 budget is \$2,351,003, the total expenses are \$2,312, 628 and the budgeted excess of income over expenses is \$38,375.

Sister Julie Leibowitz (HPD) made a motion to approve the proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Brother Seth Solomon (Transit Authority).

The motion to approve the proposed 2009 budget passed with no nay votes or abstentions.

## President's Report

Brother Ajaye began his President's report said that a member at one of our agencies had requested a shop steward election. Brother Ajaye said it is his opinion that the local's policy should be that 50% + 1 member of the membership should be required to request an election for a shop steward if there is a shop steward at the location. Brother Ajaye said if only one member at a site is dissatisfied with the shop steward that should not be grounds for an election, and asked for input from the membership on this issue.

Brother Craig Adams (DOE) asked what was the policy if there are multiple locations for the same agency. Brother Ajaye said that where there is a night and day shift, or separate locations for the same agency, the local would prefer to have separate shop stewards for each shift or location.

Brother James Creque (CUNY) asked if shop stewards are elected for a specific term. Brother Ajaye said that we have no specific terms.

Brother JD Bravo (DoITT) said that he felt that the threshold to call an election should be lower than 50% + 1.

Brother Artie Kellam (HRA) said that he felt that 50% +1 was too high and that 1/3 of the members at a site should be sufficient to call for an election.

Sister Florence Smith (Corrections) said that she felt that 50% +1 was the right figure.

Brother Mitchell Goldberg (NYCHA) said that 50% +1 was too much and a smaller number such as 1/3 was more appropriate. Brother Goldberg asked former President Hysyk what the past practice of the local has been.

Brother Hysyk (HRA) said in the past when a shop steward retired, an election was held to replace the shop steward. He said that if members at a site are dissatisfied with a shop steward a significant number of members should be required to request an election, and that Brother Ajaye's suggestion of 50% +1 should be considered.

Brother John Brennan (DOT) asked if the AFSCME constitution addressed this question. Brother Ajaye said he had checked and hadn't found anything.

Sister Ellen Bitkower (Sanitation) made a motion to require 1/3 of the members at a location to require an election.

Brother Eugene Olmstead (HRA) suggested that the required amount be 1/3 +1.

Brother Seth Solomon (Transit Authority) made a motion to table the issue until such time as the local can put the issue on the meeting notice. Sister Laura Pyrtle (Fire Dept) seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Brother Ajaye said that a forged memo had been circulating about a buyout. The forged memo was on stationary supposedly from the DC 37 Research and Negotiations department. Brother Ajaye said that the local's office had been receiving calls about this, but the memo was a forgery and not true.

Brother Ajaye said the Computer Service Technician exam has been graded but the list has still not been established. 1246 people took the test, 246 passed and 1000 were disqualified.

Brother Ajaye said that the promotional Supervising Computer Service Technician exam is scheduled for Saturday April 25. The DC 37 Education department is working with the local on a preparatory course. Brother Ajaye said that the education department had sent letters to members eligible to take the exam and suggested that members call the Education department at 212-815-1700 to register for the course.

Brother Ajaye encouraged provisional members to take every civil service exam they are eligible for.

Brother Ajaye said that updated city-wide and CUNY salaries will be added to the Local 2627 website.

Brother Ajaye said that there are members who have Non-Competitive status and members who have Competitive status in the Certified titles and its important for members in these titles to know which group they're in.

Brother Hysyk (HRA) urged members to attend DC 37 lobby day in Albany. Brother Ajaye agreed and urged members to participate in and support DC 37 and the local's activities.

## Old Business

None

## New Business

Beth Hillelson (HRA) said that her grievance had been settled and thanked 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president Cynthia Perkins, Council Representative Sister Marianella Santana and Brother Ajaye for their help.

Brother Seth Solomon (Transit Authority) asked about the status of the .34 % longevity increase and the pay dates for the Transit Authority. Brother Ajaye said that the .34% longevity increase had not been settled yet, and asked Brother Solomon to call him for more information on the status of the Transit Authority pay dates.

Sister Patricia Taylor (HHC) invited all members to attend the Local's Women's History event in room 1 on March 27 from 6 PM to 9 PM.

Brother Ajaye thanked the members of the Local's Black History committee for their work on Black History month.

## Good and Welfare

Brother Jablin said that Alvin Leung of DoITT had a baby daughter.

Brother Hysyk made a motion to adjourn. Brother Jablin seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8.15 PM.