

AFSCME Local 2627
NYC Electronic Data Processing Personnel
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2009

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

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

Minutes

Brother Jablin distributed the minutes of the June 16, 2009 general membership meeting. Sister Julie Leibowitz (HPD) made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Brother Charles Mc Clain (HRA).

No corrections were made to the minutes.

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

Motions passed by Executive Board

June

Motion to purchase two tickets at \$80 each to the Caribbean Heritage Celebration –
motion passed

July

No motions were made

August

Motion to buy a table for Italian Heritage for \$850, members to pay ½ the cost of their tickets – motion passed

Motion to buy ½ page journal ad for \$500 and 2 tickets for concert for DC 37 65th anniversary celebration at \$300 – members to pay ½ cost of tickets – motion passed

Treasurer's Report

Brother Heigh was excused. There was no Treasurer's report

President's Report

Brother Ajaye said that we had a larger than usual turnout for the Labor Day parade and the pictures were on the local's website. Brother Ajaye said that it is important for members to make these events.

Brother Ajaye said that the DCAS five-year plan's proposed non-competitive reclassification had moved our titles from the end of the five year plan to the end of the second year. Brother Ajaye said that the non-competitive proposal drafted by DCAS had language that said that managers need to be able to let technology workers go when their skills are no longer necessary. Brother Ajaye said it is important to continue to oppose the non-competitive reclassification.

Brother Ajaye said that the city is hiring consultants at \$250,000 a year when members of 2627 can do the exact same job for \$70,000 or \$80,000 a year.

Brother Ajaye introduced guest speaker Henry Garrido, Assistant Associate Director of DC 37 to discuss contracting-out.

Brother Garrido said he had testified the night before regarding a contract between Future Technology Associates with the Department of Education. Brother Garrido said that the Chief Operating Officer had said that there is no one in house who is capable of doing this work. Brother Garrido said that one of the board members in this panel had said that the specification included Cobol and other non-complex technologies. Brother Garrido said that the response was that there was a transfer clause that in three years this work will be done by city workers. This contract was originally from 2005, and Brother Garrido asked why this wasn't already done in the past.

Brother Garrido said that in government that the justifications for privatization are cost-savings and expertise that is not available in-house. Brother Garrido said that cost-

efficiency can not be the justification because consultants often make \$250,000 a year and do the same work that civil servants do for much less.

Brother Garrido continued that in 2005, Commissioner Menchini of DoITT said in a document drafted for city hall that the city needs to reduce the reliance on consultants in order to save money. Part of that strategy was the creation of the Certified titles in order to convert consultants to civil servants at an estimated savings of \$75,000,000.

Brother Garrido said that the general public needs to be educated in simple principles what it is that city computer workers do. Brother Garrido said that the public needs to be educated that city workers have been doing this work tremendously well. Brother Garrido also said that the public needs to be educated that city workers do the work less expensively.

Brother Garrido said that the administration had received approximately \$200 million under the workforce development act and an additional \$65 million in stimulus and not a single dollar has been used to develop an IT training program.

Brother Garrido said that DC 37 has launched a campaign to educate the public about the cost ineffectiveness of contracting-out. He asked if a consultant creates a program and leaves after two years, who will be there 3 years down the road to maintain the program.

Brother Garrido said that he asked the panel at DOE regarding Future Technology Associates how many DOE employees had been asked about taking over the work in the next three years. Brother Garrido said that he had found similar circumstances at other agencies as well.

Brother Garrido said that the city's own documents say that they will save money by in-sourcing consultants. A document from the Department of Finance says that the Department will save 2 million dollars by in-sourcing six consultants. HRA said that it will save \$800,000 by in-sourcing four consultants.

Brother Garrido said that he asked the city council how much we could save by in-sourcing the 400 consultants who Brother Garrido said are doing parallel functions to DC 37 members. Brother Garrido said that the biggest assets we have in this battle are our members.

Brother Garrido said that DC 37 would continue to highlight agencies where there is waste that the public can see.

Sister Julie Leibowitz (HPD) said that her agency probably has more consultants than members. She said that all the work done by consultants can be done by city workers

Brother Garrido spoke about CUNY. He said that in the case of CUNY, the governor had issued executive order # 6 which covers CUNY & all state agencies says that before contracts are in place the agency must certify that no civil servants can do the work.

Brother Gene Olmstead (HRA) said that he had applied for certification courses at the DCAS training center and had been turned down. Brother Garrido said that some of the contracts have a built-in training clause to pay for certifications. He said that this needs to be highlighted.

Brother Garrido spoke about the abuse of H1B visas for foreign technology workers and said that some city agencies are the largest users of these visas.

Brother Gilbert Sambolin (DOE) said in the 17 years he has spent at DOE he has received a total of 8 days training. He said that DOE recently replaced a consultant with a high-quality system that was developed by in-house personnel. Brother Garrido said that the union needs to use its communications tools to promote this system. Brother Sambolin said that the public does not hear enough about cost overruns and jobs extended longer than planned.

Brother Garrido said that many of the contracts are sole-source and no-bid contracts with no competition and no analysis has been done of their cost-effectiveness.

Brother Garrido said he will continue to follow-up on the issues raised at the meeting and show this is a policy of the City of New York that does not address the needs of the population and wastes money.

Sister Julie Leibowitz (HPD) made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by sister Laura Pirtle (FDNY) The motion passed with no nay votes or abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.25 PM.