

**Local 2627  
District Council 37  
Special Membership Meeting  
July 19, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Robert Ajaye, President  
There was a quorum.

In attendance were Executive Board Members:

Robert Ajaye, President  
Michael Lanni, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Gene Olmstead, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Bruce Heigh, Treasurer  
Judy Briggs, Secretary  
Cody Childs, Executive Board Member  
Robert Fishburne, Executive Board Member  
Patricia Taylor, Executive Board Member  
Susie Yuen, Executive Board Member

**Agenda:**

Vote on Election Protest Results

Robert Ajaye, President called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.. He announced the Agenda. There was a point of order made by Mitch Goldberg (NYCHA) who said the Agenda was to be determined by the membership. Mr. Ajaye responded to Mr. Goldberg. He said that the Agenda is set prior to the start of the meeting. The only way for the Agenda to be changed is by a motion made at the meeting, seconded and if a majority of the members vote to revise the Agenda. Since there was no motion made, the objection to the Agenda was invalid.

Robert Ajaye turned the meeting over to the Election Committee Chair, Terry Dunne.

Mr. Dunne made his report as follows:

- A protest was filed by Seth Solomon.
- The protest claimed that 70 members of the Transit Authority were consciously disenfranchised from the Local 2627 election process because they did not receive notification of the meeting for nominations or first ballots or second ballots.
- The Election Committee held a meeting and reviewed the membership records of mailings and came to the following determination:
- There were 56 members of the Transit Authority who had been accreted to Local 2627, not 70 members of the Transit Authority, as claimed by Mr. Solomon.
- The Election Committee compared the list of 56 accreted TA members to the list of members who were sent mailings with notification of the meeting for nominations, and first ballots and second ballots.
- Of the 56 on the membership list, 22 members were not on the mailing list for the election mailings that were sent out. There were no addresses associated with the names of the 22 members. DC 37 personnel explained that since the time the 22 TA members had been accreted and added to the main membership list and sent regular Local 2627 mailings, mailings to the 22 had been returned and because there were bad addresses they were excluded from future mailings until DC27 could get a new address for the member.

- Of the 22 members, where there were no addresses associated with their names, 12 of the 22 called the office and received ballots. Ten (10) of the accreted TA members did not receive ballots.
- Local 2627, therefore, made a conscious effort to enfranchise the accreted Transit Authority members. There were no grounds for the protest. Only 10 members from the Transit Authority did not get mailings and those were members with bad addresses.
- Brother Hotchburg, NYCHA, sent a letter to Local 2627 saying he did not get a mailing. Local 2627 received the mailing back. Therefore, it was an invalid complaint.
- Election Committee Chairman, Terry Dunne explained that all protests have to be made in writing. He received a complaint made verbally to him that a member attempted to nominate the same person for President and Executive Board and their nomination was not taken. He explained that a person could not be nominated for President and accept the nomination, as one candidate did, and then be nominated for Executive Board. Therefore, the complaint was not a legal protest or valid under *Roberts Rules of Order*, the governing rules of the Election Nominations.

Robert Fishburne made a motion to accept the report of the Election Committee. Portia Perkins seconded the motion. There was discussion.

In discussion:

- Seth Solomon asked about the Election Committee's decision to remove names of candidates nominated at the June 25, 2011 meeting from the ballot.
- Terry Dunne explained that the Election Committee contacted every person who could be contacted who was nominated for an office, and if they declined, their name was not included on the ballot.
- Brother Dunne explained that AFSCME determined, under the *AFSCME Constitution, Roberts Rules of Order* govern the election process. Under these rules, one person is only able to nominate one person for a position where there is one office. He read aloud Article 8, Section 18 of *Roberts Rules of Order*:

"In no event may a member nominate more persons than there are places to fill."

There was one place to fill.

- Brother Dunne stated that a letter was sent to Peter Jablin stating that all but the first person nominated by him, where there was only one office to fill, were invalid nominations, and therefore the names would not be on the ballot. Brother Jablin responded that he never received such a letter. Brother Dunne showed the letter to the membership. He said the Election Committee was not responsible for the post office.
- Seth Solomon said that the Election Committee did not state at the time that *Roberts Rules of Order* would govern the election. He said, when the membership walked out of the room they ("we") had the understanding everyone nominated would be on the ballot.
- Gene Olmstead, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, asked, who is the "we" in Seth Solomon's statement.
- Mitchell Goldberg asked for a point of information with respect to the application of Roberts Rules of Order.
- Artie Kellam, Parliamentarian, made a point of clarification. He said that he was not at the meeting. AFSCME is in charge. He read aloud directly from the book, Article 8, Section 18 of *Roberts Rules of Order*.

- Julie Liebowitz said that all protests should have been submitted to AFSCME, and that at this juncture discussion appears to be mostly accusations potentially opening another conflict.
- Florence Smith said that there was a problem because one person nominated many people, there was no opportunity for other people to nominate. Robert Ajaye, President, made a point of information, stating that he asked three times if there were any more nominations.
- Robert Ajaye said the Election Committee has ruled. If people have a protest, they should make it at AFSCME.
- Max-Henri Louis-Jacque said he didn't know what the President was talking about.
- A member said Mitch Goldberg tried to nominate Seth Solomon and was told that he was already nominated by Brother Jablin; then the Election Committee disregarded Brother Jablin's multiple nominations. Brother Dunne explained that that was after the fact.

Portia Perkins made a motion to end the discussion on the report. Julie Liebowitz seconded the motion. There were 33 votes for ending the discussion; 14 votes to continue the discussion. The motion passed.

The Vote was Called on accepting the Election Committee's Report.  
There were 35 votes in favor of accepting the Report. There were 14 votes against accepting the Report. The Report of the Election Committee was accepted by the Local 2627 membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Briggs  
Local 2627, Secretary