

Local 2627
District Council 37
AFSCME AFL-CIO
General Membership Meeting
June 20, 2017

Minutes

Treasurers Report

Election Committee Report

Presidents Report

Old Business

New Business

Good and Welfare

President Ajaye called the meeting to order at 6:16 P.M. There was a quorum.

- **Minutes**

President Ajaye asked for a motion to accept the minutes for the May 16, 2017 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Brother Brian Wonserver. Brother George Villegas seconded it. A vote to accept the minutes was taken and passed.

During the discussion of the minutes, Brother Olmstead had an issue with the way the minutes were written. Sister Leibowitz explained to him that the minutes are not a word for word accounting, but a summary of events. She tries to be as accurate as she can be. The minutes will be revised for the May meeting. However, going forward the summary format is the format in which these minutes will be produced.

- **Treasurers Report**

Brother Terry Dunne made a motion to accept the May 2017 Treasurers Report. Brother Brian Wonserver seconded. A vote was taken and passed.

- **Election Committee Report**

Brother Terry Dunne reported on the Local's election results. He introduced the other members of the election committee Mohammad Mia and Matthew Conroy.

There were 5,139 ballots mailed out. 1093 Ballots were returned. 1 ballot was empty so the ballot count was 1092. 97 ballots came back with no addresses, 2 came back with no ID, meaning that the person ripped the name and control number off of the envelope. Those 2 ballots were not able to be counted. All elections were completed except for the office of Trustee. You need 490 votes to obtain the position which did not happen. There will be a run-off for this position with the candidates who received the highest votes.

Winners of the Local 2627 Election

President	Robert Ajaye - 709	Delegate to DC37	Susie Yuen – 676 Julie Leibowitz – 658 Mike Lanni – 633 Cody Childs – 563 Barbara McCarthy – 534 Robert Benjamin - 516 Veronica Taylor – 511 Mohammad Chowdhury – 502 Artie Kellam – 469
1 st VP	Mike Lanni - 629		
2 nd VP	Cody Childs - 590		
Treasurer	Arte Kellam - 532	Delegate to Central Labor Council	Mike Lanni – 595 George Villegas – 549 Mohammad Chowdhury – 543
Secretary	Julie Leibowitz - 662		
Executive Board	Susie Yuen – 738 Barbara McCarthy 647 Charles McClain – 601 Tom Engeldrum - 565	Trustee – Runoff Needed. Candidates in bold.	Angel Claudio – 437 Aidian Gellineau – 297 George Villegas – 246

A motion to accept the Election Committee Report was made by brother Alvin Knowles (DOE). Sister Veronica Taylor (DDC) seconded. A vote was taken and passed.

Brother Kellam questioned the status of the protests that were filed. Brother Dunne explained to him that you cannot file a protest until the actual report is given so at this time there were no protests filed. Brother Dunne informed those members of the process.

Brother Olmstead inquired about mail with missing zip codes. Brother Dunne reported that Brother Mitchell Goldberg and Brother Kellam went to the General Counsel's office and sat down with the person in charge of the EDP to go over the blanks. He also reported that the Election Committee has no control over the mailing list. Brother Dunne also stated that he was informed that AAA takes the address and verifies the correct zip code. Brother Olmstead had issue with this response to the process.

Brother Kellam questioned the mailing count for his slates personal mailing vs the mailing of ballots that went out for AAA. He claimed that they were told their flyers were sent to 5140 then changed it to 5040 members while AAA mailed out 5139 ballots to members. He was questioning the discrepancy of the 100 ballots. General Council Robin Roach addressed this issue. She stated that it is entirely possible due to increase of membership or a member requesting a ballot when it was already mailed. That latter would create a duplicate. These situations could be the possible reason for the discrepancy. Robin then reiterated what she told brother Kellam in her office. There were 97 people with no addresses so it is possible that they didn't get charged for their personal mailing of their flyer. Brother Kellam questioned that the 97 no address people were removed from his mailing but were submitted to AAA. Robin believed that was the case.

Brother Olmstead had additional issues and insinuated that the incumbents had the aid of the DC37 Legal Counsel. General Council addressed this accusation and corrected him. While she is Council to Local 2627, when it comes to Elections she speaks to the Election Committee. She does not talk to the candidates. When she was sent an email by a candidate she informed the candidate that she cannot respond to the candidates and can only talk to the election committee.

Brother Olmstead was inquiring on how he can get his own council and he was informed that he had every right to do so at his own expense.

President Ajaye called brother Olmstead out of order. He introduced General Council Robin Roach to the membership. She represents DC37. When there is an election at DC37, Robin is the person that all of the Locals confer with. Her role is to make sure the elections that are run in DC37 are in adherence with all of the constitutions. She is neutral. She does not take sides or play favorites. Her job is to council the Local's Election Committee.

President Ajaye introduced the Assistant Director of the White Collar division, Madonna Knight. He informed the membership that we are no longer part of the Professional Division. We are now part of the White Collar Division.

President Ajaye addressed the membership. He informed everyone that there is nothing "grimy" going on. He mentioned the current record of what he and the elected officers of the Local have accomplished during their terms. He touched on some of the pre-election accusations made by the other slate. He tried to step back and if they felt there was an issue they could bring it up to AFSCME. He did inform the members that we are down to 1 DC37 Representative while our members increase. Last year at this time there were 5 DC37 Representatives. In addition he mentioned the various accomplishments of the Local with the prior officers. President also informed the membership that he meets with the General Council to ask questions and to make sure the process is followed correctly. He cited that when he tried to raise the Discretionary Money to \$250 and was informed that he was doing it wrong by a member, he went to the General Council to inquire regarding that statement. Once he was informed that it was being done wrong, he followed the General Council's instructions on how to proceed. He also mentioned that until that issue is resolved he has not gone over the limit of the \$100.

President Ajaye was questioned by a member asking what he has done for them and he went on to explain that some of the accomplishment again. No one in the Local has been lost due to lay-offs, Good & Welfare, the Child Scholarship, Cultural events, Increasing the Local's bank account, to name a few. This member was upset about losing a grievance and blamed the Local. President Ajaye tried to explain that not everyone wins a grievance. He then went on to introduce the Director of the Professional Division, Tyler Hemmingway. President Ajaye then went back to try to explain that there are people who think that they deserve to win their grievance but that it doesn't make it so.

Brother Kellam had additional issues regarding the address verification and the amount of time that the ballots had to come back. He said it should be 20 days not 15. He claims he spoke to Brother Dunne about it. Brother Dunne changed the date that the ballots were sent out from June 2nd to June 1st in order to comply with this issue. Brother Kellam had issue that Brother Dunne complied without discussing it with him and the other members of his slate. He felt that he should have changed the June meeting date or had the meeting in July instead of mailing the ballots out a day earlier. Brother Kellam made additional accusations. Brother Olmstead also interjected with his accusations. Division Director Tyler Hemmingway interceded stating that the election committee report was accepted by the membership and the officers needed to be sworn in. He informed Brother Olmstead and Brother Kellam that they are able to take their protest to AFSCME.

DC37 Council Rep Dana Tilghman swore the duly elected officers in.

- **Presidents Report**

President Ajaye introduced Sister Leibowitz to discuss the appeal process. Sister Leibowitz spoke about the E&E exams Computer Associate Software and Computer Programmer Analyst. Many people have been disqualified. The Computer Specialist exam has not been graded yet. She informed the membership that there is an appeals process. It is lengthy and the Local has been doing workshops to try to help people with the appeals. She also informed the membership that at the time of the exam filing, DC37 Education Department and the Local participated in exam workshops. DC37 gave 3 workshops which she attended. Sister Leibowitz was aware of the flaws because she took the exam herself. These flaws were brought up 2x at the DC37 Civil Service Committee meetings when the DCAS Commissioner was a guest. The application only allowed members to type 250 characters. This is a problem when having an E&E exam. She created a document at that time. The document included definitions other explanations about exams and Civil Service. She reported that most of the members that she spoke to were disqualified legitimately. The members did not follow the instructions on the NOE. She explained some of the causes that disqualified members. She reminded the members that they need to take personal responsibility when taking these exams, including reviewing your submission. She also stated that she and other members of the Woman's committee have been taking their own time to address this. She has also been using her own vacation time to go out to the agencies during lunchtime to answer questions regarding appeals and what to do.

Sister Leibowitz cited the success of the health fair that the Woman's Committee put on at DC37. This event did not cost the Local any money. She took offense to some people accusing her and the Local of not servicing the members and criticizing what they do. She stated that this is offensive to her because accusations are being hurled by members who don't show up to meetings, do not participate in any event that the Local provides and does not donate any of their own personal time for the benefit of the Local. She explained to the membership what people are currently doing and encouraged the members learn to work together and stop accusing the officers. She encouraged participation. Brother Kellam continued to complain about the election. Sister Leibowitz reminded him that for the flyer mailing all candidates adhered to the same policy. Brother Olmstead started to have issue about why we had such a low turnout. Sister Leibowitz mentioned that we cannot force people to cast a ballot.

President Ajaye tried to explain to Brother Olmstead about the process but he was having an issue with how the mailing is handled. He did not accept the fact that DC37 is the entity who has total control of the mailing list. The candidates running for office cannot use database from the Local. Everything must go through DC37. He continued to be upset because the incumbents did not inform him of their campaign strategy regarding the policy of return addresses. President Ajaye informed him that he was free to inquire if that was something he wanted and it wasn't President Ajaye's fault if he did not ask. There was a lot of yelling and additional accusations and at this time the meeting was getting out of hand.

A motion to Adjourn was made by Sister Barbara McCarthy. It was seconded by Sister Veronica Taylor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm

There was no Old Business, New Business or Good & Welfare

- **Old Business**
- **New Business**

Good and Welfare