

AFGE Local 2578 Minutes

The members of AFGE Local 2578 met at 12:02 PM, Tuesday, January 29, 2013. The monthly meeting was held in room 5220, at Archives II, with audio-conference connections to Archives I and NARA facilities at Atlanta, Chicago, and Lee's Summit, and the Clinton Library, the Ford Library, and the JFK Library. Guests from Local 1200 in Denver and San Bruno attended the meeting by phone. A quorum of members was present.

Roll Call of Officers: Officers present were President Vernon Early, Vice President Mitchell Buffone, Treasurer Nancy Fortna, Secretary Ashby Crowder, and Sergeant at Arms Harold Goodman.

Meeting Minutes: Crowder read the December 2012 monthly meeting minutes of AFGE Local 2578. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Fortna gave the Treasurer's reports reporting balances and expenses for December 2012 and January 2013. Membership has increased from last report to 325 members. The reports were approved.

Safety and Health Committee: Hilary Kaplan reported that an article about ladder safety will appear in the Agency publication Declarations. Kaplan suggested that the approach taken in the article should be incorporated into future training on ladder safety, including in the annual Union Representative training sessions. Kaplan also reported that the recent labor vacancy on the National Safety and Health Committee has been filled. Terry Boone will take Anne Witty's place.

Organizing Committee: Buffone discussed the upcoming recruitment event at Archives I. Crowder thanked Joe Byrnes for his assistance with the administrative tasks associated with recruitment event planning.

Legislative Committee: Committee Chairman Joe Byrnes reported on the 2013 AFGE Legislative conference taking place February 10-13 in Washington, DC. Major concerns include employees' salaries and retention of federal jobs. Early, Buffone, Fortna, and Byrnes will attend the conference on behalf of the Local. Goodman asked those attending to keep and distribute to interested members the training materials from the conference. Byrnes encouraged members to read the Legislative Conference Issues Paper available on the AFGE national website. Buffone encouraged members to pay attention to the news and asked Union representatives to keep the membership informed about the public policy issues facing federal employees.

Representational Activities:

Early reported that the Local's attorney has been engaged to advise on a matter affecting numerous members and other bargaining unit employees at Archives II.

Crowder updated the membership on general representational matters related to the numerous informal and formal grievances raised or filed related to annual employee performance reviews. Crowder reported that the Union has won some cases and that several cases have yet to be resolved.

Communications Committee: Byrnes encouraged members to be thoughtful and cautious when using social media and interactive communications applications, including the Internal Collaboration Network (ICN). A discussion took place about how to account for ICN use on the clock, and when ICN use is considered part of work.

Benevolence Committee: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS: None discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Byrnes discussed training plans and agenda for Union representative training scheduled for April/May 2013. Goodman suggested a representative from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) be invited to make a presentation. Crowder reminded Union representatives to RSVP on whether they will attend Union the rep training.

Buffone reported on Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Representatives' visit to the Philadelphia Records Center to review the ladder waiver.

A discussion took place about use of the Cardinal Scientific ladders built on old specifications, welding of ladders, and ladder safety training.

Crowder introduced and discussed the FY 2013 budget prepared by the Local's Executive Board. A motion to approve the budget was introduced and seconded. The membership approved the motion.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE LOCAL: None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of AFGE Local 2578 will be on Tuesday, February 26, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted February 22, 2013

Ashby Crowder
Secretary
AFGE Local 2578
