

AFGE Local 2578 Minutes

The members of AFGE Local 2578 met at 12:02 PM, Tuesday, February 26, 2013. The monthly meeting was held in room 5220, at Archives II, with audio-conference connections to Archives I, Suitland, and NARA facilities at Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Worth, the Ford Library, and the Bush 41 Library. A Guest from Local 1200 in Denver attended the meeting by phone. A quorum of members was present.

Roll Call of Officers: Officers present for roll call were President Vernon Early, Secretary Ashby Crowder, and Sergeant at Arms Harold Goodman. Vice President Mitchell Buffone joined the meeting in person at Archives II at approximately 12:15.

Meeting Minutes: Crowder read the January 2013 monthly meeting minutes of AFGE Local 2578. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: In Fortna's absence, Crowder gave the Treasurer's reports reporting balances and expenses for February 2013. Membership has increased from last report to 330 members. The report was approved.

Safety and Health Committee: Hilary Kaplan reported on the activities of the National Safety and Health Committee, including the drafting of blog posts for Declarations on behalf of the committee that relate to safety and health issues. Kaplan also reported on the safety trophy awarded to the records center at Kingsridge and related communications. Barbara Voss is the new chair of the national safety and health committee.

Organizing Committee: Buffone and Early reported that the recent recruitment drive at Archives I yielded four new members.

Legislative Committee: No Report.

Representational Activities: Goodman reported on preparations to reevaluate task codes in Atlanta. A discussion took place about the Philadelphia model incorporating employee pre-decisional involvement in task code reviews. Officers reminded members that for this and all other pre-decisional activities involving conditions of employment, the Council appoints bargaining unit participants or delegates this appointment authority; managers may not choose the bargaining unit employees.

A discussion took place about the grievances filed over FY 2012 performance reviews. Crowder reported that the Union won a majority of the individual cases raised. A discussion took place about what to expect in the future regarding performance reviews. Crowder encouraged employees to raise their cases with Union representatives when they do not believe their rating officials followed the correct procedures for conducting performance reviews.

Communications Committee: No report.

Benevolence Committee: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS: None discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: Crowder discussed the joint labor-management notice on furloughs. Furloughs are not part of NARA's plan to deal with budget sequestration. A discussion took place about where the agency will be cutting the budget and when the employees will be informed of the details.

Buffone reported on the activities of the national ladder committee, which is dealing with nationwide policy on Cardinal Scientific ladders, welding of ladders, and tracking the lifecycle of ladders. Buffone asked members to get in touch with him with ideas and comments that fall within the scope of this committee's work.

A discussion took place about ladder safety in general and the unevenness of ladder management at NARA locations nationwide.

Martin Tuohy commented about the need for coordination among different parts of the agency about ladder parts so that useful stockpiles are not discarded.

Early invited members to call in to AFGE National President J. David Cox's conference call with AFGE membership nationwide on February 27.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE LOCAL: Buffone thanked Early for his success in recruiting new members for the Local. Buffone also thanked the Council 260 leadership for its work advocating on behalf of employees to prevent RIFs and furloughs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of AFGE Local 2578 will be on March 26, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted February 27, 2013
Approved as corrected March 26, 2013

Ashby Crowder
Secretary
AFGE Local 2578
