

AFGE Local 2578 Minutes

The members of AFGE Local 2578 met at 12:01 PM, Tuesday, March 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 Fort Worth, Lee's Summit, Lenexa, New York, and the Bush 41 Library. Guest 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 Vice President Mitchell Buffone, Treasurer Nancy Fortna, and Secretary Ashby Crowder.

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

Treasurer's Report: Fortna gave the Treasurer's report reporting balances and expenses for March 2013. The report included costs associated with local officers' trip to Lee's Summit, Lenexa, and Kansas City. Membership has increased from last report to 335 members. The report was approved.

Safety and Health Committee: No report.

Organizing Committee: Buffone reported on the Local's success in recruiting new members at NARA facilities in the Kansas City area during the recent visit.

Legislative Committee: Joe Byrnes reported that the pay freeze for federal employees will continue. He encouraged members to visit the AFGE National website regularly to keep track of what's happening on Capitol Hill, and to be sure to observe the Hatch Act when doing so.

Byrnes also reported on the activities of the Local 2578 delegation of officers and representatives that attended the 2013 AFGE Legislative Conference. The delegation held meetings with elected officials representing Maryland. Byrnes reported on the difficult climate for federal employees and asked members of the Local to submit to the Legislative Committee feedback and questions to send to elected officials.

Representational Activities: Buffone reported on general representational activities arising from the visit of the joint Local/Council delegation to NARA facilities in the Kansas City area.

Communications Committee: Byrnes and Crowder discussed the Union's attempts to add clarity and focus to discussions on the Internal Collaboration Network (ICN) that pertain to conditions of employment or personnel policies or practices.

Benevolence Committee: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS: A discussion took place about the Agency's long term ability to cope

with the sequester without instituting furloughs. Crowder explained that the Agency cannot promise employees that there will never be furloughs in the future, only that its plans do not include furloughs.

A discussion took place about engineered standards at Suitland.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion took place about ladder safety and the recent activities of the national ladder committee. The committee is collecting specifications for ladders. A discussion took place about situations in which multiple employees might use a ladder at the same time and the safety of this practice.

Byrnes discussed plans for Union rep training that will take place in April-May. He invited employees to get in touch with him if they would like a place on the schedule to make a presentation or lead a discussion. Crowder reminded reps who will be attending from the field to forward him travel itineraries and receipts.

Crowder introduced a motion to cancel the Local's April meeting because it falls on the opening day of Union rep training.

Crowder announced to the membership that submitting draft minutes for this meeting will be his last official act as Secretary of the Local. He is resigning to focus exclusively on his new Council 260 responsibilities. The Executive Board will appoint a successor to serve the remainder of his term.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE LOCAL: Several members thanked Crowder for his service as Secretary. Crowder thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of AFGE Local 2578 will be on May 28, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted March 28, 2013

Ashby Crowder
Secretary
AFGE Local 2578
