

AFGE Local 2578 Minutes

The members of AFGE Local 2578 met at 12:01 PM, Tuesday, October 29, 2013. The monthly meeting was held in room 5220, at Archives II, with audio-conference connections to Archives I, and NARA facilities at Lenexa, Lee's Summit, Atlanta, Chicago, and Suitland, and the Ford, Clinton, and Kennedy Libraries. Guests from Denver and San Bruno also attended. A quorum of members was present.

Roll Call of Officers: Officers present were President Vernon Early, Vice President Mitch Buffone, Treasurer Nancy Fortna, Sergeant-at-Arms Harold Goodman, and Secretary Jeremy Schmidt.

Meeting Minutes: Schmidt read the September 2013 monthly meeting minutes of AFGE Local 2578. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Fortna gave the Treasurer's report reporting balances and expenses for October 2013. Membership stood at 341 in September. The report was approved.

Safety and Health Committee: Hilary Kaplan reported she would check on NARA fire safety policy, especially related to use of fire extinguishers; it was mentioned that OSHA requires training if fire extinguishers are present, and that they be used defensively (e.g., when trapped). Schmidt mentioned that radon test results came back okay at Ford and Bush 41 libraries; Ashby Crowder will follow-up on status of testing NARA-wide and check if there are any sites with high levels, especially in areas of concern (Kansas City area). Denver reported receiving new ladders; Chicago has a bay with only one ladder in service since April, nearly all others in FRC bays have fractures, which are not being repaired, there are no plans to replace; Lenexa has had ladders repaired in the past.

Legislative Committee: Joe Byrnes reports that the 1% COLA pay raise, included in Continuing Resolution, looks like it will go to in effect, and AFGE national is filing a lawsuit over the lockout.

Organizing Committee: Byrnes reports A1, A2, and Suitland organizing activities are planned. Ft. Worth and Lenexa will probably be early in the beginning of the next year. He encouraged representatives to look to AFGE district offices for membership drive incentives.

Representational Activities: Crowder reports that NARA has canceled the removal of National Declassification Center positions from the bargaining unit. NARA will petition the FLRA to determine the appropriateness of including them in the bargaining unit, however. These employees may still be excluded. Crowder commended Daryl Munsey, who skillfully brought about this positive resolution.

Buffone mentioned that time bands are not being employed uniformly across units in a facility. He also encouraged representatives to familiarize themselves with leave policy.

Schmidt raised several issues connected with the lockout (furloughed union reps not allowed in NARA facilities, the lack of facility maintenance during shutdown, and flexibility about on-call and exempted employees). Crowder reported that the agency reversed its decision on the first point after seeing OPM guidance about this, and he will explore the other issues.

Concern was voiced about how the call-back to work was handled. Early is working with Deb Wall on this issue.

Concern was voiced about discrepancies between performance plans and evaluations.

Concern was voiced about employees not given accurate performance evaluations because award funds are not available.

Crowder noted that non-bargaining employees will not be receiving performance awards.

Communications Committee: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Early encourage members to inform him of problems with managers in general. The Employee Viewpoint Survey results are not yet available. Buffone mentioned that Fortna and Early are retiring soon. Early will complete his term as President. The executive committee will work on filling the Treasurer's position.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE LOCAL: Ronnie Haigler announced he is planning to retire in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of AFGE Local 2578 will be on November 26, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted, October 31, 2013

Jeremy Schmidt
Secretary (Acting)
AFGE Local 2578
