

AFGE Local 2578 Minutes

The members of AFGE Local 2578 met at 12:01 p.m., Tuesday, August 28, 2012. 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, Lee's Summit, Philadelphia, the Bush 41 library, the Bush 43 library, the Ford Library, and the JFK Library. A quorum of members was present. There was an audio-conference connection to guests from Local 1200 in Denver, San Bruno, and the Reagan Library.

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Fortna read the August report of balances and expenses. Expenses included costs associated with sending a delegate to the AFGE National Convention in Las Vegas in August. Local membership stands at 325. The oral report was approved; a written report for August will be submitted to the Executive Board.

REPORTS:

Health and Safety Committee: Early reported on the asbestos removal process via teleconference from Suitland. Removal was done during non-work hours and it appears that no employees have been affected by the process. However, Early is working with the agency on an arrangement under which the agency will pay the costs associated with medical testing to detect asbestos exposure for interested Suitland employees.

Legislative Committee: Byrnes and Crowder reported on the phased retirement option recently passed into law. Crowder agreed to place a link to OPM's phased retirement factsheet to the Council 260 Facebook page, which will also appear on the Council's website.

The AFGE Legislative Conference will take place in February, exact dates to be announced.

Organizing Committee: No committee report. Goodman reported on Union meetings he is holding during lunch breaks at the Atlanta records center.

Representational Activities: Goodman reported on cases in Atlanta. Nicholas Norton reported on representational activities in Lenexa.

Communication Committee: Joe Byrnes reported that the newsletter should be published soon. He would like it to coincide with the roll-out of (Internal Collaboration Network) ICN accounts to all employees. Byrnes shared his views and gave advice on employee and Union use of the ICN.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Crowder reported on correspondence with agency officials on the question of adding a credit union ATM to the Archives II lobby. He will report more news as it becomes available.

Early indicated that an update from the Benevolence Committee is expected at the next meeting. Early also reported that the annual cookout will not take place this year.

Myron Fleming expressed interest in joining the Benevolence Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Crowder reported on staffing changes in the Labor/Employee Relations office (HTL) staff and their impact on labor-management relations.

Early indicated that he is preparing a report for the membership on the AFGE national convention in Las Vegas.

A discussion took place about procedures in place at facilities nationwide to alert employees to emergency personal phone calls. Members expressed concern that receptionists weren't available to relay emergency calls to employees, and that employees in records centers were not being paged in personal emergency situations as appropriate.

Comments for the Good of the Local: Martin Tuohy thanked Greg Mouchyn and Nick Norton for serving remotely as Union representatives at formal meetings in Chicago. Ronnie Haigler thanked Early for his visit to Suitland. He also thanked the two new Suitland-based Union representatives for their involvement with AFGE.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of AFGE Local 2578 will be on Tuesday, September 25, 2012.

Respectfully submitted August 28, 2012.
Approved as corrected on September 25, 2012

Ashby Crowder
Secretary
AFGE Local 2578