

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161 September 2018 Members' Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order September 12, 2018 at 11:33 a.m. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Charlie Hogan gave the president's report. He provided blank postcards to send to friends to encourage them to register and vote. He said, "Mary and I attended the quarterly meeting in Springfield and got officers' training. The subchapter was well represented. We retirees were noticed. There will be a phone bank Friday, September 14. The objective is to vote Rauner out and vote in people who will help us."

Vice-President Mary Bennett gave the vice-president's report. She said, "I attended Bea Lumpkin's 100th birthday party at the Chicago Teachers Union. Bea directed that all gifts be donated to the Chicago Metro Retirees Intergen Project, combining efforts from younger and older people.

Roll call was taken; all the officers were present and accounted for. Recording Secretary Tony Zappia read the August Members Meeting minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes; the motion was seconded and approved.

Mary introduced Lauren Welch, Illinois NOW vice-president for chapter development, saying, "She has two grown children and lives in Naperville with her amazing husband of 32 years."

Lauren said, "I'm a friend of a friend of Mary's. October 27, there will be a meeting in Naperville of NOW. If you take the train, there will be transportation to the meeting. If you want to know more about NOW, I urge you to attend. We have many men members. Except for one or two candidates, we endorse the same candidates you do. NOW was founded in 1966 by Betty Friedan, Shirley Chisholm and others at an Equal Employment Opportunity Conference in Washington D.C. Betty Friedan was elected president. NOW is a very grassroots organization. We played a key role in passing the Family and Medical Leave Act. We

passed the ERA in Illinois; we need one more state. We have gender equality as our central purpose. NOW worked to get rid of ads saying a woman couldn't lift 35 pounds. A woman walked in carrying a typewriter. Now, in those days a typewriter was like a rock. NOW successfully argued against AT&T that sexually discriminating ads were illegal. NOW intersects with the work you do here. Women earn 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. We support House Bill 1463, which prohibits an employer from asking about salary history. Women's salaries are less because they take time off for caregiving. By hiding the salary history, it will be more difficult to discriminate in salary. Women make up 60% of Social Security beneficiaries. Half of women 65 and older would be poor without Social Security. The Republicans want to privatize Medicaid. Why would privatization be negative for women? More of a woman's account goes to administrative expenses. This forces families to choose between paid family leave and retiring on time. Our work is deeply affected by sexual discrimination. We advocated for a caregivers' credit for Social Security. To quote Susan B. Anthony: "Men: their rights and nothing more. Women: their rights and nothing less."

Walt said, "My daughter thinks NOW is irrelevant."

Lauren replied, "Younger people take this for granted. Now we need strength. Republicans want us back in the kitchen wearing high heels and pearls."

Charlie asked, "Is NOW reaching out to unions?"

Lauren passed the question to Mary, who said, "Betty Friedan was a labor organizer, a UE militant, not part of the AFL-CIO. Before Title IX, the federally funded apprenticeship program could discriminate by sex. After Title IX, it could not. We were the first to call out the deficit commission."

Dave asked Lauren to suggest woman candidates.

Lauren said, "Laura Underwood in the 14th district, which includes Kane, DuPage and Will counties."

Dave continued, "We're against Trump. What do we want in his place? Neo-liberals like Hilary Clinton, and sometimes Obama, or

progressives like Bernie Sanders and Jill Stein of the Green Party. Is Laura for single payer?”

Lauren answered, “Yes, she is. I would recommend Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Kamala Harris, Cory Booker, not Jill Stein.”

Len asked, “Do you work with Emily’s List?”

Lauren replied, “Yes, though Emily’s List picks people with the most money, not always the best candidates.”

Secretary-Treasurer Jesse Wilson gave the treasurer’s report for September 2018. He said, “The beginning balance was \$31,329.04. Five checks for \$75.00 each were written to five members for the trip to Springfield. Another check for \$13.00 was written for office supplies. The Statement includes a deposit of \$675.19 from Council 31. The balance still includes \$3628.40 of Charlie’s money mistakenly deposited into subchapter 161’s account. Our true balance is \$27,700.64.” A motion was made to accept the treasurer’s report; the motion was seconded and approved.

We broke for lunch.

Charlie said, “John Metz, tell us about the Facebook page; training is available.”

Walt said, “I’ve got a hearing problem and a fungal infection, I needed stuff. The pharmacist said, ‘You’re not covered,’ it cost \$260 for a little bottle. Charlie said to call Kate Mortha at the union. I just got an email from Walgreen’s telling me to come pick it up. It cost \$10.00 as a standard Tier 1 drug.”

Chaya said, “I want to pass this around. It’s about the Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois conference.”

John said, “What you (Chaya) and Walt said, 20 people will hear; others won’t hear it. Facebook will help. It has evils but is not unique. On Facebook, you become editors, reporters and examples. Thursday at noon, there will be a meeting at the Evanston Public Library. There is room for six at a time. Next month, we’ll put out a handout showing you how to do it yourself.”

Dave said, "We're incorporating singing into each meeting. I've got copies of 'Solidarity Forever.' I'd like two or three people to join me in leading singing."

Dave, Peter and Tony led the singing.

Ida said, "The three of you should be filmed."

Charlie said, "There's a senior power lunch honoring Julia Stratton at Plumbers Hall, 1340 W. Washington, on Tuesday, September 25. Do you want to attend? It's \$100.00 a plate. One table (ten seats) is \$1000.00. Can we afford \$20.00? The subchapter will pick up the rest."

Walt said, "The Pritzker/Stratton ticket will probably win; we should attend."

Jesse said, "I worked with her mother in DCFS, she was very strong with the union."

A motion was made to buy a table; it was seconded and approved.

John said, "Anyone who goes should take their smartphone and fill it with pictures."

Jesse added, "And videos."

John continued, "We'll put it on Facebook."

Mary said, "The featured speakers at the NOW state conference are Susana Mendoza and Laura Underwood. It's Saturday, September 22 at 11:30 a.m."

Charlie said, "Chicago Metro Retirees held a retreat with younger workers, the Intergen project. A donation to Bea Lumpkin would support it."

A motion was made, it was seconded and approved.

Len said, "We need younger people; we need to support them, not just a donation."

Charlie said, "It's for education, training and working with young people. We'll send \$300 next month."

MacArthur said, "Lorraine Morton's wake location is still pending."

John said, "I have current information. The webpage cityofevanston.org will tell about the services. 2100 Ridge Ave., 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., through Friday."

Dave said, "We need a mike, and limiting the number of people at a table. We shouldn't be afraid to reach out to young people."

Mary said, "Illinois NOW is one of the few grassroots organizations we have. Membership dues pay her salary. It's a reason to attend the conference."

Peter said, "We don't want to be complacent."

Charlie said, "The 2016 election was thought to be a sure thing."

Mary said, "The attorney general's race is critical. Kwame Raoul must get elected. At Evanston Public Library Thursday at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., there is a Tech tutorial. (epl.org)"

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 17. The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.