

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161
November 2018 Members' Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11:49 a.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present and accounted for, except Mary, who was excused, and Jesse, whom Charlie said was on the way. Charlie gave the president's report. He said, "We received a letter from Kate Morthland; it's all in there. Thanks to the volunteers, and thanks for signing the letters. Ann Gillespie won; she's a state representative in the 27th district, Elgin and around there. We got rid of Rauner. On the 30th, the Illinois Labor History Society is holding its annual fundraiser; I want to invite Nancy, Pat, Dave and Mary to say thanks for the phone bank. It costs \$100 a table. Will the subchapter pay for this? December 6, the Jane Addams Senior Caucus Mingle and Jingle. We'll decide if we'll support this as a subchapter. Kate Morthland asked, 'Can we do anything for you?' She gave us these AFSCME Council 31 T-shirts for the phone bankers. Does anyone have any ideas for Christmas? We'll discuss it during the open discussion portion of the meeting."

Tony read the October 2018 minutes. The minutes were accepted. Charlie asked, "At this point what can we do for Illinois?"

Walt said, "We just failed; the schools aren't working. We need to reindustrialize. Jobs are coming back to our state, but I'm hearing from industrial sources that it's hard to hire people with reading and math skills. We've got to improve the schools."

Charlie said, "We've got a money problem in this state, isn't that right?"

Walt answered, "It isn't just the money. It's talking about what can be done. A lot of things can be done without spending a huge amount of money. If you put money in education, it all comes back in very short order. Education makes money; it doesn't cost money."

Peter said, "You get someone hired, they become taxpayers."

Marlene said, "Illinois spends less on schools and depends more on property taxes than any of the surrounding states."

Walt said, "I did my bachelor's thesis on something called the peninsula program in education. They took kids in schools with 90% dropout rates, and said one of your classes will be a job. Kids work with adults, the adults talked to the teachers, told them what the kids needed to learn. 90% of the kids went on to graduate school. If we did it in Chicago, things would take off."

Charlie said, "There is a history of this, who in the House, and who in the Senate should we push?"

Dave said, "Probably Lauren Underwood would be a good start."

Walt said, "We should back someone who will go to the schools and tell them to teach the students how to read."

Dave said, "Sean Casten is in our area."

Charlie said, "What other players should we talk to besides ourselves? What about the Chicago Teachers Union, the IEA, adjunct professors?"

Someone said, "Employers expect the schools to do everything. There's not enough help at the schools."

Charlie said, "Are there any thoughts on a future speaker who can connect the health of education to the health of the state?"

Len said, "The state of Wisconsin put some money into a plant to be built, and is finding out the plant will not be staffed by residents of Wisconsin. They will bring in Chinese temps. Education is invaluable."

John said, "The state gave the plant tax benefits. It will cost \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 per job. The administrations in Wisconsin and Illinois are now gone. We should listen to Daiber and Biss."

Nancy said, "My brother Patrick worked in the paper mill, he had no formal education. He built a train out of junk. He ran it 'til the train kicked him off the track."

Dave said, "There was an article in 'The Guardian.' The headline said, "Humanity has wiped out 60% of animals since 1970. There are

too many human beings. There is an idea to go to a planet near another star, but we won't make it if we don't bring other species with us."

Charlie asked, "Does anyone want to volunteer for the Christmas party, December 19? I'm open to any new ideas."

Someone asked, "Is there going to be a grab bag and Christmas Carols?"

Charlie answered, "Yeah."

Charlie said, "Six people want to go to the Illinois Labor History Society dinner; does anyone else want to go? It's \$1000 for a table for 10. Do you think you can work with \$35, for membership? We'll get the rest. It's Friday, November 30, at the International Brotherhood of Operating Engineers Local 399 (per Len), on Cermak, near Chinatown, 5:00 p.m."

Pat asked, "Should the grab bag gift cost \$10?"

Charlie consulted the group and said \$15.

Charlie asked, "Shall we subsidize the trip for Mary to Vegas, and, if so how much?"

Nancy suggested we wait until next month.

Walt suggested \$200. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.