

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161  
December 2018 Members' Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11:44 a.m. Roll call was taken. All officers were present and accounted for.

Charlie gave the president's report. He said, "I'll pass around a letter from Kate Morthland, which listed all the wins we had. The biggest was the budget. The phone calls we made got us the budget, and we can do it again. I want five to seven people to come with me as guests to Springfield, Friday, January 25, and Saturday, January 26. Council 31 is holding a conference. I want two to four women, two or three men and myself. We'll be staying at the Crown Plaza. I'll call Heather and give her the names of the people who are going. Elections are coming up in September or October of 2019. We paid the Illinois Alliance of Retired Americans last month. Mary went to the Alliance for Retired Americans convention in Las Vegas. We are working on the Intergen project."

Mary gave the Vice-president's report. She said, "We are now in mobilization mode for 2020. We went to California for the national NOW convention, I saw a big sign saying, 'Trump 2020.' They are already mobilized. Trump started the day after the inauguration. At the Intergen project, I told someone, "Don't simply say, '\$15 an hour'; say, '\$15 an hour and the right to organize.' Organize the unorganized."

Charlie said, "We went with the SEIU and organized a nursing home, the Chalet, which had never been organized."

Mary said, "There's a Women's March in Chicago next month."

Karl said, "They had a Get out the Vote march in October."

Charlie said, "They can't fire us."

Dave said, "The biggest factor in the election was women candidates and women getting out to vote."

Mary said, "The safety net is for everyone who needs special help."

Tony read the November 2018 minutes. The minutes were approved.

Jesse gave the treasurer's report. Jesse apologized for not being here last month. He said he got the dates mixed up. He said, "The beginning balance was \$30,499.58. Two deposits were made in November, a deposit of \$680.24 from Council 31, and \$60 by the secretary/treasurer from three members at \$20.00 a piece for the Illinois Alliance of Retired Americans luncheon in October. Everyone's paid up. No payouts were made in November. With the deposits totaling \$720.24, the present balance is \$31,239.82. We still owe \$3,000.00 to Charlie."

Charlie said, "Not really, it just has to go from one account to another. We haven't sat down with Wintrust Bank."

Mary asked, "Were checks to the Jane Addams Senior Caucus in the secretary/treasurer's report?"

Jesse replied, "Yes, they were paid out in October."

A motion was made to accept the secretary/treasurer's report; the motion was approved.

Charlie asked, "Is there interest in attending the January political conference? We would contact old locals."

Dave asked, "Can we push one thing above all others? I would suggest single-payer healthcare."

Charlie pointed out, "People in bargaining units have healthcare, but what about their families?"

Shannon said, "Bill Brady is saying you can't be part of the bargaining unit."

Charlie pointed out, "Bill Brady is with the IPI."

Dave said, "Republicans are asking, 'Do you want to replace Obamacare?' With single-payer, yes. With nothing, no."

Someone brought up the graduated income tax.

Charlie asked, "How do we get these?"

Walt said, “The IPI and Rahm Emanuel want a constitutional amendment to cut or eliminate our pensions. It takes 3/5 of the legislature; the governor doesn’t have to sign it.”

Dave said, “We should have Sean Casten speak at our meeting.”

Chaya added, “And Lauren Underwood.”

Dave pointed out, “Sean Casten is in our area.”

Charlie asked, “Besides healthcare and the graduated income tax, are there any other priority things we need to talk about?”

Karl said, “We need to protect the pension clause. Because it’s ex post facto, it won’t affect us, but it will hurt those coming up. Benefits have nothing to do with unfunded liabilities.”

Macarthur said, “We need to focus on pensions.”

Nancy said “My neighbor would take my home if my pension was gone.”

Pat said, “What they really want to go after is the COLA. Emanuel said, ‘If it looks like a pay raise, it is a pay raise.’”

Walt said, “There’s no ex post facto restriction on a constitutional amendment.”

Mary said, “Pension protection was added to the constitution because Illinois public employees, when they retired, were impoverished. Do other subchapters feel the same way?”

Karl said, “The pension clause it’s a contractual agreement. The pension fund funds our pension. It doesn’t come out of the public’s pocket.”

Len said, “We need a progressive income tax and a transaction tax.”

Peter said, “About revenue, what about taxing recreational marijuana?”

Maria said, "What got me angry about Rauner, he didn't give services for people who were dying, and he didn't give benefits for burial."

Chaya said, "Every school district in our area is proposing a property tax increase."

Mary said, "In the fifth district, most foreign-speaking people, speak Russian or Spanish."

Chaya said, "In Evanston, we in Northfield would have a standard of living boutique; the village board voted it down. Two hundred people were there."

The next meeting will be January 16.

Charlie made a motion to use \$1800 for the trip to Springfield. The motion was approved.

Jesse said, "Kate Morthland is leaving as retirees' representative."

Charlie said, "She's going to work for Planned Parenthood."

A motion was made to spend \$250 on the January 14 working luncheon.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.