

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161  
January 2019 Members' Meeting

The meeting was called to order on January 16, 2019. The pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken. All officers were present and accounted for.

Charlie gave the president's report. He said, "I've got a letter from Roberta Lynch. 'As the state recovers from Bruce Rauner's tenure, it is vital that AFSCME come together to plot a new course.' So, they know we're coming. I'm the only member of our subchapter with a vote, but I'm coming with seven other members of my team. We're coming to listen to members of locals and members of other subchapters. The purpose of this meeting today will be to prep for that conference."

John said, "Dave showed me a card with members' information on it for those attending the conference. I will get these out at no cost to you."

Mary gave the vice-president's report. She said, "What I found out at the Las Vegas convention should be no surprise to anyone who has been following politics. The antidote to that is organizing on the state and local level. I'll be attending an executive board meeting this Friday at the Jane Addams Senior Caucus."

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

Dave made a point of order: that anyone speaking into the microphone should speak directly into the top of the microphone, not into the side of the microphone.

Jesse gave the treasurer's report. He said, "The beginning balance was \$31,281.32. Payouts were made in December, \$100 to the Illinois Labor Historical Society, \$360 to the Jane Addams Senior Caucus, to pay for the members who attended, and \$200 to our vice-president to reimburse her for attending the convention for the Alliance for Retired Americans, for a total of \$660. A deposit of \$674.96 from Council 31

was made in December. The ending balance for December and beginning balance for January is \$31,264.76.”

Someone asked if money had been transferred from one account to another.

Charlie and Jesse said it was \$3,000 that had been transferred to Charlie’s account, instead of the AFSCME account.

The questioner asked if the account should actually have \$3,000 less in it than it did.

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

Charlie said, “I passed out an outline of the meeting we had on the 20<sup>th</sup>; I want to share the highlights with you. The purpose of the meeting was to identify what we want to talk about at the meeting, To come back to decide what we’ll do in February and March, to talk to people in the locals, get the new retirees to come to us, and get the locals to send people to us. We’re not getting any younger; we need new people for both activities and future leadership. Telling our story, Dave wants to talk about single-payer. With our iPhones, we can take pictures and videos.”

Dave said, “Before we talk about issues, we’ve got to network. I’ve made cards that say ‘Retirees Power Club.’ I don’t have covers for them.”

Mary said, “Don’t assume retirees are only interested in retiree issues, as we demonstrated at Bea Lumpkin’s party at the meeting on intergenerational issues. They’re not only interested in themselves; they’re interested in their grandchildren and their own children.”

Charlie said, “Our focus is on the conference, because any building we do will be on a statewide basis, on a local basis. We’re gonna be telling our story. Everyone here is a member of the Illinois Alliance of Retired Americans. We get down there at one, registration is at seven, the Happy Hour is at eight. There will be a band, it will be dark. It will be hard to talk to people then. We should really talk to people with the state, the Department of Human Services; they’re

really up against it. We're there to get more retirees; we're there to get allies to march with us. From 3:00 on, we've got to ask people, who can we meet for dinner, who can we meet for breakfast, Who we can meet for lunch."

Dave said, "The governor's agenda is online. It's pretty progressive. He likes the graduated income tax. He doesn't like the LaSalle Street tax. We should tell other union members what he's for that we're for."

Charlie said, "There are no unimportant people to talk to."

Dave said, "When you meet someone get their contact person, and their number. Don't wait for a meeting."

Charlie said, "We don't have many speakers. We don't have them for entertainment."

Dave mentioned Ann Sheets, to speak on single-payer.

Charlie asked, "Should we give her an honorarium? There's no precedent for it."

John said, "When the speaker came for Meals at Home, we gave her a donation."

Mary said, "What Ann Sheets would really appreciate is an endorsement. Ann Sheets' husband died. So we'd want to purchase a condolence card for her."

Jesse said, "I'm passing around a sheet, I want everyone who is attending the conference to sign it. I need their names and addresses. They get \$35 per diem; I'll be writing checks to them."

Mary said, "There is going to be a mayoral forum 4523 N. Washington at 7:00 this evening. A bus is leaving Jane Addams Senior Caucus at 1111 N. Wells."

Peter asked, "Could anyone who lives in the city recommend who to vote for as mayor?"

Dave answered, "One candidate who's been untouched by the Burke scandal is Lori Lightfoot. She paid her own way through college and law school, she's progressive."

Mary said, "Susan Mendoza (sic)"

Chaya said, "I don't live in Chicago, but Lori Lightfoot is good. I'll tell you who not to vote for, Paul Vallas."

Charlie asked, "Will the forum be broadcasted?"

Walt said that it will.

Jesse asked about Willie Wilson.

Carl said, "He presents himself as a businessman. Haven't we have enough of businessmen, in the governor's office, in the White House? Paul Vallas is a disaster. Bill Daley, his brother was behind the pension crisis, which is really a revenue crisis."

Len said, "We are told the things our president does in China does not affect us, but it does. The University of Illinois has students from China that the Chinese government is paying for. If China withdraws their support, we will have to pay for it, or the university will cut departments."

Chaya said, "If anyone has grandchildren, sons or daughters who are teachers in the suburbs, the Illinois Teachers Union has \$65,000 in grants available. For an application, go to [www.irta.org](http://www.irta.org), and there are scholarships available for juniors and seniors who are going into education.

The next meeting will be February 20.

The meeting was adjourned.