

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161  
April 2019 Members' Meeting

The April 17 meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. All officers were present and accounted for.

Charlie gave the president's report. He said, "How many people went to the UCAN action?" (There was applause.) "You not only impressed UCAN workers, Roberta Lynch noticed us. UCAN is an organization that provides support for youth in trouble. The employees voted to join the union, they were recognized, but management was dragging its feet in approving its first contract. That's why we were there, for an informational picket. Thank you. That is what organizing looks like.

"I'm not running for president again, but I will still be an active member. There will be a transition; an Institutional transition and an organizing transition. Institutional means our board. The other thing is organizing work, movement work. We need younger people.

"We'll use phone trees to connect with people we know, and also connect with allies; Jane Addams Senior Caucus is having a meeting on Friday. As retirees, we're not organized as a union as such.

"I want to invite you to the Chicago Metro Retirees meeting Monday. You can see another way of meeting. There will be a great speaker on the FAIR tax.

"We will have an executive board meeting concerning meeting with our old locals, to work on pensions and healthcare. As bad as things are nationally, we can accomplish things at the state level. AFSCME will have a bus going to Springfield on Tuesday, April 30 for an action on the FAIR Tax.

"Last thing, membership: for those who belong to 160 who want to belong to 161, I brought paperwork. See me after the meeting."

Mary gave the Vice-president's report. She said, "I've been in demonstrations with Jane Addams Senior Caucus and One Northside

regarding the FAIR tax at Target and a bank and another to insist the unredacted Mueller report be made available to Congress. The Jane Addams Senior Caucus Meeting is next Friday April 26; they will discuss healthcare and long-term care. A future speaker is Heather Booth, a higher-up.”

Charlie interjected, “Her late husband Paul was with AFSCME.”

Mary continued, “I went to a couple of interesting programs. One was a play sponsored by the Working Women’s History Project on Addie Wyatt, who was a founding member of CLUE. I went to a luncheon and met a woman with CTU, who is impressive. The social safety net is for everyone who needs it at some time in their lives.

Tony read the March 2019 minutes. The minutes were accepted.

Jesse gave the treasurer’s report. Jesse apologized for not ordering the book on how to chair a meeting. He said, “The ending balance for March and beginning balance for April was \$32,083.10. In March, four checks were written, three to reimburse members for travel expenses, and one to reimburse Charlie for money deposited to the AFSCME account by mistake. Deposits of \$110 were made. One was for \$35 from the secretary-treasurer’s personal account. Members were allowed \$70 for travel expenses; I rounded it to \$75, and wrote a check to offset the overpayment. Another was \$75 from one of the members who paid his own travel expenses. We received our monthly rebate from Council 31 of \$670.56. The ending balance for March 31 was 28,907.04”

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

Charlie brought up new business. “How to Take Part in Local Meetings” I want the newest person to feel as wanted as a long time member.

‘We’re equally members of AFSCME retirees and Illinois Alliance of Retired Americans for 40 cents a month. I move we go from 750 to 1000 members. I move we pay \$350 to join the Alliance of Retired Americans. There’s a weekly email, [retiredamericans.org](http://retiredamericans.org).”

Jesse said, "There's a monthly newsletter."

The motion passed. All members of subchapter 161 will be members of the IARA.

Charlie said, "Wednesday, May 1 is May Day. At the Haymarket Monument at Jefferson and Lake Streets at 12 noon, there will be a one hour affair."

Diane mentioned an event honoring Mother Jones the evening of May 1.

Dave said, "Because of the trauma in the Esler family with Jenny and Walt's brother, we need to get insurance companies out of the picture. Charlie said, 'Let's talk to all the subchapters. We have 27 subchapters on the phone tree. There are 34 subchapters statewide.

"I've passed out a circular on three issues (pension, health care, what else?)

"There's a meeting at the Austin/Irving Library at 6100 W. Irving Park from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m."

John said, "Karl Heinz responded to the text. He saw a cardiologist, he can't drive, but his stamina has returned. He should make the May meeting, unless he's in cardiac rehab."

Charlie mentioned the bus trip to Springfield on April 30.

Jim asked, "Can I go on my own?"

Charlie made a motion to pay mileage for those who go on their own.

Jesse said to bring back receipts.

Charlie said, "Bring a buddy; it's a boring ride."

We went over "How to Take Part in Local Meetings", with simplified Robert's Rules of Order. To make a motion, you say, "I move that..." The motion must be seconded. There will be discussion and a vote.

Ida said, "They should ask, 'Are there any opposed?'"

To speak on a motion you must be recognized by the chair.

Speak to the subject being discussed or the chair will rule your remarks out of order.

Call for an amendment, if the motion is not clear, could be improved or could be more specific.

To end the debate, if the discussion has gone on long enough, and you want it stopped, say, "I move we close the debate," "I call the question," "I move the previous question."

A vote requires a 2/3 majority.

Say, "Point of information," if the meeting gets confusing, or you're not sure of what's going on.

Mary said, "We can't afford not to plan for the next election. We have one political party that's really gone rogue."

Pat said, "There was a 45<sup>th</sup> ward meeting to elect committeeperson Kelly Cassidy who is also state representative. She worked in the state house to get Roe vs. Wade protected."

Charlie said, "33 people voted. Lee Atwater asked, 'Who's the most powerful politician in the United States? Your local committeeman.'"

Ron said, "I was an election judge, there were 1110 voters in the precinct. 25 people came to vote."

Jesse said, "I'm an election judge, too. Is it tax free?"

Ron answered, "No, but you don't get a 1099."

Dave said, "There are Democrats and Democrats, Democrats for the union and neoliberal Democrats. Discriminate between which Democrats you support."

The next meeting will be May 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.