

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161 December 2019 Members' Meeting

The December meeting was called to order at 11:24 a.m. Pat was presiding. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. All officers were present and accounted for, except for Charlie, who was excused, and Jesse, who wasn't here yet.

Tony read the November 2019 minutes. Pat thanked Tony.

Jesse gave the treasurer's report. He said, "The beginning balance for November 1 was \$31,621.23. In November, three checks were written totaling \$460.12: a check for \$214.32, a check for \$57.80, and a check for \$189.00 as reimbursement for office supplies. Subchapter 161 received a rebate of \$669.60 from Council 31. The ending balance was \$31,860.71."

The secretary/treasurer's report was accepted.

John said, "Charlie's on the phone."

Charlie said, "I have A-FIB; I'm at North Shore Evanston Hospital."

Marlene asked, "Is A-FIB the primary problem?"

Charlie answered, "I'm 78; I've got lots of problems."

Mary said, "Your presence is missed."

"According to an email I received, Wisconsin will be a problem. A judge ruled 200,000 people can be thrown off the voter rolls."

Charlie said, "We'll have to go up there and talk to the 200 [thousand]. How many people have called your congressman about how to vote?"

"Yes, say prayers [for me]; this time, I'm praying for myself."

"What if we had a speaker on silent heart attacks?"

Pat said, "That's an excellent idea."

Dave said, "We want you back as soon as it's comfortable for you."

Chaya said, "Stop imitating Bernie."

Karl said, "Bernie followed my example; you followed him. Sorry."

Pat said, "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, get well quick."

Mildred said "I have a crocheted candy basket waiting for you."

Mary asked, "Have you got the material for the convention in February?"

Charlie said, "It's required information for AFSCME members."

Mary said, "It's the Region One Conference."

Charlie said, "January at the Holiday Inn Express.

Council 31 elected me back to the Executive Board, even though I wasn't there."

Mary said, "I've got a gift for you; name a time I can give it to you."

Charlie said, "I should be leaving the hospital Friday. Goodbye."

We broke for lunch at 12:10.

Dave said, "In the future, make the break later."

Mildred said, "I've crocheted baskets, with candy."

The meeting resumed at 12:53 with new business.

Diane said, "I said Ralph Martire will speak on FAIR tax in January. We could have groups for the FAIR tax.

"Charlie talked about having a meeting on how to use the smartphone. He also talked about having a workshop on heart issues."

Chaya said, "Ralph Martire's standard fee is \$500; the League of Women Voters got him for \$100. You have to negotiate."

Jesse said, "Tell Ralph he gets a free meal."

Chaya continued, "Dr. Lora Chamberlain will speak on protecting ourselves against enemies, foreign and domestic."

Mary asked, "What about voter suppression?"

Chaya replied, "She addresses that."

Dave said, "We're looking to outreach, we should focus on what we want to do, who wants to do what. If a member asks people to go to another meeting, say, a luncheon, we must discuss where it is, transportation, etc. After the luncheon, tell us about how many people were there, who we talked to, what we talked about."

Mary said, "That's what I had in mind when I accepted a position on the board at the Jane Addams Senior Caucus, for this purpose."

Marlene said, "About having Ralph Martire speak, what about getting groups like Jane Addams Senior Caucus and the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans involved?"

Dave said, "We should say, 'Here's what I want us to do, I'm responsible, here's how we do it.'"

"The person who initiates it shouldn't be responsible for everything."

Karl said, "We should have it written down."

Dave continued, "When we demonstrate, any place we go, we need something to identify ourselves, like a neck scarf, yellow with 161 on it, something all-weather. I move we expend money for neck scarves for 161."

Mary said, "I worked with One Northside, a man there was wearing a Jane Addams Senior Caucus accessory. People saw it and wanted to sign the petition."

Dave and Ron said, "We'll research this."

Mary Raquel suggested a hat, which would be all-weather.

Dave said a scarf would be better.

MacArthur said, "The official color of AFSCME is green; we could have a cap and banner for the local."

Dave said, "The scarf can be green, but unlike the banner, the scarf can be worn in or out."

Marlene asked if the 161 logo would be visible.

John said, "I move to table the discussion."

John added, "I move to appoint Dave to research this question and report back to us."

The motion was seconded and Pat asked if there was any need for discussion.

Nancy said, "AFSCME [on their website] has lots of accessories you can buy."

Both motions carried.

Pat said, "The next item on the agenda is the FAIR tax."

Dave said, "What's a good idea is to discuss what 161 can do about the FAIR tax."

Diane suggested we discuss it at the next meeting with Ralph Martire.

Jesse asked, "Is it possible to appoint someone here today to research everything about the FAIR tax?"

Mary said, "The FAIR tax is a primary issue of the Jane Addams Senior Caucus."

Jesse asked, "Diane, will you be able to research about the FAIR tax?"

Diane said, "Ralph Martire will know other groups and what they are doing."

Mary said, "Attend meetings of the Chicago Metro Retirees to learn Robert's Rules of Order. I'll be attending the next meeting with Nancy. It's the fourth Monday of the month at Cermak and Halsted."

Ron said, "There has been a discussion on whether we should have separate tables or have tables in a square. There are advantages to both ways. Do we want it alternating?"

Marlene said, "Half the people aren't here today. Can we table the discussion to the next meeting?"

John said, "We should discuss how we want to do it at the next meeting."

Dave said, "I suggest next month we do it in the round."

Mary said, "Some people can't hear what is said when it's in the round."

Pat said, "There's a motion to alternate; I second it."

Ron said, "I second the motion to table the discussion 'til next month."

Dave said, "I think we should alternate, but next time have it in the round."

Pat said, "We'll vote on the motion to table, two are opposed; the motion carried."

Dave said, "I move to go in the round next month, and have a discussion next month."

Chaya said, "I'm passing something around; I need help with the audits."

Mary asked, "Who's interested in going to the AFSCME convention in February?"

Pat said, "Mary, can you make a list of those who want to come?"

Dave said, "We'll skip the skit 'til next month. Let's sing carols."

We sang "Jingle Bells," "I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas," a parody by Dave about the environment, "Away in a Manger," "Silent Night," and "Joy to the World."

Pat said, "Ron Smolen volunteered to bring Hanukkah music next year."

The next meeting will be January 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.