

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161
February 2020 Members' Meeting

The February 19 meeting was called to order at 11:29 a.m. Pat presided over the meeting. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. All officers were present and accounted for, except for Charlie.

Pat said, "When I spoke to him he said he'd attend but he wanted me to chair the meeting."

Tony read the January 2020 minutes. Pat thanked Tony. The minutes were approved.

Jesse gave the treasurer's report. He said, "The beginning balance for January 1 was \$31,922.64. Three payments were made. One was \$500 to our president for reimbursement for \$35.00 per diem payments made to four members for a three day AFSCME conference in Springfield last October and \$20.00 per person to offset expenses to and from Union Station. \$200.00 was paid to Ralph Martire, our guest speaker last month. \$70.00 was paid to me as a per diem for a two day conference in Springfield, January 31 to February 1. Subchapter 161 received a rebate of \$707.52 from Council 31. The ending balance was \$31,860.16."

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

Concerning the conference in Springfield, Dave said, "We met other locals. They were impressed with John's QR code giving information from our website.

"The names of state representatives and state senators were submitted for approval.

"We and other retirees want retirees' subchapters to have more than one vote."

Pat called for new business.

Diane said, "Trump is attacking Food Stamps. The state could apply for waivers, in the past. Trump changed the percentage of unemployed people who could apply for benefits."

Marlene said, "Ask grocery stores and farmers about Food Stamps. (They make money off this.)"

Diane said, "The money can be used for the wall and other things."

Mary said, "The supposed savings will be eaten up by administrative costs."

Dave made a motion that we have a general information meeting on Trump's attacks on Food Stamps, Medicare, Medicaid, etc. The motion carried.

Mary said, "The FAIR tax is a priority for AFSCME, and other non-profits, like One Northside and the Jane Addams Senior Caucus. Also, there's a push to include long-term community care."

"I want to make a motion. At the end of June, Jane Addams Senior Caucus has a luncheon. It's \$500 for two tables."

Pat asked if the motion could be tabled until a later meeting. The motion was tabled.

Ron said, "At the last luncheon, we got two tables and used one. It cost us money. People should make the commitment or pay."

Regarding neck scarves, Ron said, "They cost \$40 for the logo. T-shirts are 19 per person. Another way to go is an AFSCME lanyard with a laminated card. I'm passing out an image of the laminated card."

Pat moved that the discussion be tabled, and called for John to speak on the Communications Committee.

John said, "There's a new sign-in sheet; if you've attended recently, just check the box."

"The Communications Committee is busy with the FAIR tax. Karl is editing the video; it will be ready for distribution in June or July."

"We're updating our roster; it's 80% complete. We'll have to contact the other members by mail."

“Charlie said we have to do another mailing to tell the members about the Subchapter 161 election in September. I move we authorize a release of up to \$100 for the mailings.”

The motion was seconded and carried.

We broke for lunch at 12:19 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 12:41 p.m.

John was to speak on how to use smartphones, followed by people receiving instructions on using smartphones in small groups led by facilitators.

But, first, he said he needs someone to volunteer for mailings; he doesn't know when yet.

On smartphones, John said, “You'll need to know where to get help. You can ask your cellphone provider. Public libraries have programs. The Levy Center has programs. Ask your grandchild.

“A smart phone is a tiny computer that has phone features.

“There are different types of signals on cellphones. Wi-Fi (internet) signals are usually free, but not at U.S. airports. Bluetooth is for making connections at a short distance.

“A huge issue with everything electronic is security. Androids, as far as I know, don't have security. The Apple iPhone is much more secure. Security is only for using the phone, not for communications. Don't put personal information on your smartphone. Put it on an external hard drive, a flash drive, and unplug it.”

Diane asked about social security and telephone security.

Norma said, “If you get a call from Social Security, ignore it.”

Jesse said, “I was under the impression that phones are good for a few years. How do you remove information from them?”

John said, “Go to the phone provider. The information is on the SIM card. Without the SIM card, the phone can be used as a Wi-Fi device, not as a phone.”

Tony asked about Apple Wallet.

John said, “That's Apple Pay. Its security is better than that of a credit card.”

Norma said, "Apple Pay uses an encrypted number."

Marianne said, "Anytime you use public Wi-Fi, someone else can use it; use it only at home. With iPhones, you can create a personal hotspot."

John showed a video or PowerPoint presentation. It said, "YouTube is a free site for downloading videos."

John said, "YouTube is free; you are the product."

Mildred asked if iPhone is better than Android.

John said, "iPhone is better at some things you may not need. Nobody needs the newest iPhone, except for a few people in Silicon Valley and China. The iPhone 5s is still a pretty good phone; the iPhone 4 is no longer supported by Apple.

"Steve Jobs made up the name iPhone; Google made up the name Android.

"When you go to a YouTube video, on the side of the screen are ads; ignore them. They're click bait; they want you to click on them. They might help; ignore them. On YouTube, there's a magnifying glass icon; that's for Search. You can use it to search for anything on YouTube.

"If you have questions about iPhone or Android, go to YouTube search.

"On iBooks, you can get a free manual for the iPhone.

Ron said, "The number 611 on the phone for iPhone and Android will tell you how to use the phone."

The PowerPoint said that Android OS [Operating System] is made by Google.

John said, "Android functions on different companies' phones. They have a different "skin" or overlay. Your phone may vary a little [from other Android phones.]

The PowerPoint said that you have to lock and unlock the phone.

John said, "Older iPhones had a button at the bottom of the phone to lock and unlock the phone. Apple tries to keep its phones as simple and as confusing as possible. The phone has a button on its side

to silence the phone. I almost never turn my phone off. You don't turn off your house phone."

Marianne said, "Turn off the phone once a week or once a month."

John said, "Routinely don't turn off the phone.

"My iPhone has a useful feature. Ron passed out a sheet and a card; it has all the information on how to contact Subchapter 161: the website, email address and voicemail number in the QR code. All relatively new smartphones have the QR reader. If you have an older phone, you can get it. With the QR reader, you use the phone's camera. Hold the QR code a little distance from the camera, you should see a yellow box, the phone will read the QR code, and bring up the public portal. Reading the QR code is easier on the phone than on a computer."

Marlene said, "Seniors have shaky hands, how can you dial the phone without your hands?"

[On my iPhone 5s, in Settings, you can enable "Hey, Siri" to respond to you without pressing the button on the bottom of the phone, and just say "Hey, Siri," and tell "her" to dial a phone number or give her the name of someone in your contacts to dial if you have their name in your contacts.]

John said, "Siri gives Apple access to everything that is said in the house."

[Even when you're not talking to Siri.]

The facilitators went to the tables at 1:40 p.m.

At 2:15 p.m. John said, "If you want to stay, you can."

The next meeting will be March 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.