

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161
February 2019 Members' Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 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, "We had a terrific conference in Springfield. Eight of us were in attendance. The council is aware of retirees. Roberta Lynch mentioned the work retirees did on the phone bank. On March 15, there will be a quarterly meeting in Springfield. It will be a chance for officers and activists to learn how the union works. There will be eight of us; we'll pay taxi fare. On February 21, at 5533 N. Broadway, on the east side of the street, across from Moody's Pub, at 2:45 p.m. Jan Schakowsky will have an action."

Mary gave the Vice-president's report. She said, "I attended a workshop on fixing Illinois finances, Social Security and Medicare."

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

Jesse gave the treasurer's report. He said, "The ending balance for January and the beginning balance for February was \$31,254.78. We received a rebate of \$617.20 and paid \$291.72. A payment of \$70 was made to the president for office supplies, and a payment of \$75 was made to two members who attended the conference in Springfield to cover per diem food needs. A total of \$673.20 was added, and a total of \$297.77 was paid. The ending balance for February was \$31,632.26. This is the book balance; it should be \$28,328.82."

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

Dave said, "I attended a retirees' workshop at the conference. It was well attended. I got contacts on Friday evening. We have 25 of 31 subchapters. If anyone knows retirees in Central or Southern Illinois, tell me. The retiree conference was about the rules of getting benefits."

Mary said, "It's crucial we look at our subchapter. Let's formulate an internal phone tree. The economy is service based, not manufacturing based. We need a tax system that reflects this."

Dave said, "Karl called Dick Kay on WCPT Radio. Mayoral candidate Kozlar was on the program. Karl made coleslaw out of Kozlar."

Karl said, "The conference was similar to the IRTA. I talked to people, but didn't take names. I attended a breakout session with Ralph Martiri. He said the solution to the pension is to reamortize the debt, pass a graduated income tax, and tax retirement income. The taxicab from the train station was fun."

Charlie said, "We crammed eight people in that van."

Peter said, "About what Karl said about taxing retirees, Governor Pritzker says it won't happen."

Charlie said, "I and Walt attended the conference on building people power. Walt spoke out against speaker."

Macarthur said, "I attended the conference on revenue. We can't have a Nineteenth Century revenue source for a Twenty-first Century economy. The transaction tax is gaining traction. I believe the transaction tax needs to go hand in hand with the graduated income tax."

Charlie said, "In 2009, California was in worse shape than Illinois. Now California is doing great. California has the graduated income tax. What is better is the Local Government Distributive Fund, where the state would send sales tax money to municipalities."

Charlie said, "Jan Schakowsky has this presser on Social Security and Medicaid."

Chaya said, "Before that, Schakowsky has a conference on HR1 at 11:00 a.m."

Charlie asked, "Has anyone called their legislators about this national emergency?"

Chaya said, "Our state's suing about the national emergency. Fred Klonski, in his blog, wrote three posts about Bill Daley, he's the only

mayoral candidate I know of who wants a constitutional amendment to amend the pension clause to reduce retiree benefits. Sign up to be a citizen auditor, election judge or poll watcher. This last one is an unpaid position. There are two bills to make all voting in Illinois vote by mail, which would be a disaster.”

Pat said, “I received an email from Roberta Lynch saying AFSCME does not support Bill Daley or Willie Wilson, and not to vote for them.”

Nancy said, “We have to get new retirees.”

Karl said, “Illinois Retired Teachers Association Unit 90 in the northwest suburbs, the North Shore Retired Teachers, we need to work with them.”

Len asked, “What concrete action was on the agenda to work around Janus?”

Charlie answered, “We’re signing up Fair Share payers for the union. The IPI is sending mailings to teachers telling them to drop out of the union.”

Dave said, “There will be hundreds of thousands of green jobs, the union should talk this up. There should be gift certificates to retirees joining the union.”

Chaya talked about paying for retirees’ membership in the union.

Macarthur brought up the Green New Deal.

Karl said, “We can’t miss the opportunity to get workers out of the coal mines and into green jobs.”

Our guest said, “You don’t retire to enjoy what you’ve got; you retire to fight in a different venue.”

Nancy said, “We don’t tell young people that their jobs really matter.”

Macarthur said, “You’ve got to give them meaning. They’ve got to know there’s meaning in service.”

Karl said, “You’ve got to give them hope.”

Jesse said, “We’re so oriented into making money. There’s a Latin proverb: ‘We are not born to ourselves.’”

Chaya said, "Most legislators and politicians are millionaires, and they have health care for life."

Mary said, "Beginning with the Powell memo in 1970's, a lot of money has been expended to get us to think the way we do. A lot of ads are being put out by local politicians; who paid for that?"

Charlie said, "What am I getting for my union dues? They educate people on how to vote."

Macarthur said, "The union creates a frame, endorsing candidates, but in central and southern Illinois, people vote against their own interests."

Chaya said, "There is some group called Fight Back. They have television commercials. Their website is fightback.org."

Charlie interjected, "There will be severe weather going home. Have we pretty much wrapped our business?"

Len said, "In the Fourteenth District, we have Lauren Underwood. She's a poor woman. Oberweis is running against her. She needs money."

Ida said, "I got a short email survey about Trump. I answered it. I now get many emails, I delete, delete, delete."

Jesse said, "I'd like union history taught in schools."

Karl said, "I taught U.S. history; we taught union history because it was required."

Charlie said, "The date of the next meeting is March 20."

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.