



American Federation of Government Employees

Local 476

Affiliated with AFL-CIO

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Brooke Mondale Auditorium

The following members of the Executive Board were present: Ashaki Robinson Johns (President), Kirk Mensah (Secretary), Monique Love (Treasurer) was not present. Eddie Eitches (1st-Vice President) was not present at the meeting. The position of 2nd Vice President is currently vacant.

Ashaki called the meeting to order at 12:14pm. A quorum of 25+ members was reached for today's business. Ashaki welcomed new members and regular members. Ashaki asked if there were any questions about the meeting minutes from the May 18, 2017 General Membership Meeting. Hearing none, Ashaki asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the May 18, 2017 meeting. A motion was properly moved and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report – Monique Love, presented and opened discussion for the Treasurer's Report, dated January - July 2017. Monique asked if there were any questions regarding what was presented on the Treasurer's Report. A request was made for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. A motion was properly moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was passed without objection and the Treasurer's report was accepted.

Audit Committee – Ashaki stated that Local 476 has not had an audit in the past three year's and with elections coming up, an audit is required. She stated that the local needs at least three people on the committee to go through four years of financials. She stated that it will be cheaper for the local to do it in house as opposed to contracting out accounting services. Cynthia Carter volunteered to be on the committee. Two other members also volunteered but failed to give their information to Monique Local 476's treasurer.

Steward's Report – Ashaki introduced Local 476's new Chief Stewardess Cynthia Carter. Cynthia welcomed members and stated that local is currently seeking all interested members to apply to become a steward with the local. She asked that if members have any cases pending, to wait until the case is resolved before applying. Cynthia also mentioned that training is supplied and new stewards will be paired with senior stewards until they are able to work independently.

Council 222 Convention – Ashaki gave a brief background of Council 222 and stated that Local 476 is the largest local in the council with over 1100 members. She stated the convention is held

every three years to elect new executive officers. The current officers are: Holly Salamido Council President from local 476, Sal Viola Council Executive Vice President from the New Jersey local, Kirk Mensah, Treasurer from local 476, and Lorraine Chambers, Secretary from the Ft. Worth office. She stated that the Council's convention is scheduled for August 6 -11, 2017 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where the Council will vote for new officers. Ashaki mentioned that the executive board consists of the officers and the regional vice presidents from around the country (regions 1-9 and HQ). She stated the Council will be focused on the Agency's proposed Reform Plan and ensuring that the members' concerns are heard. She added that the Agency has yet to come to the table to discuss the proposed plan with the Council and it shows their lack of transparency and unwillingness to work with the Union. She continued that the Council will hold the Agency accountable for not only what they say but what they do in terms of breaches in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Ashaki informed members to be on the lookout for more notices from the Fair Labor Relations Authority for CBA breaches.

New Core Negotiations – Ashaki stated that the only negotiations that are on the calendar is the New Core negotiation. Ashaki stated that management wants to negotiate in the dark by not providing all relevant information prior to negotiations and the Council is pushing back on those types of tactics.

Legislative Committee – Ashaki asked the membership if they opened the emails from AFGE National. Many members stated that they do see the emails but they rarely open and read them. Ashaki stated that it's important that members read the emails as the emails contain specific requests of members from AFGE to help defeat bills that are coming up on Capitol Hill for a vote. Some of the Bills include reduction of employee rights, reduction of employee pensions, increasing the retirement age of federal employees, etc.

Ashaki asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made to adjourn the May 18, 2017 meeting at 12:58 p.m. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirk Mensah
Secretary
AFGE Local 476