

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161 March 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes

The March 19, 2025, membership meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. Dave, Ida, John, and MacArthur were the officers and executive board members present. Tony attended via Zoom. Diane came late because she had been picketing at the Department of Human Services (DHS) office in Lincolnwood. Jesse was excused because he had an issue with his wife. Dave presided.

We had a free lunch raffle, and Len won it. Rick Steffle, a new member, also got a free lunch because this was his first meeting.

The guest speaker was Lenny Lampkin, an Evanston labor organizer. He spoke about the Evanston elections.

Dave told us there would be three U.S. House elections on April 1. He said Gay Valimont and Josh Weil would be running from Florida and Blake Gendenbien, head of the Farmers' Union, would be running from the 21st district of New York. John said all the information Dave has on the elections would be posted on our website by the weekend.

We broke for lunch at 12:35 and resumed at 1:05.

Tony read the minutes for February 2025. Someone moved to accept them, John seconded the motion, and it passed.

Pat said the 2024 audit had been completed on March 14. No recommendations related to the audit were made. Pat said Diane would probably present the complete audit to the executive board.

Diane told us the DHS office was not accessible. She said we gave support to DHS workers who were trying to change this. She said we

were also supporting employees of the City Colleges of Chicago and would get an update from them. Diane also said we need to bring in new members.

Mary said that when she was with the Illinois Education Association (IEA), she had worked to end vouchers in Illinois. She also said the state was not protecting students' data well and in some instances was even selling it. She said there was a bill related to this problem (HB2696) and advised us to call our legislators about it.

Someone said Trump had issued an executive order barring air traffic controllers from belonging to unions. He said there were security reasons for this prohibition. The person advised us to contact our legislators and tell them to stop cutting union members' jobs.

Dave moved that we renew our membership in the Illinois Labor History Society, someone seconded the motion, and it passed. He also moved that we renew our membership in the Illinois Single Payer Coalition, someone seconded that motion, and it passed too.

Diane said that in April there would be a trustee election and Maria would speak. John said Pat's term would be up unless he ran for reelection. Karl said anyone who was interested in the trustee position should contact him.

Lenny said there would be a Teachers' Union rally at the school board office on Thursday, March 20, at 2:00 p.m.

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John moved to adjourn, Ida seconded the motion, and we adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Tony Zappia, Recording Secretary