

## **AFSCME Retirees' Subchapter 161 February 2026 Members' Meeting Minutes**

The February 18, 2026, members' meeting was called to order. Diane, Dave, Jesse, Tony, John, Ida, and MacArthur were the officers and executive board members present. Diane presided.

Dave said MacArthur won the free lunch. Diane told us to save our receipts after going to the register.

Ida instructed us to raise our hands when we wanted to speak because we didn't need superfluous talking.

Tony read the January 2026 minutes. Diane made corrections, Mary moved to accept the corrected minutes, John seconded the motion, and it passed.

Jesse gave the financial report. John moved to accept it, Dave seconded the motion, and it passed.

We decided to set a date for the audit, which we must conduct in March.

Diane said we needed to schedule an election in April. John pointed out that we always have elections in even-numbered years and that there are four officers running for reelection as well as a vacancy for trustee since Walter's term is expiring.

Diane told us we were looking for someone with tech skills to help John. She explained that this was not an elected position.

Diane said she wanted to take a minute to recognize the recently deceased Reverend Jesse Jackson. She stated that he ran twice for president but lost because of his stand in favor of Palestine. She also informed us that he worked with Martin Luther King in the Civil Rights Movement, where our union started. MacArthur told us he was trained at Operation PUSH and goes back with Jackson as far as Operation Breadbasket. Linda said the wake should take place the following week and was open to everyone. Mary pointed out that Jackson and Martin

Luther King fought against the Vietnam War. John said Jackson supported an economic revolution.

Diane said if we want to join Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans (IARA), we will need to pay \$425 per year. She pointed out that we already pay to belong to ACS. Pat moved to allocate \$425 for IARA membership, Dave seconded the motion, and it passed.

Mary informed us she is on the IARA board through the Illinois Education Association. She said she would go to the national ARA convention at the end of April.

Diane told us she and others had attended a lobby day in Springfield to advocate for the Prescription Drug Affordability Bill (HB 1443). She said they rode a bus with members of Citizen Action.

We took our lunch break and then discussed the upcoming primary. John informed us that the PEOPLE candidate endorsements were on the Bulletin Board page.

Diane told us the union's statewide e-board meeting would take place on March 4–5. She said she would go to Springfield to attend it.

Diane informed us there is a Nursing Home Bill that would let people who need assistance decide whether to be in nursing homes or their own residences. Tiza pointed out that there were people who would need 24-hour care to stay in their own homes.

Diane told us there would be No Kings demonstrations on Saturday, March 28, and Friday, May 1 (May Day).

Dave advised us to boycott Amazon Dell because it's close to Trump. John talked about a video in which Robert White suggests that AT&T is an ICE corporate collaborator. Jesse told us Home Depot is also an ICE collaborator, and John said we needed to ban immigration agencies and ABOLISH ICE.

MacArthur stated that this is a different world than 1930s Germany and we have to fight. Dave said *we* are the people we've been looking for.

John moved to adjourn, Dave seconded the motion, and we adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Tony Zappia, Recording Secretary