

AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 161 November 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes

The November 19, 2025, membership meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. Diane, Dave, Tony, Ida, John, Jesse, and MacArthur were the officers and executive board members present. Diane presided.

Dave held the drawing for a free lunch. Marlene won.

There were two speakers. Tom Suhrbur spoke on unions in education, and said proceeds from the sale of his book, *Public Education and Social Reform: A History of the Illinois Education Association*, which costs \$30, will go to the Illinois Labor History Society.

After a break for lunch, the second speaker, Geoff Guy, gave us an update on the Starbucks United Workers strike. Geoff ended by saying, "After this, Diane and I will go to the Starbucks at Central and Crawford, which is non-union."

Diane said, "If you're willing, come with us after the meeting. Regarding the strike fund, we can talk about a donation, or you can give individually to Jeff. If you want information, sign up for email."

Dave moved that Subchapter 161 support Starbucks workers with \$500, and Pat seconded the motion. After some discussion, it passed.

John moved that we waive the reading of the minutes and the finance report, which will be posted online. Ida seconded the motion. Diane said that we would read them at the next meeting. The motion passed.

Diane said that the Illinois Labor History Society Hall of Honor would be held at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Hall, 2722 S. Martin Luther King Drive, Friday, November 21. At 5:00 p.m., there would be a cash bar; at 6:00 p.m., there would be dinner.

Diane said there would be an IMRF election for the pension board, and said to back union-backed candidates. Diane also said that most of us are covered by TRAIL, negotiated by CMS; it's health insurance coverage for SERS or SURS retirees and spouses.

Diane said that AFSCME 2858, the chapter that she belonged to is holding a demonstration, picketing against cuts to Medicare, SNAP, and Medicaid, at the IDHS office at 7301 N. Lincoln Ave. in Lincolnwood, Friday, November 21, during lunch, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Diane also said that there was still some activity going on concerning immigration.

Dave said, "We went to the state convention; a lot of people are starting to get the idea that they should take action, like boycotting businesses."

Dave also said we should take a moment of meditation and reflection for the loss of Dorothy Webster, and for her family and friends. Marlene said that Dorothy passed on October 26.

Dave moved that we adjourn, someone seconded the motion, and we adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Tony Zappia, Recording Secretary