

**MINUTES OF A.F.S.C.M.E. LOCAL 696
SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

05/25/2023

**Present: Anthony Dinkins, President
Mark Weaver, Business Agent
Officers of Local 696 (refer to sign sheet 05/25/2023)
Members of Local 696 refer to sign-in sheet 05/25/2023)**

Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM by President Anthony Dinkins who explained to the members about the elevator and room confusion and apologized to the membership.

President Anthony Dinkins announced that President Ernest Garrett of District Council 33 will be a guest speaker for the meeting.

President Dinkins called Sister Audrey Thomas to bless the food, then invites other religious denominations the same privilege to bless the food. President Dinkins asked the membership to pray for Local 696 Secretary Tori Rodgers, due to some health issues that have hindered her from attending meetings.

President Emeritus of Local 696 Bobby Davis asked the membership to donate to the Specific Leave Bank for Sister Tori Rodgers, voluntarily.

Vice President Brown passed out an informational package for the meeting and thanks the membership for their patience.

President Anthony Dinkins introduced District Council 33 President Ernest Garrett to the membership.

President Garrett opened by speaking on the Freedom Foundation's efforts to try to bust unions. President Garrett thanks the membership for alerting the union about the mailers that they have been receiving from the Freedom Foundations.

President Garrett told the membership to not listen to those groups; they are trying to separate and weaken the union movement. President Garrett spoke on the Supreme Court's decision on Janus vs AFSCME. President Garrett emphasized that District Council 33 does not use union dues to endorse political candidates. The donations that are used come from the Political Action Committee.

President Garrett spoke on the endorsement of Mayoral Candidate Jeff Brown and meeting with the other mayoral Candidates.

He then addressed One Philly and stated that in his opinion One Philly is a mess and the City of Philadelphia needs to do better with it.

President Garrett spoke on our solidarity with District Council 47, and how when it comes to negotiating with the City of Philadelphia, we are always one entity.

President Garrett spoke about the selling of a union owned plot of land at 47th and Chestnut Street for 7 million dollars. President Garrett spoke about the negotiation power the union possess to get the City of Philadelphia to pay their contributions toward the health care bills owed to the union. President Garrett explained that he believes with the current assets that District Council 33 holds due to smart investments, he believes, if the Union and its membership needed to do something drastic, we could sustain our health care during that process.

President Garrett informed the membership about the extra AL Day that was negotiated by the union. President Garrett spoke on the EID requested holiday, another paid holiday for members of the State of Pennsylvania; he asked that members sign the petition. Brother Catron asks President Garrett what is the deadline for the EID petition? President Garrett said that he would find out and pass on the information.

President Garrett spoke on his appointed position by Governor Shapiro, he discussed staffing concerns within the City of Philadelphia. President Garrett spoke on a committee with Council members about retention and recruitment that the city has put millions of dollars in the budget for. President Garrett firmly stated that the City of Philadelphia must give adequate increases on the next contract, to hire and maintain staff, he explained how he does not want Signing Bonuses-he wants Cost of Living Adjustments.

President Garrett congratulated Sister Darlene Booker-Jones on receiving the City of Philadelphia Service Award.

President Garrett thanked the membership for their time.

President Dinkins thanked President Garrett for speaking to the members and President Garrett exited the meeting.

President Dinkins asked everyone if they have the informational package, and then he begins to explain the package. President Dinkins speaks on the fact that the City of Philadelphia does not give the members' holidays, the union fought for them. President Dinkins goes on to discuss various Health Benefits offered by District Council 33 and the agreement with Temple Hospital for services.

President Dinkins explained how you can sell back 10 vacation days as long as you have 40 on the books. President Dinkins spoke on the Specific Leave Bank where an employee can give 5 vacation days to a specific person to use if they run out of time due to illness.

Dinkins spoke on the Sick Abuse policy and reminds the members about the change in the Sick Abuse policy.

President Dinkins informed the membership on how to enroll in Family Medical Leave, if you have chronic health issues. President Dinkins reminded the membership of the union's Legal Service plan that can help with divorces, child custody, child support wills etc.

President Dinkins spoke on Due Process which is the right of all employees to fair treatment. Dinkins explained Weingarten Rights, your right to request a Union representative present during a meeting that you believe could lead to discipline.

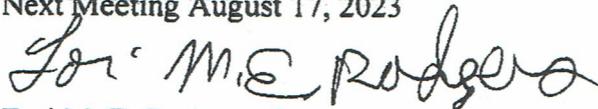
Sister Haggerty asked President Dinkins how he planned to distribute this information to the members who are not here today? Dinkins replied, by email or website.

President Dinkins expressed how things can be time sensitive and you might need immediate attention to a situation. He proceeded to give out his cell phone number to the members.

President Dinkins then asked who needed a ride home, President Dinkins organized the rides for the members, after all rides are secured, President Dinkins then reminded the membership to donate time to the Specific Leave Bank for Sister Tori Rodgers if they can.

Meeting ended at 8:00pm.

Next Meeting August 17, 2023



Tori M. E. Rodgers, Secretary