

11/20/2025 AFSCME DC 33 Local 696 General Membership Meeting Notes

6:20 start - [agenda](#), [September 2025 minutes](#), [financial report \(Oct 1 - Nov 7\)](#), [mailer apology letter](#), and [696 Fact Finding/Grievance Form](#) distributed

Tony Dinkins - First-time meeting attendees asked to stand and introduce themselves (~15 new attendees)

- Acknowledged Transgender Day of Remembrance (11/20) and emphasized its significance to many of our members
- Motions to accept [September 2025](#) minutes and [financial report](#) passed
- Emphasized that the mailer meeting reminders are reminders and not the notice of the meetings (calendar is the notice)
- Drew attention to the [apology letter](#) from the mailer service, citing bereavement
- Defended current union leadership against apparent criticisms on facebook for their lack of tech savvyness "we are not tech savvy but we are effective!"
- RE: last meeting's ask for a show of support for the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), "We are members of CBTU and support them. Union supports union."

Colin - "As the member who previously asked about the CBTU's call for a union day of solidarity, can I speak on that?"

Tony Dinkins - "We can speak privately, but there is no time on the agenda to make that part of this."

- "A member proposed a liaison position for rank-and-file members to connect other rank-and-file members to union leadership more readily."
- Reiterated that we have *delegates* and not *stewards*
- Drew attention to the [Local 696 Fact Finding/Grievance Form](#)
- "You already ARE the liaisons. You have this form at your disposal to fill out and file with union leadership." (therefore, will not be "creating" liaisons)
- "We want to get back to reengaging with the membership."
- Reiterated the difference between grievances and gripes
- "You can't say the union isn't doing anything about grievances if you're not bringing them to leadership's attention."
- "When groups come together in little pockets, it creates issues."
 - "Particularly around election time, misinformation abounds. Check with the source, if something seems problematic."
- "I am the president of 696 and represent the people in it, regardless of race, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, etc."
- "We might be behind the curve in technology and the intricacies of structured communication but we are doing the work and saving people's jobs."
 - "As we move into 2026, you will hear mud-slinging but we get the job done."

Reil Harrell - "This is OUR local. If you see we are lacking, jump in and help out. We can get it perfect together."

- "The minor details of critique are far outweighed by the work we do to get things done for the members' benefit."

Tony Dinkins - "We have members who are tech savvy but we can't take their help if they're not trustworthy. We can be 'one band, one sound' once trust is established."

- Window for Catastrophic Leave Bank contributions is Jan 1 - Mar 31
 - Advisable to put one (1) vacation day in the bank so you would be eligible to receive that leave if you unexpectedly needed it
 - One (1) donated vacation day can get you up to sixty (60) days of leave if you ever need it
 - This can be done independently through OnePhilly but if you have trouble with that, call the office
 - If you are or are about to be maxed out on your vacation hours, put them in the bank before giving them back to the city
- So far, the [information portal](#) has been mainly used to share council information

Colin - "CBTU put out a call for a union day of solidarity - a gesture, not a sentiment."

Tony Dinkins - Will reemphasize that point to Greg Boulware (DC33 President)

Dan DeDomenico - (RE: liaisons) "To the point of not presenting information with a bent, I would like for everyone to see exactly what was proposed for the motion. The liaison position would not be intended to overthrow or undermine union leadership. This was proposed in the hopes that it would be shared and discussed (distributed 20 copies) with the possibility of a motion to vote on."

Tony Dinkins - "We're not accepting a motion."

Kristen Pomroy - asked what the issue is with accepting the motion

Tony Dinkins - "In favor of maintaining order and adhering to the meeting agenda."

Jihan Pauling and Tonja Dyson-Berry - "What is the point of the meeting, if we're not going to do business?" (RE: the motion)

[left the meeting visibly upset, with the lack of satisfactory response]

Tony Dinkins - initiated rideshare coordination [\$15 gas stipend for members who offer rides home]

- Names of Election Nomination Committee members were quickly shared [didn't catch]

7:05 motion to adjourn meeting passed.