

Local 987 has been placed in Trusteeship. It was effective Oct. 29, 2024 according to AFGE National President Everett Kelley in a letter sent to members. It was done, according to Kelley in the letter in accordance with Article IX, Section 5(a) and 5(b)(4) of the AFGE National Constitution and approval of the NEC.

“I imposed trusteeship on the local to safeguard and protect the local, by taking immediate charge of all equities and properties, tangible and intangible, acquired and/or possessed by the local, and to otherwise carry out the legitimate duties and objectives of the local,” Kelley wrote.

The specific reasons for the trusteeship were also outlined in the letter. (If you did not receive one, contact the local by phone at 478-922-5758 or visit the local headquarters at 1764 Watson Blvd.)

Kelley continued that it was “essential that proper financial controls and democratic principles be restored and maintained.” To oversee that, he has appointed Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney as Trustee of the local.

Her initial duty, according to the letter, was to take immediate possession of the local’s property, both tangible and intangible, instruct financial institutions to transfer authority over to her, have all checks countersigned by the secretary-treasurer – the letter authorizes her to appoint one as well as any other officers she deems necessary to assist her/them.

As far as those officers: “Some people who were here were asked if they wanted to stay,” she said. “Some said yes and some did not. And some didn’t give an answer.”

Three of those who answered yes were James Waston, Mike Ferguson and Antonio Lumpkin. Watson remains as vice president of maintenance. Ferguson was appointed to serve as vice president at-large and Lumpkin is still dedicated to his full-time duties. Two trustees continue on, Tommy Gibson and Curtis McCants and Ron Hill has been appointed as acting president, while Tom Scott has been appointed acting executive vice president. Jerry Galloway, the elected secretary, also joined the team as a full-time steward.

“So, three of the five were already here,” she said, adding she is welcoming suggestions to fill the others. “We’re looking for people from different walks of life,” she said. “Not necessarily from the same team. Asking them to come and work together to get our union on track. As one.”

Her heart/overall vision: “I hope that everybody will come together and work for the good and betterment of Local 987. There are no sides. There are no teams. There is a family. There is a body. And that body is the BUEs of local 987.”

Per the letter, under “longstanding AFGE practice, trusteeships are to be terminated as soon as possible, once the irregularities that caused the trusteeship have been cured and no longer exist.”

To that end, Kelley writes, addressing those irregularities are a “priority.” In addition, he writes, “The local will elect officers prior to my lifting the trusteeship and the officers will be installed at the end of the trusteeship.”

He added: “To restore autonomy to the local as soon as possible, I urge all members to assist and cooperate with the Trustee.”