

## Annual Meeting 2006

### Atlanta, Georgia

AFGE Local 3599 met in Atlanta, Georgia on August 3-4, 2006, for training and the Local's Annual Meeting. On August 3, 2006, following opening remarks by Local President, Sharon Baker, officers and stewards took part in a dinner training. The EEO training was conducted by Chief Steward, Wendell Mark Sims, who happens to be an Administrative Judge. The training culminated in a lively moot court. Participants received an excellent training package that included sample hearing documents, which will be helpful for stewards who might assist members in the EEO process.

Local President Sharon Baker chairing the meeting.



Judge Sims conducting training with Clint, Allen, & Sharon.



Rhonda, Beverly and Janice participating in the moot court



Local 3599 Officer at the Annual Meeting.

On August 4, 2006, the Local convened for the business part of its Annual Meeting. A moment of silence was observed for the passing of LaOuida Small, who had been the steward for the Jackson, MS, EEOC office. The Local then conducted its regular business including the President's report, the Chief Steward's report, the Treasurer's report, the budget, and the Legislative Report. A discussion was also held reviewing the Local's strategic plan. The body agreed that we must continue to emphasize growing our membership, as many of our members are retiring. A goal of 4 new members

for District and Field offices and 2 new members for Area offices was set. If stewards reach these goals, the Local will award a \$25 gift card.

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Beverly, Jeff, Allen, Joyce and Rhonda at the meeting.



Sharon, Gloria, and Bill catching up during a break.

Atlanta Steward, Clinton Smith, graciously hosted a delicious barbeque at his house after the meeting.

(L) Clint's House (C) Jeff, Vera, Rachel, Janice, & Allen enjoying the BBQ (R) Rhonda & Derek rocking at the BBQ.



Atlanta was chosen for the Annual Meeting especially because the National Council Meeting and the AFGE Triennial Convention were also being held in Atlanta, directly following our meeting. This was then a great opportunity for Local 3599 members to meet or reacquaint with National Council members and AFGE Officers, including 6<sup>th</sup> District National Vice President Arnold Scott, and convention participants. Also, 3599 members were welcome to stay after the Annual Meeting to observe the Council meeting. First Vice President of 3599, Gloria Allen, took advantage and visited the first day of the Council Meeting.

Sharon & Rachel display their AFGE "Super Six" District Six T-Shirts at the AFGE Triennial Conference.



Following the Local and Council meetings, Sharon Baker and Rachel Shonfield, stayed on to serve in their capacities as delegates to the AFGE 2006 Convention. The convention included constitution and by-laws workshops, speakers, and most importantly the election of National Officers. John Gage was reelected AFGE National President, Andrea Brooks was reelected AFGE National Vice President of Women and Fair Practices, and J. David Cox was elected AFGE National Secretary Treasurer.

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Rachel & Sharon with AFGE President John Gage & Council 216 at the Awards Reception.

The convention also included award ceremonies. Council 216 won the award for Legislative Action in the category of National Council. Rachel Shonfield, who is the Council's Legislative Coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the Council. Council 216 also won Best Newsletter.



While in Atlanta for the AFGE Convention, Sharon Baker, Rachel Shonfield, Council President Gabrielle Martin, Council 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Michael Davidson, Council Treasurer Michael Davidson and other Council members visited the EEOC Atlanta Office. Clint Smith and Vera Simms organized a pizza lunch meeting with employees. Employees were provided Local and Council updates. Several employees signed up during the lunch to become new members, making the visit a real success! Sharon Baker has also visited the Birmingham, Nashville, and Charlotte offices, where she has also had an opportunity to update members about the Local and sign up new members.