



March 22, 2017

Mr. Charles Day, President
Government Employees AFGE AFL-CIO Local 217
Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center
1 Freedom Way, Room 3A105
Augusta, GA 30904-6258

Case Number: 410-6009708
LM Number: 501706

Dear Mr. Day:

This office has recently completed an audit of Government Employees AFGE AFL-CIO Local 217 under the Compliance Audit Program (CAP) to determine your organization's compliance with the provisions of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (CSRA), 5 U.S.C. 7120, and the Department's regulations, 29 CFR 458. As discussed during the exit interview with you and Office Manager Dolores Ackerman on March 16, 2017, the following problems were disclosed during the CAP. The matters listed below are not an exhaustive list of all possible problem areas since the audit conducted was limited in scope.

Recordkeeping Violations

Title II of the LMRDA establishes certain reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Section 206 of the LMRDA and Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Section 403.7 require, among other things, that labor organizations maintain adequate records for at least five years after reports are filed by which the information on the reports can be verified, explained and clarified. Pursuant to 29 C.F.R. Section 458.3, this recordkeeping provision of the LMRDA applies to labor organizations subject to the requirements of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (CSRA) as well. Therefore, as a general rule, labor organization must retain all records used or received in the course of union business.

For disbursements, this includes not only original bills, invoices, receipts, vouchers, and applicable resolutions, but also documentation showing the nature of the union business requiring the disbursement, the goods or services received, and the identity of the recipient(s) of the goods or services. In most instances, this documentation requirement can be satisfied with a sufficiently descriptive expense receipt or invoice. If an expense receipt is not sufficiently descriptive, a union officer or employee should write a note on it providing the additional information. For money it receives, the labor organization must keep at least one record showing the date, amount, purpose, and source of that money. The labor organization must also retain bank records for all accounts.

The audit of Local 217's 2016 records revealed the following recordkeeping violations:

1. Disposition of Property

Local 217 did not maintain an inventory of hats, jackets, and other property it purchased, sold, or gave away. The union must report the value of any union property on hand at the beginning and end of each year in Item 30 (Other Assets) of the LM-3. The union must retain an inventory or similar record of property on hand to verify, clarify, and explain the information that must be reported in Item 30. The union must record in at least one record the date and amount received from each sale of union hats, jackets, and other items.

In addition, in the case of items given away to members, the union must retain records that identify the date the items were given away and the recipients of those items.

2. Failure to Maintain Receipt Records

Local 217 retain adequate receipt records for some monies it received from its membership. For example, the union recorded in its duplicate receipt books, money it received from ticket sales to its Christmas party in 2015, but the local discarded the duplicate receipts. As noted earlier, labor organization must keep at least one record showing the date, amount, purpose, and source of that money.

Based on your assurance that Local 217 will retain adequate documentation in the future, OLMS will take no further enforcement action at this time regarding the above violations.

Reporting Violations

Pursuant to 29 C.F.R., Section 458.3, the reporting requirement under 29 C.F.R. Section 403.2 (see Section 201(b) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA)) is made applicable to labor organizations subject to the requirements of the CSRA. This provision requires labor organizations to file annual financial reports that accurately disclose their financial condition and operations. The audit disclosed a violation of this requirement. The Labor Organization Annual Report (LM-3) filed by Local 217 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 was deficient in the following areas:

1. Cash Reconciliation

Your union's reported cash figures for the reporting period do not balance (reconcile). Specifically, cash at the start of the reporting period (Item 25(A)) plus total receipts (Item 44) minus total disbursements (Item 55) does not equal cash at the end of the reporting period (Item 25(B)).

2. Failure to File Bylaws

Pursuant to 29 C.F.R. Section 458.3, the requirement under 29 C.F.R. Section 402.4 implementing LMRDA Section 201(a) is made applicable to labor organizations subject to

the requirements of the CSRA. This provision requires labor organizations to file copies of any revised constitution and bylaws when it files its annual financial report. The audit disclosed a violation of this requirement. Local 217 amended its constitution and bylaws in 2015, but did not file the required copies with its LM report for that year. Local 217 has now filed a copy of its constitution and bylaws.

Local 217 must file an amended Form LM-3 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, to correct the deficient items discussed above. I encourage Local 217 to complete, sign, and file its report electronically using the Electronic Forms System (EFS) available at the OLMS website at www.olms.dol.gov. Reporting forms and instructions can be downloaded from the website, if you prefer not to file electronically. The amended Form LM-3 should be filed electronically no later than April 17, 2017 or submitted to this office at the above address by the same date. Before filing, review the report thoroughly to be sure it is complete and accurate. Paper reports must be signed with original signatures.

Other Issue

Recruitment Rebates

Local 217 erroneously issued a \$100 recruitment rebate check to an employee. Union officials have the fiduciary responsibility to protect the union assets. Union officials should ensure that all disbursements are appropriate and issued in the correct amounts.

I want to extend my personal appreciation to AFGE Local 217 for the cooperation and courtesy extended during this compliance audit. I strongly recommend that you make sure this letter and the compliance assistance materials provided to you are passed on to future officers. If we can provide any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the investigator.

Investigator