

AFSCME LOCAL 517

General Membership Meeting Agenda

March 18, 2026 - 12:00-1:00pm

Virtual: WebEx - See instructions below



WebEx Instructions: *Please mute your line when you are not speaking*

Join by phone:

+1-415-655-0001 Toll

Access code: 25572275458

Meeting password for audio:

64236974

Join by computer:

Meeting link:

<https://afscme517secretary.my.webex.com/afscme517secretary.my/j.php?MTID=md418c33144408b727b1314c9427405a1>

Meeting number: 2557 227 5458

Meeting password: MgCFmxPH352

Attendees: (some last names were unable to be identified)

Elizabeth Grover, Karen Harjes, Rebecca Turner, Chris Fennern, Aaron DeMars, Connor Schaefer, Rebecca Kimbell, Heather Vandenheuvell, Maria Knowlan, Julie Beckel, Janel Hatcher, Madeline Nyvold, Christy Aufderhar, Marin Jaszewski, Melissa Buhr, Kathy Hague, Patti Bonjes, Brian Peterson, Alexea Cheatem, Shannon Feeney, Alex Calero, Laying Vang, Halli Sevilla, Kari, Stephanie Walbridge, Shawna Lefebvre, Heidi, Amy Bernstein, Robbin Ann Rosen, Rodney Dybedahl, Karen Brown, Chris Bibeau, Stephanie Johnson, Reese Glaser, Tiffany White, Bri, Carrie Genereux, Annie Walton, Cassidy Parnell Velasco, Paul Schwarz, Lindsay Babcock, Danielle Johnson, Lis, Danni Levorson, Lisa, Kathryn Bursinger, samantha midby, Kendra Sandkamp, Marisa Widgren, Melanie Schmitt, Heidi L Lottsfeldt, Katie Thurmes, Angela Plumbo, Tami Leemon, Angela Chesshir, Heidi Thayer, Alissa Lopez, Becky Knighton, Benjamin Henry, Kris Keller, Jamie Blair, Therese Genis, Lynne Freezy, Heidi Steltzner, Brie, Dani Brown, Ashley Stoner, Kathy Pansegrau, Mark Mandt, Molly Storelee, Carrie, Kate Kowalski, Alayne Svee, Ryan Olson, Alayne Svee, Rebecca Molloy, Kira Gengler, Astrid Flynn, Kimberly McCutcheon, Heidi Leedom, Wendy Hoover-Carpentier, Carol Tabora, Nathan Dahl, Olga Rychlicki, Jenna Wiebusch, Joanne Lubich, Thallassa Gunelius, Kari, Gao Lee, Sara, Ayantu Feyissa-Yadassa, Andrea Rehm, Alyssa Wolf, Donna Sloan

Agenda

- Call to Order: 12:00pm
- Treasurer's Report
 - Prior Month(s) review and approval: January
 - Motion to approve: Carrie Genereux, Second: Alexea Cheatem
 - February
 - Motion to approve: Shannon Feeney, Second: Madeline Nyvold
- Secretary's Report
 - Prior Month(s) review and approval
 - Motion to approve: Carrie Genereux, Second: Shannon Feeney
- President's Report
 - Negotiation Questions
 - Clarified that teleworking is a minor focus compared to mental health and healthcare in negotiations.
 - Ben emphasized the goal to serve all members and address their needs.
 - About half the membership is impacted by the return to office order, which has brought attention to this issue.
 - The negotiations team will be meeting this Friday with Washington County for an unmediated session.
- Business Rep's Report
 - March 25th Digital Organizing Essentials, can be zoom or in-person.
 - March 31st Steward Training at the Met Council.

- Old Business
 - Contract Negotiations Updates
 - Rally tomorrow morning, have approval from your supervisor and use your PTO.
 - Benjamin Henry highlighted challenges in negotiations and the need for meaningful engagement from the county.
 - Benjamin Henry presents Kavira Health's mobile primary care as a cost-saving option.
 - Stephanie Johnson confirms no cost to employees and highlights convenience for common health needs.
 - The group discusses potential benefits for mental health support and reducing insurance premiums.
 - ILMC Discussion as it relates to contract negotiations
 - Lynne Freezy detailed ILMC's role in negotiating insurance plans for eleven bargaining units.
 - She explained embedded plans have higher costs but lower family deductibles, while unembedded plans have lower deductibles but higher risk.
 - The committee works to keep premium increases within caps and negotiate better terms with insurance providers.
 - Members express concerns about rising insurance costs outpacing cost of living adjustments.
- New Business
 - Executive Board Vacancies
 - Benjamin Henry notes vacancies in vice president and board member at large positions.
 - Two members have expressed interest in the vice president role.
 - Lynne Freezy volunteers for the board member at large position and confirms the appointment process involves e-board approval.
 - Rally
 - Carrie encourages members to attend the Tuesday rally starting at 8 AM in Stillwater.
 - Benjamin Henry explains the rally logistics, including possible indoor location due to weather.
 - Members are invited to speak at the 9 AM board meeting following the rally.
 - Participation requires PTO approval and members are welcome to bring signs.
- Good & Welfare
 - Gift Card Drawing Winner: Gao Lee
- Adjourn

Get involved! Visit the [Local 517 website](#)

Executive Board:

President: Ben Henry
 Vice President: Vacant
 Treasurer: Shannan Hendricks
 Chief Stewards: Carrie Genereux (non-exempt) and Vacant (exempt)
 Recording Secretary: Kaitlyn McCarthy
 New Member Secretary: Heather Vandenheuvel
 Communication Liaison: Alexea Cheatem
 Executive Board Members At-Large: Shannon Feeney, Alex Calero
 Trustees: Carissta Arndt, Robbin Rosen
 AFSCME Business Representative: Paul Schwarz

Contact AFSCME Council 5:

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