

AFSCME LOCAL 517

General Membership Meeting Minutes

May 20, 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: Kaitlyn McCarthy, Ben Henry, Madeline Nyvold, Heidi Thayer, Shannan Hendricks, Katie Thurmes, Alex Calero, Hailee Hennessy Dhein, Carrie Genereux, Halli Sevilla, Robbin Ann Rosen, Karen Harjes, Andrea Rehm, Tanika Gockowski, Kathryn Bursinger, Heather Vandenheuvel, Christy Aufderhar, Amy Eccles

Agenda

- Call to Order
 - Benjamin Henry initiated a moment of silence for Thomas Peterson's passing.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Prior Month(s) review and approval:
 - Robbin Ann Rosen motioned to approve the treasurer's reports; Carrie Genereux seconded. Motion carries.
- Secretary's Report
 - Prior Month(s) review and approval: March and April 2026.
 - Robbin Ann Rosen motioned to approve the secretary's reports; Carrie Genereux seconded. Motion carries.
- President's Report
 - Benjamin Henry confirmed the tentative agreement was accepted by members.
 - A detailed line-by-line review of the redline contract was scheduled for the afternoon.
 - The contract would be submitted to the board for approval at the June 2 meeting.
 - Tanika Gacowski volunteered for a trustee position and would be voted on at the next executive board meeting.
- Business Rep's Report
 - Paul Schwarz announced the President and Local Leadership Conference on June 12 at the Kahler Hotel in Rochester.
 - Webinars and workshops available thru MemberLink:
 - A pre-retirement planning webinar: June 15 from 12:30 to 4:30 PM.
 - enhancing local communication skills workshop: June 17 with in-person and Zoom options.
- Old Business
 - Contract Negotiations Updates
- New Business
 - Trustee Audit Report:
 - Robbin Ann Rosen noted missing start and end points on mileage expense reports and recommended rejecting incomplete submissions.
 - Meeting minutes need to clearly document approval of motions.

- The new Vice President needs to be added as a signer on checks.
- Late expense report submissions of six to nine months were flagged as problematic and suggested for executive board review.
- Robbin suggested having multiple reviewers for expense reports to improve oversight.
- Call For Committee Volunteers
 - Volunteering was presented as a flexible opportunity without long-term commitment.
 - The focus was on planning the contract ratification party
 - Members interested in event planning were encouraged to join the effort.
- Contract Ratification Party Planning
 - Benjamin Henry proposed a post-ratification celebration, considering summer or Labor Day timing.
 - Members expressed preference for a Labor Day event to avoid busy summer schedules.
 - Discussion included whether to hold the event in the afternoon or evening and venue options like a park or restaurant?
 - Carrie and others emphasized the need for volunteers to help plan the event.
 - An email would be sent to union members to solicit volunteers for the planning committee.
- Good & Welfare
 - Gift Card Drawing: Andrea Rehm
- Adjourn

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

Executive Board:

President: Ben Henry
 Vice President: Reese Glaser
 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, Elizabeth Grover
 Trustees: Carissta Arndt, Robbin Rosen
 AFSCME Business Representative: Paul Schwarz

Contact AFSCME Council 5:

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