

AFSCME LOCAL 517

General Membership Meeting Minutes

June 17, 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, Kathryn Bursinger, Tanya Hollan, Rebecca Kimbell, Kate Kowalski, Carissta Arndt, Karen Brown, Reese Glaser, Molly Gieschen, Madeline Nyvold, Kathy Hague, Tanika Gockowski, Alex Calero, Danielle Horan, Shannan Hendricks, Katie Thurmes, Robbin Ann Rosen, Lynne Freezy, Astrid Flynn, Melissa, Megan Peterson, Nancy Knox

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Treasurer's Report
 - Prior Month(s) review and approval.
 - Robbin Ann Rosen makes the motion to approve treasurer's report, Madeline Nyvold second. Motion carries.
- Secretary's Report
 - Prior Month(s) review and approval
 - Robbin Ann Rosen motion to approve treasurer's report, Lynne Freezy second. Motion carries.
- President's Report
 - Paul Schwarz has retired. His Field Representative job is open for applications.
 - Meeting request with social services right now. With Social Services and PRTS there have been a lot of disciplines and investigations going on.
 - Contract signed and settled.
 - On the 19th, first adjusted wages. In July, your backpay for healthcare and retroactive backpay to January 1st.
 - ILMC Short Term Disability Enrollment: Looking at renewal for 2027.
- Business Rep's Report
 - Field Rep Paul Schwarz has retired. Interim Field Rep: Tanya Hollan
 - Trainings: Tanya can do any!
 - Let Tanya know time and day that works for folks. Full day for most of them, half day for all of them. Steward Training, Contract Negotiations Trainings, and more.
 - MOU Signings coming up in July
 - Peer auditing in Crisis Response.
 - Supervisors are asking other workers to audit their colleague's paperwork, and if there's anything wrong with that paperwork, to report it to the supervisor.
 - The concern is that this could lead to discipline. We understand if this is peer to peer auditing, that's fine, but peer to SUPERVISOR auditing is a concern.

- Does that mean the person will get written up if they do something wrong? This may create a hostile work environment.
- Another concern from this is that bargaining units would potentially be doing manager's jobs.
- It's important for employees to understand that they can rely on their peers to correct each other's work in a collaborative way.
- Executive board will draft a statement that will be brought for approval to the local's next GMM to bring to HR
- Robbin Ann Rosen makes a Motion to file a ULP on the peer review process. Alex Calero second. Motion carries.
- Leadership conference down in Rochester with a dedication to Khalid Abdul
- IU Convention August 17th in Chicago!! 16th-22nd of August
- Council 5 Convention in Bloomington on the 24th-26th.
 - Every year, delegates and alternates from most AFSCME Council 5 locals and retiree chapter guests throughout the state participate in a few days of networking, resolutions debate, skills learning, and other activities to build our union. Through open discussion of the issues that matter to all workers in our union family and all working families, delegates set our union's priorities for the future, hear updates from our Council leaders, hear the stories of fellow union members across our Council, and renew our shared commitments and strategize to make us stronger.
- Old Business
 - Contract Ratification Party Planning
- New Business
 - Member Communication Preferences
 - Agenda and Minutes to be sent to personal emails as well via ActionNetwork. If you are not getting them please contact afscme517secretary@gmail.com
 - Only the most required information will be sent to work emails to further keep work vs union operations separate.
 - New Trustee: Tanika Gockowski
- Good & Welfare
 - Gift Card Drawing: Nancy Knox
- 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, Elizabeth Grover, Lynne Freezy
 Trustees: Robbin Rosen, Tanika Gockowski
 AFSCME Business Representative: Tanya Hollan

Contact AFSCME Council 5:

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 MAC Line: 651-450-4990
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 South St Paul, MN 55075

