

AFSCME LOCAL 517

General Membership Meeting Agenda

August 26th, 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: Katie Thurmes, Lori Bratulich, Molly G, Chris Fennern, Jill Schroeder, Cydney Bagne, Tanika Gockowski, Dominic Wolters, Benjamin Henry, Karen Brown, Kathryn Bursinger, Melissa, Reese, Rebecca Kimbell, Lizzy Grover, Heather Vandenheuvel, Christy Aufderhar, Karen Harjes, Tanya Hollan, Shannan Hendricks, Nicole Kingbird

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Treasurer's Report
 - Prior Month(s) review and approval
 - Reese makes a motion to approve the treasurer's report for July. Heather second.
- Secretary's Report
 - Prior Month(s) review and approval
 - Shannan makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June. Reese second.
- President's Report
 - Among membership there are high investigation and discipline rates, particularly within the Community Services department. Members are encouraged to report issues for union support.
- Business Rep's Report
 - Resolution submissions for the Council 5 Convention are due by September 4.
 - The convention will be held September 24–26 and is an election year for the executive board and internal council members; nominations may be made on the floor during the convention.
 - Training sessions on website use and social media are scheduled for September 30 and October 14.
 - Potential future outreach to local units (Forest Lake, Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, Woodbury, and others) that we represent was discussed to increase their involvement in union meetings and activities.
 - Tanya explained how union dues are allocated: dues go first to the International union (covering all states and Puerto Rico), then to Council 5, which funds staff including political and organizing departments. International provides training, legal support, and organizing assistance; local unions decide how to spend remaining funds for their members.
 - Tanya reported reaching out to management about union-busting behavior and received a negative response. A meeting with Commissioner Carla Bigham is scheduled to discuss employee engagement survey results and workplace safety.
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Changes to Local 517 Constitution Discussion
 - Ideas for changes: dues restructuring, expense report submittal deadlines, or any other ideas.

- There would need to be an odd numbered committee who organizes the changes and drafts up the potential additions. The changes need to be read out loud and deliberated at a general membership meeting, then voted on at a subsequent meeting. After that, we give the changes to Tanya, our field rep, and she gets it signed by AFSCME International.
 - Current constitution committee volunteers: Reese, Jill, Shannan, Ben, and anyone else who would like to participate.
- AFSCME Council 5 Convention
 - Delegates
 - No vote needed for convention delegates.
 - The deadline for delegate list submission is September 9.
 - Resolutions
- Labor Day Party Announcement
 - September 7th, 3-5pm at Willowbrooke Commons Park in Oakdale
 - Details to come!
- Steward Call
- Statement on Peer Auditing Approval
 - Not addressed in this meeting. Will be addressed next meeting.
- Good & Welfare
 - Gift Card Drawing: Nicole Kingbird
- 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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