

# SAUNDERS, REYES ELECTED



Delegates to the 40th International Convention of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (AFSCME), yesterday elected Lee Saunders to be president, and Laura M. Reyes to be secretary-treasurer of the union representing 1.6 million public service workers.

Saunders received 683,628 votes to 582,358 for Danny Donohue, CSEA/Local 1000

president, also an International vice president. In the race for secretary-treasurer, the union's second highest-ranking officer, Laura Reyes, UDW/Local 3930 president received 661,413 votes to 603,624 for Alice Goff, District Council 36 president. The election was administered by the American Arbitration Association.

"Both Laura and I are committed to our members and cherish this union," said AFSCME President-elect Lee A. Saunders. "We had a vigorous and energetic campaign, but now the union will pull together to win victories for working families and our members all across this great country.

"We know that Wall Street and their allies are engaged in



an all-out assault against our members and the services we provide. They know that AFSCME stands in the way of their efforts to destroy the middle class. We are united in our commitment to stand up for the men and women who care for America's children, nurse the sick, plow our streets, collect the household trash and guard our prisons. Our members are a cross-section of America, not some elite group as our opponents try to claim. We are energized and ready for the battles ahead, including putting boots on the ground to ensure the re-election of Pres. Barack Obama."

Secretary-Treasurer-elect Laura Reyes said that she would "work night and day for the working families of America. Together, we can and will stand up for fairness and for an end to the scapegoating of public service workers. We will pull together in communities across America to find real solutions to the problems facing so many families."

Pres. Gerald W. McEntee, who retires today after 31 years as AFSCME president, said the delegates' decision to elect Saunders and Reyes "strengthens our leadership and will enhance our ability to face the challenges that await us around the country."

"Laura and I are humbled and honored to have been chosen to lead AFSCME," Saunders said. "We have great respect for Danny and Alice and will work with them to move our union forward."

Saunders will be the fourth president of AFSCME since the union's formation 75 years ago in Madison, Wis.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Luggage Hold

8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Convention kit distribution area

### Booths

8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

PEOPLE & Main Information  
LACC, Hall G

Lobby Information  
South Lobby, LACC

PEOPLE Fire Sale

8 a.m.

Registration Area

### Convention Reconvenes

9:30 a.m.

LACC, Hall H/J

Installation of New Officers

Adjournment

AFSCME IEB Meeting  
(at conclusion of Convention)  
LACC, Room 408

## International Vice Presidents Elected

California District: **Kathryn Lybarger, Ralph Miller**

Capital District: **Glenard S. Middleton**

Central District: **Dave Warrick**

CSEA District: **Mary E. Sullivan, Nick LaMorte, Kathy Garrison**

Eastern District: **Mattie Harrell**

Hawaii District: **Randy Perreira**

Illinois District: **Henry Bayer, Roberta Lynch**

Michigan District: **Larry Roehrig**

Midwestern District: **Danny Homan**

New York City District: **Lillian Roberts, Eddie Rodriguez**

New York State District: **Raglan George**

North Central District: **Eliot Seide**

No. New England District: **Alva Arellano**

Northwestern District: **Ken Allen, Greg Devereux**

NUHCE District: **Henry Nicholas, Ken Deitz, RN**

OAPSE District: **Joe Rugola**

OCSEA District: **Christopher Mabe**

Ohio District: **John Lyall**

Pennsylvania District: **David Fillman, Mike Fox**

Puerto Rico District: **Braulio Torres**

So. New England District: **Sal Luciano**

Southeastern District: **Jeanette Wynn**

Southwestern District: **Greg Powell**

UDW District: **Doug Moore, Johanna Puno Hester**

Wisconsin District: **Gary Mitchell**

## International Vice Presidents Contested

### CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

CANDIDATE	VOTE COUNT
Ralph Miller	36,038
Sandra Fox	20,763
George Popyack	23,501
Kathryn Lybarger	38,939
Mark Foley	3,649

### NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

CANDIDATE	VOTE COUNT
Ken Allen	60,502
Greg Devereux	62,652
James Robinson	25,451

### EASTERN DISTRICT

CANDIDATE	VOTE COUNT
Mattie Harrell	16,713
Sherryl Gordon	14,126

### SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT

CANDIDATE	VOTE COUNT
Greg Powell	23,065
Sharon Bonner	4,919

### WISCONSIN DISTRICT

CANDIDATE	VOTE COUNT
Brian Stafford	15,496
Gary Mitchell	23,290

### NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

CANDIDATE	VOTE COUNT
Alva Arellano	25,189
Elissa Cadillic	12,445



Inspired by the AFSCME 75th Anniversary video that aired yesterday? Check it out and share it with your sisters and brothers at [afscme.org/75](http://afscme.org/75).

[afscme.org/convention](http://afscme.org/convention)



# AFSCME BUILDING STRENGTH THROUGH ORGANIZING



Despite a weak economy and attacks on workers’ rights, AFSCME continues to build strength through organizing. Giving faces and voices to some of those success stories was the goal of Thursday’s organizing program.

“Despite unprecedented opposition, 50,000 new members joined AFSCME since the last Convention,” said Michael Rider, president of Tulsa Local 1180 (Oklahoma). The 911 operator moderated the program and also spoke of his own experience as a Volunteer Member Organizer (VMO). A self-described “proud Next Waver,” Rider called organizing “an American value,” and said “solidarity is our greatest virtue.” He opened the program to showcase other AFSCME organizing success stories:

### Fired Up in Wisconsin

First up in the program was Wisconsin’s unique organizing campaign. In 2011, after Gov. Scott Walker abolished the collective bargaining rights of 200,000 Wisconsin public service workers – including more than 60,000 AFSCME members – all three Wisconsin councils launched a campaign to re-enroll members using bank accounts or credit cards. Nearly 10,000 AFSCME members rejoined with the encouragement of hundreds of VMOs.



## California AG Harris: ‘We Are Too Big Too Fail’

AFSCME members lead the fight for working families every day and we must push forward on issues like justice

for homeowners struggling with their mortgages and bolstering the Affordable Care Act, California Attorney General Kamala Harris told cheering delegates in an address Thursday.

On the frontlines in their jobs and in their activism, AFSCME members know what’s at stake for the country, Harris said.

“It’s the basic idea that in these United States of America, our economy should work for everyone. It’s the idea that AFSCME and the entire AFL-CIO have always stood for: that from the day you are born until-

### RESOLUTIONS

Delegates on Thursday adopted a number of resolutions, including: (36) Organizing Public Service Workers, (43) Excluded Workers, (73) Next Wave, (27) Fighting Privatization on State, County and Municipal Government Levels, (13 & 42) Marriage Equality, (72) AFSCME Battleground State Partnerships, (16) AFSCME PEOPLE, (18) Pledging

When asked to rejoin the union, voluntarily, Debra Anders, a new member of Local 82 (Council 24), said, “I can’t re-commit because I’m not a member. But I will sign up and I will fight back!” The library service assistant added, “I knew I wasn’t going to sit back and let this guy walk all over state workers, but I also knew I couldn’t fight back on my own.”

Fluffy Aerts, a member of Local 1889 (Council 40), and Ron Hart, president of Local 1654 (Council 48), added their voices. Reflecting on the Walker recall effort, Aerts said, “This fight is not over until we say it is. And we are still fighting.” Added Hart, “I’m not hanging up my walking shoes just yet. I’m going to keep at it... Today I can report that my local has re-signed more than 50 percent of our members, and we are still going strong.”

### Big Gains in Georgia

Presenter Katherine Chatman hails from Georgia, a right-to-work-for-less state. “That means that workers can receive the benefits of a union contract without having to pay their fair share,” she said. But after Fulton County passed an ordinance giving AFSCME exclusive representation rights once it had achieved majority status in each department, the campaign to sign up members began in earnest.

“When I joined the union in 1995, there were only 75 members” of Fulton County employees Local 3, Chatman said. “But with the help of our national union, we’ve been building and strengthening our membership.” Now, she said, “We are 1,800 strong and growing.”

### Maryland Grows by 15,000

“In Maryland we know a thing or two about organizing, because we have been locked in an epic multi-year fight to win our rights,” said Shantil Carter, who works in the state Comptroller’s Office and is a member of Local 1535.

After they won collective bargaining in 1996 for 20,000 state employees, they organized and negotiated a

the day you die, no matter who you are or where you come from, every American should have a shot at a good education. At a job that pays the bills. The dignity of homeownership. The security of a safe retirement. And the faith that our child will have an even greater chance than we did.”

AFSCME councils and locals in California, including UDW and Council 57, were active to get Harris elected in 2010, said Andrea Gordon, Local 1967, in her introduction of Harris. “She has shown that when we vote pro-worker policymakers into office, it can make a big difference for working families.”

Harris issued delegates a rousing call to action. “I know you did not come to Los Angeles just for this week,” she said. “You came to Los Angeles for the next generation. We’re here not to celebrate. We’re here to activate. And AFSCME, one thing is absolutely clear. It is simply not enough to fight back. We need to fight forward.”

She urged advocacy by the delegates for the Homeowners Bill of Rights which is scheduled to go

Increased Member Activism in 2012 and Beyond, (19) The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), (33) Working with Coalitions to Fight Privatization and Protect Collective Bargaining and Public Services, (30) Ballot Initiative Reform, (39) Women’s Leadership Development. The full list will be posted will be available online at [afscme.org/convention](http://afscme.org/convention).

contract, then added 5,000 university employees to their ranks. But some folks didn’t pay their fair share of union dues even though they received the benefits of union representation. Last July, “thanks to our activism, fair share is now the law of the land,” Carter said.

The fight continued as legislators tried to exclude groups of workers from the union because they didn’t work directly for the governor. This April, however, lawmakers passed a law, effective in July, which gives 3,000 workers in four previously excluded state agencies the right to vote for collective bargaining. “Today our union represents 30,000 state employees in Maryland.”

### California, Here We Come

The successful drive this year to organize 260 paramedics, EMTs and vehicle supply technicians who work for Rural Metro Ambulance in Santa Clara County was told by Jose Gonzalez, a member of New York City’s Uniformed EMS Officers Union/AFSCME Local 3621 (DC 37). Gonzalez was one of several VMOs from the New York City Fire Department who traveled to the Golden State to tell their California counterparts about their own successes as members of United EMS Workers /AFSCME Local 4911.

“It was an amazing, life-changing journey, and I urge each of you to consider serving as a Volunteer Member Organizer,” Gonzalez said. “No one knows better than us how important a strong union is, and when we talk to public service workers in other states they can see that we are telling the truth.”

During his talk, Gonzalez urged delegates to text VMO to 237263 to get “all the information you need” to become VMOs.

Joining Gonzalez on stage was Jason Brollini, one of the California EMS workers he met during the organizing drive. “We are proud to be part of this great union, and at home in our communities we are already seeing the results of what solidarity can deliver,” Brollini said.

before the California state Legislature next week. And the re-election of Pres. Barack Obama – whom AFSCME members have endorsed – is paramount, Harris said.

Delegates rose to their feet as she questioned the legitimacy of banks being the ones who are too big to fail. “I say it’s our middle class that’s too big to fail. I say it’s the American Dream of homeownership that’s too big to fail. A fair shot at a college education and the skills to get a good job. That’s too big to fail. It’s the right to organize and bargain collectively that’s too big to fail. It’s our vision of an inclusive society that’s too big to fail. Marriage equality is too big to fail. The rights of women are too big to fail. Our immigrant communities are too big to fail. Health care for everyone is too big to fail. And brothers and sisters, when we work together, when we pull together, always remember, we are too big to fail.”

### VISIT THE WELLNESS BOOTH

From Saturday through Thursday, 1,040 pressure screenings were taken by members of AFSCME/United Nurses of America (UNA). Thanks for participating and stay healthy!