

Thursday, June 21, 2012

## SOLIDARITY.



Candidates for AFSCME president and secretary-treasurer met Wednesday in historic debates moderated by Art Pulaski, the AFL-CIO California Labor Federation executive secretary-treasurer.

In the presidential debate, Danny Donohue (top photo, right), CSEA/Local 1000 president and an International vice president, and Lee Saunders (top photo, left), AFSCME secretary-treasurer, answered questions submitted by members. Immediately following, the candidates for secretary-treasurer, Alice Goff (left photo), president of District Council 36 in Los Angeles, Calif., and Laura Reyes (right photo), president of UDW/Local 3930 and also an International vice-president, exchanged their ideas about the union's future.

Under terms previously agreed to by the campaigns, delegates limited applause to allow the maximum amount of time for questions and answers. As a result, delegates heard from all candidates on a wide-ranging set of issues, including their respective approaches to AFSCME's organizing and political involvement. They also shared personal stories of union activism.



## FIGHTING AS ONE



Waving "Respect!" signs and chanting "We're fired up, won't take it no more," thousands of AFSCME delegates rallied in MacArthur Park with their California sisters and brothers, calling attention to the fight for public service employees here and across America.

"The work we do, like the work that all of you do, is absolutely essential," said Kathryn Lybarger, a gardener at U.C. Berkeley and president of Local 3299, which is entering into negotiations with the University of California System soon. "We're ready to fight for what we all deserve."

(see back page)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Elections

6 – 10 a.m.

LACC, Kentia Hall

### Booths

8 a.m. – one hour after recess

LACC, Hall G – Main Information Booth, AFSCME Action Center, AFSCME Advantage, PEOPLE, PEOPLE Kiosk & Wellness

10 a.m. – one hour after recess

South Lobby, LACC – Lobby Information Booth (scooters) Affiliate Booths

### Convention Reconvenes

10:30 a.m. LACC, Hall H/J

PEOPLE T-Shirt Day

Program: Organizing, We're in it to Win

Program: Using PEOPLE Power to Grow the Union

PEOPLE Awards

Address

Honorable Kamala Harris, Attorney General, State of California

Announcement of Election Results

### Constituency Group Caucuses

Upon recess of General Session

### Wurf Alumni Reception

5 – 7 p.m.

## ELECTIONS TODAY!

Delegates today will cast their votes for AFSCME president, secretary-treasurer, and international vice presidents (IVPs) from six legislative districts where there are contests.

**Voting is from 6 – 10 a.m. in Kentia Hall of the LACC.** To vote, delegates will need to show photo IDs and Convention badges. They will receive paper ballots that will be scanned electronically to make the election results available more quickly.

If any runoffs are necessary, they will occur on **Friday from 6 – 9 a.m. in Kentia Hall of the LACC.**

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

# Gabrielle Giffords Embodies AFSCME's "Spirit of Public Service"



Sheri Van Hosen

AFSCME awarded its first Spirit of Public Service Award Wednesday to former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle "Gabby" Giffords of Arizona, for exemplifying a true public service hero.

Giffords resigned from the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 25, following a 2011 shooting in Tucson that left her critically wounded. Six others were killed and 13 more wounded.

In a video award presentation, the three-term congresswoman riveted the Convention hall as she was shown making a brave return to the Capitol last summer to cast her first vote since the shooting. Her vote was a critical one in favor of a deal to raise the federal debt limit.

Giffords thanked AFSCME delegates in the video and said she is getting stronger.

For her bravery and dedication to public service, Giffords is a worthy recipient of the first AFSCME Spirit of Public Service Award, as it honors those who are driven by the desire to do good – not just for themselves, but for the public as a whole. The award acknowledges public service heroes who have the courage to make change happen.

"She shows us what it means to stand strong even in the face of our fiercest foes," said Sheri Van Hosen, president of AFSCME Local 3111 in Arizona, in presenting Giffords' award. "She shows us what it means to make our communities, our states, our country a better place for all people."



## AMENDMENTS

Delegates approved three constitutional amendments Wednesday. One, a combined amendment, delays the deadline for implementing progressive dues. Two others reduce the salaries of the AFSCME president to \$295,000, and the AFSCME secretary-treasurer to \$250,750.

## RESOLUTIONS

Delegates on Wednesday approved a number of resolutions, including: (46) Federal Employees, (59) Protecting and Promoting the Value of Social Insurance Programs, (65) Strengthening the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and (66) Let's Make Higher Education Affordable for Working Families.

## DON'T MISS 'WE ARE WISCONSIN'

The film "We Are Wisconsin," about the historic demonstrations at the state Capitol in Madison to protest Gov. Scott Walker's assault on workers' rights, was shown earlier this week at the Convention Center. But you can still see it by visiting [www.wearewisconsininthefilm.com](http://www.wearewisconsininthefilm.com) to stream or download the film – or to purchase a DVD.

## MEMBERS SHARE STRATEGIES TO TURN THE TIDE



AFSCME members who work in similar job categories met Wednesday in 21 simultaneous sector caucuses to brainstorm strategies for advocating most powerfully on behalf of themselves and their colleagues – whether they work in corrections, education, emergency assistance, health care, public safety, social services or any other public service. Framed by the theme "Turning the Tide in 2012," the caucuses addressed the attacks on public service workers' jobs, pensions and bargaining rights. Participants shared specific experiences from the frontlines in these fights.

## CONSTITUENCY GROUP CAUCUSES

Constituency Caucuses will convene today upon recess of General Session in the LACC.

African American.....	Room 501 ABC
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	Room 409 AB
Conservatives in AFSCME.....	Room 407
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender.....	Room 510
Green.....	Room 402 AB
Latino.....	Room 404 AB
Next Wave.....	Room 406 AB

## TEST YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE

Since Saturday, AFSCME/United Nurses of America (UNA) performed 615 blood pressure screenings. Of those, 325 were normal, 213 elevated, and 77 significantly elevated. Free screenings continue through today at the Wellness Booth, LACC Hall G, beginning at 8 a.m. until the Convention convenes, and for one hour after recess.



## PEOPLE BOOTH



(continued from front)

Local 3299 and other AFSCME unions are fighting cuts to public services statewide.

Mike Milliner, executive board member of Local 1902, said his co-workers in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are using "our political power to make a huge difference. You might say that we water workers are making waves. In the political races that affect our future, candidates we supported won nine out of 11 races in the past year. With them in office, we've finally got a seat at the table."

## EVERYDAY PEOPLE

We'd like to think that every day is PEOPLE Day, but today it definitely will be as delegates don their PEOPLE T-shirts and affiliates are honored for their MVP participation. And there's still time to get a picture in our photobooth.

## THE FIRE INSIDE

At the end of today's session, hurry over to the Convention registration area for the PEOPLE fire sale. We'll have bulk order forms for select merchandise. The fire sale re-ignites Friday morning at 8 a.m. and ends at 9 a.m. All items are \$5 or less. Don't miss this great opportunity to grab some AFSCME gear at a great price.

Annette Norwood Dunlap, a clinical care provider at Santa Monica Hospital and a member of Local 3299, said they are fighting at the bargaining table for adequate hospital staffing. It's a personal fight for Dunlap, who begins radiation treatments this week to fight cervical cancer. Decent patient care, provided by quality public workers is crucial, she said. "I am going to continue this fight."

Also speaking at the rally were AFSCME Pres. Gerald W. McEntee, Sec.-Treas. Lee Saunders, Council 36 Pres. Alice Goff and Laura Reyes, president of UDW/Local 3930 and an IVP.

