President McEntee Urges Delegates to Fight On

Pres. Gerald W. McEntee, in his final keynote address after 31 years leading AFSCME, said the nation is witnessing a time when “the American Dream is under attack” and called on his union sisters and brothers to “choose to be a union with ambition, a union that dreams big dreams” – and one united for the challenges ahead.

“When we defend collective bargaining, we are fighting for the future of America,” McEntee said. “These battles are tough. But we’re used to fighting hard. We have made our union a driving force for economic and social justice throughout the nation.”

Special guest Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), U.S. House Minority Leader, applauded President McEntee’s tireless efforts for the past 36 years in AFSCME.

“Striving to help people mobilize and overcome challenges to secure their fair shot at the American Dream – that’s what Jerry McEntee has been all about.”

In a moving tribute, members from across the country spoke of the impact President McEntee had on their lives after 31 years leading AFSCME, said the nation is witnessing a time when “the American Dream is under attack.”

More recently, in Ohio, AFSCME members “forged coalitions and got out the vote” to defeat Ohio Gov. John Kasich’s attack on collective bargaining rights. “They forged, and last year, we killed that anti-worker legislation dead.”

President McEntee concluded his remarks by telling the delegates of some of AFSCME’s victories, including the historic fight by members of Memphis, Tenn., Local 1733 “who put their lives on the line in 1948 to win collective bargaining rights.”

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“A 56 percent of AFSCME’s membership, the women of AFSCME are a powerful political force who can make the difference in elections in their cities and states, and return Pres. Barack Obama to the White House in November. The National Women’s Advisory Committee is challenging AFSCME women to host a house party, a union party, or a coffee get-together to activate women from now until the November election. At these events, we can encourage women to participate in the 2012 election by conducting voter registration drives, educating voters about the issues, and participating in phone banks, labor walks, member-to-member campaigns, and GOTV.

Stop by the National Women’s Advisory Committee booth, located on the first floor of the LACC, to sign up for an AFSCME Women for Obama house party packet. Women have the power to ensure we elect candidates who support working families.

Sisters Stepping Up!
How did you step up the leadership ladder in AFSCME? How can other sisters do it?

The National Women’s Advisory Committee has launched Sisters Stepping Up! The campaign is an opportunity to talk with and be interviewed by an AFSCME sister this week, to hear about her leadership journey in the union and her ideas about future women’s leadership development in AFSCME.

Sisters Stepping Up! is a one-on-one interview and the information gathered will be used to strengthen women’s leadership capabilities, enhance women’s leadership development training, and increase the number of women in leadership roles. It will help as we develop the Women’s Leadership Academy, a new program slated for launch in 2013.

Drop by the National Women’s Advisory Committee booth to pick up an interview form. Completed forms may be returned to the NWAC booth daily.
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

Nominations for AFSCME’s president and secretary-treasurer occur today from the Convention floor.

A recess follows nominations. At that time, delegates from each legislative district go to a room assigned to that legislative-district caucus to nominate candidates for international president (VP). If there are more nominees than offices to be filled, elections are conducted by the American Arbitration Association on Thursday from 6-10 a.m. in Kentia Hall of the LACC. Names of the nominees will be posted in the main hall.

Delegates must show photo IDs and Convention badges. Voters receive paper ballots whose value and votes are scanned electronically so election results can be made available quickly. If any runoffs are necessary, they will occur on Friday at 6:30 a.m., also in Kentia Hall.

Candidates Debate Tomorrow

A debate takes place 10 a.m. Wednesday between the candidates running for AFSCME president, at the LACC in Hall H. The declared candidates are Lee Saunders, AFSCME secretary-treasurer, and Danny Donohue, president of Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA). A debate follows between the declared candidates for AFSCME secretary-treasurer, Alice Gott, AFSCME District Council 36 president, and Laura Reyes, UPW/Local 3930 president.

New Voluntary Bloc Voting Procedures

Convention delegates approved new voluntary bloc voting procedure rules on Monday, to clarify the voting process. The change had been approved by the Convention Rules Committee on Sunday, and was based on a recommendation of the International Executive Board (IEB) at its March meeting. The practice of bloc voting helps to expedite the voting process. It allows delegates who wish to cast a bloc vote to execute a Voter Authorization Form designating a member of their delegation to cast the votes.

The new rules clearly spell out how a delegate can revoke a previously-executed authorization. Also, they make clear that revocation by a single delegate will not “break the bloc” by invalidating authorizations given by other delegates.

Previous rules were not clear and could have allowed a single delegate to “break the bloc” by appearing at the polls on Thursday morning to cast a vote before the delegation’s chair voted. While AFSCME is not aware of that situation ever occurring at any previous Convention, the possibility that it might happen is why the rule change was needed.

The new rules clarify that:

• Bloc voting by a local union delegation is voluntary and that each delegate has the right to join or refrain from joining a bloc vote authorization.

• Local union delegations intending to cast full or partial bloc votes will have to file their Voter Authorization Form with the Elections Committee between 1-6 p.m. today. No Voter Authorization Form will be accepted after that deadline. This gives the Elections Committee and AAA sufficient time to adjust the voting rolls to show which locals are casting full or partial bloc votes. It also allows time for the Elections Committee to resolve any bloc voting challenges before voting begins at 6 a.m. on Thursday.

• Delegates wishing to withdraw their names from a Voter Authorization Form must make their intention known by noon on Wednesday. Any such withdrawal must be in writing and submitted in person by the delegate to the Elections Committee. No revocations will be accepted after that time. This deadline will provide the Elections Committee and AAA with sufficient time to make the appropriate adjustments to the official voting rolls to show delegates who withdrew from a partial or full bloc vote, and allow time for the Elections Committee to resolve any issues concerning the validity of an individual’s revocation before voting begins at 6 a.m. on Thursday.

• Individual revocation would not invalidate other authorizations. A revocation affects only the voting share of the individual who revoked. The rest of the bloc remains intact.

• As soon as possible following today’s 6 p.m. deadline for filing Voter Authorization forms, a list of locals that will be casting full or partial bloc votes will be made available, upon request, to nominated candidates. They will also have an opportunity to learn of any revocations.

TURNING THE TIDE IN 2012

Sector caucuses will occur tomorrow from 7-9:15 a.m. Out of 21 caucuses, choose the one that best describes your work. No need to register. Light breakfast begins at 6:45 a.m. In las asambleas marcados con asterisco (*), se ofrecerá traducción al español. (Spanish translation will be offered.)

Administration/Finance Room 303 AB
Child Support Room 304 C
Child Welfare Room 306 AB
Corrections Room 518
Correctional* Sala 518
Early Childhood Education Room 304 AB
Emergency Services Room 308 AB
Employment & Vocational Services Room 402 AB
Servicios de Empleo y Vocacionales* Sala 402 AB
Environmental Protection and Parks Room 503
Higher Education Room 502 A
Home Health/Health Care Room 406 A
Salud Doméstica/Cuidado de En El Hogar* Sala 406 A
Hospital-Based Acute Care Room 406 B
Housing Room 404 AB
K-12 Education Room 408 A
Libraries & Other Cultural Institutions Room 502 B
Bibliotecas y Otras Instituciones Culturales* Sala 502 B
Long-Term Care Room 410
Outpatient Services Room 501 A
Probation and Parole Room 511 C
Public Assistance Room 501 BC
Asistencia Pública* Sala 501 BC
Public Works Room 409 B
Sworn Law Enforcement Room 409 A
Transportation Room 409 B
Transportes* Sala 409 B

WEAR YOUR PEOPLE PRIDE ON YOUR SLEEVE

Visit the AFSCME PEOPLE booth and see the newest array of high-quality, USA- and union-made merchandise bearing the AFSCME logo.

Wear your AFSCME pride on your sleeve with the lightweight zippered hoodie, complete with the Solidarity logo that runs the length of the arm. For the person who has every gadget from an iPAD to a Kindle, you’ll want our new padded carrying case to protect those hi-tech necessities. Buy this year’s limited-edition T-shirt and wear it on PEOPLE Day Thursday. And accessorize any outfit with AFSCME earnings. You’ll also find bomber jackets, shorts, watches, shirts, hats, visors and more exciting items for sale.

Don’t forget to stop by the PEOPLE Photo Booth to take home a great souvenir of the Convention. Today’s theme is presidential – get your photo with Pres. Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama!

NOMINATING CAUCUSES

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ROOM

California Legislative District Caucus......................... 408 AB
Capital Legislative District Caucus......................... 503 AB
Central Legislative District Caucus......................... 306 AB
Civil Service Employees Association
Legislative District Caucus...........................................Concourse 150
Eastern Legislative District Caucus......................... 40 A
Hawaii Legislative District Caucus......................... 407 AB
Illinois Legislative District Caucus......................... 515 B
Michigan Legislative District Caucus......................... 403 B
Midwestern Legislative District Caucus..................... 409 AB
National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees Legislative District Caucus................................. 402 AB
New York City Legislative District Caucus ................Concourse 151
New York State Legislative District Caucus........ 406 AB
North Central Legislative District Caucus.................. 411 A
Northern New England Legislative District Caucus......................... 502 B
Northwestern Legislative District Caucus................Concourse 153
Ohio Association of Public School Employees Legislative District Caucus......................... 305 AB
Ohio Civil Service Employees Association
Legislative District Caucus........................................... 501 ABC
Ohio Legislative District Caucus................................. 518 AB
Pennsylvania Legislative District Caucus...................... 515 A
Puerto Rico Legislative District Caucus..................... 410 AB
Southeastern Legislative District Caucus..................... 401 A
Southern New England Legislative District Caucus......................... 502 A
Southwestern Legislative District Caucus.................. 308 AB
UDW Legislative District Caucus................................. 303 AB
Wisconsin Legislative District Caucus....................... 304 AB

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 19, committee meetings, at close of session

COMMITTEE ROOM

Credentials LACC, behind Registration area
Elections 511 AB
Nominating Caucuses LACC Level Two Rooms, Concourse Hall

CHECK YOUR HEART

Check your blood pressure today in Hall C of the LACC, courtesy of AFSCME United Nurses of America (UNA). The booth is closed during General Session. It opens today at 6 a.m. and runs to the beginning of the session and then one hour after the session closes.

VOLUNTEER MEMBER ORGANIZER BOOTH

The VMO booth will draw a daily winner in its trivia contest. Today’s winner is Ron Cole of Local 2367 (Pennsylvania Council 85). The VMO booth will draw a daily winner in its trivia contest. The VMO booth will draw a daily winner in its trivia contest.

Click Your Heart - Check your blood pressure today in Hall C of the LACC, courtesy of AFSCME United Nurses of America (UNA). The booth is closed during General Session. It opens today at 6 a.m. and runs to the beginning of the session and then one hour after the session closes.

Volunteer Member Organizer Booth

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Post your name and that of each delegate has the right to join or refrain from joining a bloc vote authorization.

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