

2026 Convention Workshops



Wednesday, September 23
Session A: 6:30 PM to 8 PM

IA. Convention Orientation (formerly known as New Delegate)

Delegates have the opportunity to hear how our convention operates and ask questions.
A great resource for new delegates!

Thursday, September 24
Session B: 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

IB. Convention Orientation (formerly known as New Delegate)

Delegates have the opportunity to hear how our convention operates and ask questions.
A great resource for new delegates!

Friday, September 25

Session A: 12:45PM to 2:15PM
Session B: 2:30PM to 4:00PM

2. MSRS/PERA

If you are preparing for retirement in the next 12 months, this workshop is for you!

3. Coalition Building for Public Investments

We Make Minnesota is a labor-grassroots coalition fighting for the revenue we need to fund essential public services, from education to infrastructure to public safety. This presentation will discuss the historical narratives and political constituencies that stand between us and the contracts that AFSCME workers deserve, as well as the opportunities we have to create a more just and equitable state budget. The session will contain a mix of informational presentation and collaborative group discussion.
Presenter: Eric Harris Bernstein, Coalition Director, We Make Minnesota.

4. Legislative Overview

Budget and policy decisions adopted at the Local, State, and Federal levels directly and indirectly impact the work we do, the services we provide, and our quality of life. This workshop will focus on the basics of the legislative process and how local unions can become more involved, outside of our traditional AFSCME Day on the Hill, to positively influence the legislative process. We will also discuss recent legislation passed at the state and federal levels.

5. Successful Meetings

Meetings that are efficient and handle business effectively make your local meetings accessible to members. This workshop will discuss how to run a successful meeting, as well as navigate the new world with hybrid meetings that take place both virtually and in person.

6. Grievance Processing & Handling/Arbitration

Grievances are an important tool in our toolbox. This workshop will help stewards and activists learn how to write a successful grievance, as well as discuss what makes a case good for arbitration. Locals will also be given tools to create an arbitration review committee.

7. Building an Internal Organizing Campaign for Stronger Local Unions

As leaders, we know it's important to continue to grow stronger local unions. This workshop will help you create a Member Action Team and build an internal organizing campaign for your local/workplace, as well as what it takes to have a successful collective action plan.

8. Digital Tools for Locals

This workshop will focus on digital tools to help ensure your local union can utilize best practices and access tools to connect with your membership (email and text messages), direct action planning tools (petitions, online petitions, letters, forms to best get updated contact information), and how a local union website can be your local's one-stop-shop for communicating with your members. New tools will also be explored so come and join this workshop!

9. Council 5 History & Minnesota Movements

Council 5 celebrates its 22nd annual convention this year. How did labor in Minnesota get us to this point? And how did organized labor create the movements.

10. Solving Workplace Issues Through Worker Power

Unions exercise power, to varying degrees, in three ways: *relationship power, legal power, and worker power*. Many local unions are getting back to basics by mobilizing workers, using workplace issue campaigns in order to pressure management to solve problems. Using this approach, they are able to build an active membership, enhance communication, develop new leaders, *and* solve problems!

11. Identifying and Recruiting Workplace Leaders

Being able to recognize organic leaders in the workplace and tailoring our recruitment strategy to the individual leads to more success than simply issuing general, "y'all come" solicitation. Knowing how to respond to "no" means taking a long-term, intentional approach to leadership development. This workshop is for local union leaders only.

HOW TO REGISTER:

Please log-on to MemberLink where you will be able to find the list of workshops.

Registration will be open August 14 through September 17, 2026

If you need help, please contact the MAC at 651.450.4990.