

Pertinent Language from AFT Connecticut Constitution & Bylaws

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 3 A local which has retired members, part-time members, laid-off members, members on unpaid leave, and trainees who pay the regular membership dues of the local and **for whom full per capita is paid to AFT Connecticut and AFT** will be able to count them as full members in determining the delegate strength of the local at any State or National convention.

Section 6 All locals shall maintain affiliation in good standing with AFT Connecticut, the AFT, the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and the appropriate local central labor body.

ARTICLE VIII - GOOD STANDING

Section 1 To be in good standing in AFT Connecticut, locals must meet the following requirements:

- a. Payment of per capita to AFT Connecticut, on all members, with arrears not to exceed two (2) months;
- b. Current in submission to AFT Connecticut of names and addresses for the principal executive and financial officers;
- c. Current in submission to AFT Connecticut of the names and addresses of current members of the local's executive board;
- d. Current in submission of a membership roster to AFT Connecticut;
- e. Current in submission of a copy of the local's up-to-date constitution to AFT Connecticut; and
- f. Current in submission of a copy of the local's annual audit or financial review (as required to AFT) to AFT Connecticut.

ARTICLE IX - REPRESENTATION

Section 1 Delegates and/or alternates to the Convention and Delegate Assembly from a local shall be elected by secret ballot. Members of each local must be given suitable opportunity to nominate candidates for the office of delegate and alternate. Notice of the right to make nominations must be sent to each member or given a prominent place in the local publication and on the bulletin boards. Notice of the right to make nominations and notice of the election may be combined in one notice. Written notice announcing the time and place of election of delegates must be mailed to each member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the election. The results of the election must be published and the ballots kept for one year.

Section 2 Each local must send to the State Office a certified list and official credentials of all elected delegates and alternates not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the Convention. Only delegates and alternates on this certified list shall be registered and seated at the Convention.

Section 3 In the event of non-delivery in the AFT Connecticut Office of the certified list and official credentials of the elected delegates and alternates, the Convention Body may approve the seating of the delegates and alternates.

Section 4 In conformity with Article III, Section 4; Article IX, Sections 6 and 7; and Article X, Section 1a. and b., Section 2a. and b.:

- a. One delegate and/or alternate to the AFT Connecticut Delegate Assembly or the AFT Connecticut Annual Convention may be elected by each affiliated local having a membership of twenty-five (25) or less.
- b. For each additional fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof, an additional delegate may be elected.
- c. Each AFT Connecticut Retiree Chapter, including the AFT Connecticut "At-large" Chapter, shall be entitled to elect one delegate to the AFT Connecticut Delegate Assembly and one delegate to the AFT Connecticut Annual Convention. This delegate shall be entitled to one vote.
- d. Those members for whom one-half or more dues are paid shall be counted as full dues paying members.

Section 5 **For the purpose of this Article, membership shall mean the average number on which the per capita has been paid for the first twelve months of the fourteen month** period immediately preceding the month in which the Convention meets provided that:

- a. No local in arrears for two months at the time of the Convention shall be entitled to representation. Per capita is due and payable on or before the fifteenth of each month for that month. (A local is in arrears if the local's dues have not been paid on the sixteenth (16th) day of the month that the per capita payment was due.)
- b. In the case of locals which have been chartered during the year preceding the Convention, the average shall be computed on the basis of the number of months of affiliation, the minimum for such computation to be two (2) months.

Section 6 For Convention delegates and voting strength purposes, agency fee payers are counted as members. For members of non-bargaining locals who are required to pay agency fees to a non-AFT local, the delegate and voting strength is the same as the per capita paid to AFT Connecticut.

Section 7 On roll call votes at the Annual Convention each local shall be entitled to a number of votes equal to the average membership as defined in Section 5 of this article. The votes of a local shall be distributed as evenly as possible among its delegates present at the time of voting, but shall not be fractioned. Any additional votes shall be equally assigned by lot or by an objective formula which shall be reported to the AFT Connecticut Secretary/Treasurer, with no delegate getting more than one additional vote.

Section 8 If a delegate leaves the Convention, his/her place in the Convention may be taken by an alternate, if any has been certified as provided in Section 2, in the order as listed on the Certified List of Delegates and Alternates. In the event that there are no alternates, the

absent delegate's votes shall be evenly distributed among the remaining delegates present.

ARTICLE XI- AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Proposed amendments to the Constitution may be submitted either by request of the Executive Committee, Delegate Assembly or by request of a local.

Section 2 Proposed amendments shall be submitted either to a convention or to ratification by two-thirds (2/3) of the locals, the method to be decided by the Delegate Assembly.

Section 3 If a **proposed amendment**, other than a dues amendment, is to be submitted to a State Convention, it **must reach the state office at least two (2) months before the date of the convention.** If a proposed dues amendment is to be submitted to the State Convention, it must reach the state office at least one (1) month before the date of the Convention. The Office of the President shall make all reasonable attempts to notify the locals, either electronically or in hard copy, of all proposed amendments.

Section 4 A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote by those voting shall be needed to amend the Constitution.

ARTICLE I – PROCEDURES AND SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER FOR CONVENTIONS

Resolutions to the Convention may be introduced by locals or the Delegate Assembly or by the Executive Committee. **No resolution shall be introduced after the 21st day prior to the start of the Convention, except by the consent of 2/3 of the delegates on the floor.** All resolutions shall bear the signatures of at least two elected officers of the local introducing the resolution, or two AFT Connecticut officers, if introduced by the Delegate Assembly or the Executive Committee. The officers signing the resolution shall certify that the resolution was approved for submission to the Convention either by the Executive Board or membership of the local or by the AFT Connecticut Delegate Assembly/Executive Committee. The resolution shall be submitted to the President of AFT Connecticut, AFT, AFL-CIO.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1 All officers shall be elected in convention in odd-numbered years for a two (2) year term. The method of the election shall be the same as prescribed by the AFT and shall be by roll-call vote.

Section 2 The officers of AFT Connecticut shall be

- President
- Vice President
- Special Vice President (optional)
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Twenty-four (24) Vice Presidents

Of the twenty-four (24) Vice Presidents, eighteen (18) shall represent the membership at-large. Six (6) of the twenty-four (24) Vice Presidents shall represent specific divisions. These divisions are:

- AFT Connecticut Teachers
- AFT Connecticut Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel
- AFT Connecticut Nurses and Health Professionals
- AFT Connecticut Higher Education
- AFT Connecticut Public Employees
- AFT Connecticut Retirees

Section 5 Nomination and Election

- a. A member who is a candidate for a particular AFT Connecticut office shall present to the President a petition indicating the position sought ten (10) days before the Convention is scheduled to begin. This petition must contain the signatures of at least twenty-five (25) members of AFT Connecticut in good standing. A second method by which a member may become a candidate for a particular AFT Connecticut office is by presenting to the Credentials Committee Chair by 11:00 a.m. of the day of the election, a petition indicating the name of the particular office being sought and the signatures of at least ten (10) Convention delegates. The delegates to the Convention shall be informed of the names of the candidates for each office. If new positions(s) are created by the Convention, nominations shall be made from the floor.
- b. Each delegate may not cast more than his/her allotted votes (per Article VII) for each of the following officers:
- President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary/Treasurer

Each delegate may not cast more than his/her allotted votes (per Article VII) for any individual candidate on the ballot for the eighteen (18) non-Divisional Vice President positions.

- c. A plurality of the votes cast shall be required to elect the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary/Treasurer. The eighteen (18) candidates for the non-Divisional Vice President positions receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie for any office, a run-off election shall be held by roll call vote.
- d. After July 1, 2019, a Special Vice President may be elected if, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, a Special Vice President is required to meet the unique needs of the education, healthcare, or public employee divisions. The Executive Committee will direct the Personnel Committee to identify the following:
- A. a description of duties for the position
 - B. a schedule of the approximate hours per month for the position, and the number of months for the position
 - C. compensation for the position, which will be limited to salary no more than three times the Secretary/Treasurer's salary. There will be no benefits beyond salary for the position.
 - D. a recommended candidate or list of candidates for the position

- e. Divisional Vice Presidents
- The six (6) Divisional Vice Presidents shall be nominated by petition as stated in Section 5 of this Article above.
 - The six (6) Divisional Vice Presidents shall be chosen in Convention Caucuses (with division as defined in Section 2 above) having one (1) Vice President. A majority of the delegates present and voting in each Caucus shall elect the Vice President from that division.
 - In cases where a local represents members from multiple constituent divisions, the local may send a different delegate to each Caucus to which the local is entitled to representation.
 - No local shall have more than one Divisional Vice President.
 - No delegate shall vote in more than one Caucus.
- f. At the Convention, each Candidate may have one (1) person speak in support of his or her candidacy.
- g. Officers elected at the Convention shall be designated "officers elect." They shall be entitled to attend all officers' meetings, shall take office July 1st, and shall be formally installed at the next regular Delegate Assembly meeting.