



.....
PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE

Annual Business Convention

May 16, 2015

Aqua Turf Club
Plantsville, Connecticut

BUSINESS



PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE

Annual Business Convention

May 16, 2015

Aqua Turf Club
Plantsville, Connecticut

BUSINESS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rules for Debate	3
67th Annual Business Convention Minutes	4
Report of the Constitutional Amendments Committee	9
Robert's Rules at a Glance	10



Rules for Debate

- ❖ Fifteen (15) minutes for each topic of debate.
- ❖ Each person speaking will be limited to one and one-half (1½) minutes.
- ❖ To alternate between the affirmative and negative in each case.
- ❖ A speaker cannot yield to another.
- ❖ There can be no rebuttal by any speaker.
- ❖ Debate must be germane to the motion.
- ❖ Speaker must come to the microphone and identify himself/herself.

AFT Connecticut
Sixty-seventh Annual Business Convention
Saturday, May 17, 2014—The Aqua Turf

Melodie Peters, AFT Connecticut President, Lori Pelletier, Chief Executive Officer of CT State AFL-CIO, Lt Governor Nancy Wyman, and AFT NE Regional Deputy Director Barbara Pallazzo greeted delegates and welcomed them to the convention.

President Peters called the AFT Connecticut Business Convention to order at 10:29 a.m.

President Peters announced the appointment of Jim Ferguson as Parliamentarian, Dennis Bogusky as Sergeant-at-Arms, and Jean Morningstar as Timekeeper.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Rules for Debate:

- Fifteen (15) minutes for each topic of debate.
- Each person speaking will be limited to one and one-half (1½) minutes.
- To alternate between the affirmative and negative in each case.
- A speaker cannot yield to another.
- There can be no rebuttal by any speaker.
- Debate must be germane to the motion.
- Speaker must come to the microphone and identify himself/herself.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the rules to waive the fifteen minute limit for each topic. Motion failed. The Rules for Debate were adopted as proposed.

M/S/V to accept the Minutes of 66th Convention

Throughout the morning, delegates heard from a number of speakers on Labor History (*text is attached*), A Tale of Two Wisconsin, and Collective Bargaining in Education.

John Brady, Chair of the Credentials Committee, reported that the credentials for delegates from two locals were received after the deadline. M/S/V to seat those delegates. With those locals, this convention represents 23 locals of 84 with a combined voting strength of 20,617. Therefore, we have a quorum. M/S/V to accept the Credentials Committee report.

Martha Shoemaker, Chair of Amendments Committee, referred delegates to the prepared written report:

Current Language:	Proposed Amendment:
ARTICLE VII - DUES	ARTICLE VII - DUES
Section 1: Commencing September 1, 2012, dues shall be increased by \$.50 to \$20.13 per member per month.	Section 1: Commencing September 1, 2013, dues shall be increased by \$.50 to \$20.13 \$21.13 per member per month.
Commencing September 1, 2013, dues shall be increased by \$.50 to \$20.63 per member, per month.	Commencing September 1, 2014, dues shall be increased by \$.50 \$1.00 to \$20.63 \$22.13 per member, per month.

The committee (unanimously) recommends concurrence.

The Committee proposes a substitute amendment and recommends concurrence.

Section 1: Commencing September 1, 2013~~4~~, dues shall be increased by \$.50 to ~~\$20.13~~ \$21.13 per member per month.

Commencing September 1, 2014~~5~~, dues shall be increased by \$.50 to ~~\$20.63~~ \$21.63 per member, per month.

M/S/V to accept committee recommendation.

Janice Pawlak (Middletown Federation of Teachers) presented the following resolution for consideration:

Requirements for Commissioner of Education

Whereas anyone seeking employment as a teacher in the State of Connecticut must hold a valid certificate issued by the Connecticut State Department of Education;

Whereas Section 10-145b of the Connecticut General Statutes outlines the requirements for educators to progress from initial educator to professional educator, which includes minimum years of actual classroom experience;

Whereas individuals seeking an 092 endorsement in administration must complete a minimum of 50 months of teaching experience and 18 graduate semester hours beyond a Master's degree;

Whereas individuals seeking an 093 endorsement for superintendent, must complete 80 months of teaching experience, including 30 months of full-time administrative or supervisory experience and 30 graduate hours beyond the Master's degree;

Whereas the Commissioner of Education, with the advice and consent of the General Assembly, develops, directs and implements education policy and public school instruction in Connecticut;

Whereas qualified, certified educators deliver the highest quality instruction and have the greatest impact on student learning;

Whereas all educators in the state are under increased scrutiny and accountability from legislators, boards of education, the media and the general public;

Be it therefore resolved that AFT Connecticut will advocate for policy and/or legislation that outlines mandates minimum educational and classroom experience for the State Commissioner of Education to include at least the same requirements as any individual serving as a superintendent in Connecticut must have; an 093 endorsement.

M/S/V to adopt the resolution.

Chuck Morrell (UCPEA) presented a resolution on Collective Bargaining Rights for State Employees:

WHEREAS AFT-CT recognizes that public employees and collective bargaining rights have been under attack in Wisconsin, in Indiana, in Michigan, in Kansas, and throughout the country;

WHEREAS the loss of collective bargaining rights has had a devastating effect on State workers and their families;

WHEREAS the cuts to State services has had a disastrous impact on the ability to provide service to its citizens, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens' and

WHEREAS the State of Connecticut has a long and proud tradition of unionized State workers providing excellent services to the citizens of Connecticut;

BE IT RESOLVED that AFT-CT will work with Connecticut communities, labor organizations, legislators, and other public servants to maintain collective bargaining rights for State employees

M/S/V to adopt the resolution.

Lobbyist Jennifer Berigan reported on the status of legislation we've been following. She told the delegates to keep up the work; their voices are being heard in Hartford and need to continue to be heard.

M/S/V to recess to lunch at 12:15 p.m.

M/S/V to adjourn the Business Convention at 1:45 p.m.

AFT-CT Convention Speech—Ed Leavy, Secretary/Treasurer

Last month marked the 100th anniversary of the Ludlow Massacre, an anniversary you would have missed if you do not follow Labor organizations on Facebook. Certainly, it was not covered on Fox News. The mine workers of Ludlow, Colorado had gone out on strike to protest low wages and appallingly dangerous working conditions. Management viewed worker injury and death as part of doing business. One day when twenty workers were killed in a mine explosion, records showed that the site manager never mentioned the issue to the owner, John D. Rockefeller Jr., during a twenty-minute conversation. The striking workers were forced out of their homes, which were owned by the company, and built a tent village five miles away. When worker representatives including Mother Jones went to see President Woodrow Wilson to discuss their concerns, he refused to see them, in fear of alienating Rockefeller, whose support he wanted for his re-election. The strike dragged on, and the owners hired “company police” – really, a group of thugs – to supposedly protect their property. They attached a machine gun to the top of a Model T and would drive through the village, threatening and intimidating the workers. Inevitably, a fight broke out. Numerous people were shot. One tent was lit on fire, and two women and nine children – families of the workers – were killed in the blaze. Though the strike dragged on for several more weeks, public sympathy switched to the workers, and finally a settlement was reached. Today we visit Rockefeller Center and speak of the good work the Rockefeller Foundation does. The names of the workers who lost their families are not known.

Sixty years ago today marks the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education decision, which made school integration the official policy of the United States. When the case was presented, AFT provided a brief to the Court arguing for the need to end segregation in the public schools. They gave four reasons: the “strengthening and preservation of public schools requires an educated citizenry”: the goal of the 14th Amendment was to extend the full rights of citizenry to African-Americans; to exercise the right to vote effectively requires a citizen “not only to be educated, but to be educated among all those people who make up the community”; and that integration will help develop “harmonious relations among the people, especially in the South.” In taking this step, AFT made clear the relationship between the labor movement and the civil rights movement and paved the way for the combined efforts that led to the March on Washington a decade later. It also emphasized a distinction between AFT and the country’s other teacher union, the NEA. The NEA chose not to be involved in the Brown case. When AFT then required that all its locals not be intentionally segregated, the NEA did not – they did not have the requirement until the early 1970’s – and several Southern locals left the AFT for the NEA. Even today, AFT has few teacher locals in the Deep South. AFT took a stand that required they put what was right over what was expedient and popular.

Fifty-four years ago this coming September, UFT President Albert Shanker led New York City teachers out on strike to demand collective bargaining. He believed that collective bargaining was the key not only to correct the extraordinarily low wages teachers were being paid, but to ensure that teachers’ voices were heard and respected in the schools. Thousands of teachers were told they would be fired, and Shanker faced arrest, but still they stood together. Ultimately, in what even Shanker

described as “a bit of magic,” they prevailed, leading the way for teachers throughout the country to fight for and win collective bargaining.

Today we seem to live in a very different world. We live in a world in which the 157,800 kindergarten teachers in this country made \$1.6 billion less than did the top four hedge fund managers, but it is teacher salaries that are under attack. We live in a world in which Kansas nearly passed a law that would pay poor parents to “home school” their children, thereby ending public education as a vehicle to create economic equity and ironically eliminating “separate but equal” by denying everyone regardless of race a public education. We live in a state in which administrators cite Domain 4 of SEED to insist on acquiescence instead of professional discussions and to silence teachers’ legitimate concerns. We live in a state where one party’s candidates for Governor spend their time competing over who will dismantle collective bargaining fastest. It is easy to become discouraged and frightened.

We need to study labor history because we need to see that we are now just at one step in a path to justice, and where we came from helps us see where we are going. We are fortunate to have a Governor and a State legislature who respects our issues – actually, “fortunate” is the wrong word; we worked our asses off to get them elected – but we cannot ask the politicians to solve our problems. We need to join together and demand our issues be addressed, for ourselves and for our union brothers and sisters and for our children. Knowing the history of the labor movement tells us that the only way we have ever succeeded is show courage and unity. That is why so many people don’t want the history of labor to be told. This week my son Zak, who worked as an SVFT intern with Jennifer Berigan at the Capitol three years ago, received an award for labor studies from ILSR. He said that when he went to a suburban school with his middle-class classmates and they asked how they got to live so much better than the so many people in the rest of the world, they were told about the Rockefellers and the Vanderbilts who built this company. No one mentioned Samuel Gompers or Eugene Debs, who organized and fought to make sure that workers got their fair share too. Their stories were not told. No one mentioned the brave people who stood up and took risks, who faced abuse and termination and arrest and even death to say, “No, we deserve better.” Their stories are ignored. But as Zak said, he knew better because he grew up in a union household. So I implore you, take the time to read about the people who got us here, and then tell your coworkers and your friends and especially your children about those people, what they did and the sacrifices they made. Only by knowing about where we came from can we hope to get where we need to be.

Report of the
Constitutional Amendments Committee

Please refer to the
document of
proposed
constitutional
amendments.

ROBERT'S RULES AT A GLANCE

Type	Motion	Purpose	Second Required	Debatable?	Amendable?	Required Vote	May Interrupt Speaker
Privileged	24. Fix Time for Reassembling	To arrange time of next meeting	Yes	Yes-T	Yes-T	Majority	Yes
	23. Adjourn	To dismiss the meeting	Yes	No	Yes-T	Majority	No
	22. To Recess	To dismiss the meeting for a specific length of time	Yes	Yes	Yes-T	Majority	No
	21. Rise to a Question of Privilege	To make a personal request during debate	No	No	No	Decision of Chair	Yes
	20. Call for the Orders of the Day	To force consideration of a postponed motion	No	No	No	Decision of Chair	Yes
Incidental	19. Appeal a Decision of the Chair	To reverse the decision of the chairman	Yes	No	No	Majority decision of Chair	Yes
	18. Rise to a Point of Order or Parliamentary Procedure	To correct a parliamentary error or ask a question	No	No	No	Chair	Yes
	17. To Call for a Roll Call Vote	To verify a voice vote	Yes	No	No	1/4 +	No
	16. Object to the Consideration of a Question	To suppress action	No	No	No	Majority	Yes
	15. To Divide a Motion	To consider its parts separately	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Subsidiary	14. Leave to Modify or Withdraw a Motion	To modify or withdraw a motion	No	No	No	Majority	No
	13. To Suspend the Rules	To take action contrary to standing rules	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
	12. To Rescind	To repeal previous action	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	No
	11. To Reconsider	To consider a defeated motion again	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
	10. To Take From the Table	To consider tabled motion	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
	9. To Lay on the Table	To defer action	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
	8. Previous Question	To force an immediate vote	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
	7. To Limit or Extend Debate	To modify freedom of debate	Yes	Yes	Yes-T	2/3	No
	6. To Postpone to a Certain Time	To defer action	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
	5. To Refer to a Committee*	For further study	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
	4. To Amend an Amendment*	To modify an amendment	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
	3. To Amend*	To modify a motion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	No
	2. To Postpone Indefinitely	To suppress action	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No
	1. Main Motion	To introduce business	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	No

*No. 5 should include: 1. How Appointed? 2. The Number 3. Report When? Or to What Standing Committee

T - Time

*Nos. 3 and 4 by: 1. Inserting 2. Adding 3. Striking Out 4. Substituting 5. Striking Out and Inserting

+1/4 Vote required by AFT Constitution