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UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
Wednesday, May 15 at 6:15 p.m.
Register at afscmelocal88.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Wednesday, June 5 at 6 p.m.
Any member may attend as a non-voting visitor.

Local 88 officers and members represent at 2024 Labor Notes

BY JACKIE TATE AFSCME LOCAL 88 PRESIDENT | president@afscmelocal88.org

President Jackie Tate, Vice President Hilary Zust, Secretary Grant Swanson, Treasurer Cindy Sierra, E-board member and Health Department Steward Jordana Sardo, E-Board member and Lead Steward for MCSO Megan Gallagher and DCHS Co-Lead Steward Robin Easton-Davis were among thousands attending the three-day 2024 Labor Notes conference in Chicago April 19-21.

With a record attendance of more than 4,500, the conference was deemed the largest ever, providing 200 meetings and workshops offering creative organizing tactics, beating apathy, running for local union office, winning contract campaigns, bargaining over technology, assertive grievance handling, and reviving the strike. While the halls, lobbies, and conference rooms were enlivened by the usual discussion and debate, different this year were the Palestinian keffiyehs worn by many attendees in opposition to the war in Gaza. Worn as a scarf or headdress, the keffiyeh is a symbol of Palestinian nationalism.

The conference was a great opportunity to learn about the challenges we face in the labor movement across the country and abroad, how to fight for worker rights and a society that values workers and basic human dignity, how to increase our union democracy, engage members,



and increase our power, and how to be in solidarity with working people and oppressed people in our country and around the world. Most of our team went on a labor history tour of Chicago and learned about the labor heroes

who fought for safe working conditions, the 40-hour work week, and fair pay, and about the struggles for racial equity within the movement.

By talking to our union siblings around the country, we learned about the injustices of right-to-work states and states that have outlawed unions and collective bargaining and gutted workers rights and protections. We heard from workers in those states where anti-worker campaigns have been successful, and those workers have low wages, bad benefits and no say in their work. We know we must be strong and united in our solidarity with each other so we don't lose what we have fought for while we continue to fight for what we want. It is up to us, working in solidarity with our co-workers, to keep our membership and our union strong! We must fight against anti-union, anti-worker forces that tell our co-workers to "opt-out" of paying their fair share for the benefits we negotiate. We know the goal of these organizations is to make our unions weak so they can end worker rights, end fair pay, end good benefits and end fair working conditions. We are committed to union democracy and we encourage you to be involved in our union. We are stronger together!

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
AFSCME 46TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

BY GRANT SWANSON
AFSCME LOCAL 88 SECRETARY
secretary@afscmelocal88.org

The AFSCME 26th biennial International Convention is August 12-16 in Los Angeles. Our local will be sending up to 10 delegates to represent us: four automatic delegates (the officers) and six members who will be elected to be delegates. Members who attend will be out on lost time or compensated for their time away from their work. We will be having nominations at the May 15 general membership meeting, and if more than six members are nominated, we'll have a vote in late May or June to determine who goes and who are alternates.

You may be asking, "What is an AFSCME International Convention?" These occur every two years (in even-numbered years), and are where our union members get together to conduct business, attend workshops,

meet and sometimes vote for our International representatives, and meet other AFSCME workers from the other states in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. The business comes in the form of resolutions, amendments to our constitution, and elections for open International Executive Board and officer positions. There also are sector workshops and open ones. The sector workshops group workers by the type of work they do, instead of by locals. So, for example, I work at the library, so I would go to a workshop of just other library workers from across AFSCME International. If you work in healthcare or social work, you would be grouped with other workers doing that work.

The other business of the convention is discussing and passing resolutions that give our union direction on issues important to our members. Our local has authored several resolutions that have been adopted and acted upon in

other states. One example was a divestment of our pension funds from fossil fuels. This resolution was passed at the 2016 convention, and was used by New York and California to support pension divestments away from fossil fuels. Here in Oregon and up in Washington we are taking up this question currently. If anyone is interested in crafting resolutions to bring to the convention, we still have time to get them together for this convention. Reach out to local leadership if you want to work on this aspect of our upcoming convention.

This is a great way for a member who is interested in learning more about our union to get involved, have a unique union experience, and learn more about the history and current relevance of our union. If this sounds like something you are interested in, I encourage you to come to the May membership meeting to nominate yourself or ask another member to nominate you.

Remember to Vote May 21, 2024

Your AFSCME Local 88 Political Action Committee (PAC) had an extensive endorsement process that began on January 31, 2024, where we conducted 11 candidate interviews across four evenings for five races in the May 21 Primary election. We presented our recommendations at the February membership meeting and Local 88 members voted to endorse the following candidates for the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners:

- **Meghan Moyer**, County Commissioner District 1
- **Shannon Singleton**, County Commissioner District 2
- **Julia Brim-Edwards**, County Commissioner District 3
- **Vince Jones-Nixon**, County Commissioner District 4

Please join us in supporting these candidates in any way you can. They are looking for financial donations and members willing to help with campaign outreach. Please watch our website and Facebook page for ways to get involved!

For more online information visit:

multco.us/elections/may-21-2024-primary-election