



BUILD YOUR UNION



DAILY UPDATE

PA AFL-CIO 2026 CONVENTION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1, 2026

Another energized day for delegates began with President Ferritto opening the session by welcoming Pastor Darryl Godlock to deliver the invocation. Following the invocation, President Ferritto led the Pledge of Allegiance, setting a tone that carried throughout the day's proceedings.



President Ferritto then called on committee leaders to report

on key policy resolutions, including Matt Yarnell, Chair of the Resolutions Committee for resolutions 38,37,19; Jim Howell, Chair of the Organization Committee for resolutions 29, 31; Jim Gardler, Chair of the Officer Report Committee for resolution 4; Wendell Young, Chair of the Health & Safety Committee for resolutions 8, 9, 20, 21, 34; Rob Bair, Chair of the Legislation Committee for resolutions 11,12,18,23,24,25,27,28,30,32,35; Wence Valentin, Chair of the Union Label Committee for resolutions 15, 26; Phil Glover, Chair of the Political Action for resolutions 13,14,36.

Delegates were energized to go to the microphone for comments on the record, supporting the resolutions, which will continue on Thursday morning.

President Ferritto then invited Secretary-Treasurer Cobb to chair the Convention for the election of the President of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. Zollie Rayner nominated Angela Ferritto, praising her passion as an activist and her strong leadership, drawing on his experience working with her at AFSCME. Rob Bair and Matt Yarnell both seconded the nomination, highlighting her dedication to the working class and commitment to progress. Delegates responded with a standing ovation as President Ferritto accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected by acclamation.

In her acceptance speech, she expressed gratitude and humility, thanking the delegates for their support and trust in her leadership. "This moment isn't about me—it's about the working class," Ferritto said. "It's about the workers across Pennsylvania who count on this movement every single day. It's about the members you represent and the families who depend on the strength of our unions. I am honored to continue this work alongside my brothers and sisters, and I'm energized for what we will accomplish together in the years ahead."



ELIZABETH SHULER
PRESIDENT AFL-CIO



AUSTIN DAVIS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
PENNSYLVANIA

President Ferritto then called for nominations for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. Bernie Hall, District 10 Director of the United Steelworkers, honored his friend and fellow steelworker Maurice Cobb by placing his name in nomination. The nomination was seconded by Phil Glover of AFGE and further supported by Kris Anderson of IBEW. Maurice Cobb accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously by acclamation. “Together, we are fighting for a Pennsylvania where every worker has a voice, and every family has a future,” he declared.



President Ferritto then welcomed AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. She thanked delegates and leadership for their continued efforts in advancing the labor movement, recognizing not only those in attendance but also the hotel staff, workers, and all those who keep the building running.

“You’re the ones leading this movement forward,” she said. “It doesn’t matter if you’re a Democrat, Republican, or Independent—we’re banding together to say we’re not going to accept what’s happening to working people,” she added, pointing to ongoing challenges under the current presidential administration.

Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis then addressed the Convention, highlighting the Shapiro-Davis Administration’s investments in Pennsylvania and its focus on preparing the workforce for the future through expanded apprenticeship programs. “I’m the son of a union bus driver and a hairdresser, and I’ve seen firsthand the benefits of a good union job and what it can do for a family,” said Austin Davis, Pennsylvania’s Lieutenant Governor. “As long as Josh Shapiro and I are in charge in Harrisburg, right-to-work is dead here in Pennsylvania.”

Secretary-Treasurer Cobb followed by reading the list of newly elected vice presidents and auditors. To conclude the day’s business, President Shuler congratulated the officers on their election and invited them to the front of the Convention hall, where she administered the oath of office to officers, executive council members, and auditors. After swearing them in, she extended her congratulations and shared that she looked forward to working together in the years ahead.

Congratulations to our Work and Family Breakfast honorees, who exemplify outstanding service to the labor movement and continue to embody our theme: Build Your Union. Attendees were also encouraged to support the Work & Family Charity of the Year, the Share Food Program.

Union Woman of the Year: Michele Kessler, Secretary-Treasurer, UFCW Local 1776

Union Man of the Year: Dave McCall, International President Emeritus, USW. The award was accepted by USW District 10, Assistant to the Director, Todd Clary

Special Tribute: Bob Kutz, President, Blair-Bedford Central Labor Council

Special Tribute in Memoriam: Andrew “Andy” Harkulich, President Mercer CLC, NWPA ALF. The award was accepted by Andy’s daughter.

