



BUILD YOUR UNION



DAILY UPDATE

PA AFL-CIO 2026 CONVENTION

TUESDAY MARCH 31, 2026

The first day of the PA AFL-CIO 47th Constitutional Convention kicked off with Daniel Bauder, President, Philadelphia Labor Council, as he welcomed delegates to Philadelphia and honored their dedication to the labor movement.

Cecil Parker of SAG-AFTRA performed the national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," honoring all veterans in attendance. Pastor Michael Draper delivered the invocation.



Bauder then introduced Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker to the stage, who addressed delegates and spoke on her pro-union record and background as a public school teacher.

Mayor Parker praised organized labor in the City of Philadelphia, noting its role in successful public schools and noting public education as an avenue to success. "Labor, we need you," she said. She called on labor to support her proposed Ride Share tax, citing it would save 240 jobs. Mayor Parker's rally cry for One City, A United Philly charged up the audience who raised their fingers in a show of support.

President Ferritto then called on Matt Yarnell, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, to present a report on Resolution 2. The room held a moment of silence with the playing of "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes, recognizing the In Memorium workers with a special slideshow presentation.

President Angela Ferritto delivered the opening remarks, followed by a reading of the convention's code of conduct. Secretary-Treasurer Maurice Cobb then read the official convention call. Special thanks were extended to Danny Bauder, Mayor Cherelle Parker, and Pastor Michael Draper for their contributions.



DANIEL BAUDER, PRESIDENT, PHILADELPHIA LABOR COUNCIL



CHERELLE PARKER, MAYOR OF PHILADELPHIA



JOSH SHAPIRO, GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



FRED REDMOND, SECRETARY-TREASURER AFL CIO



SARA NELSON, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, AFA-CWA

CELEBRATE OUR 2026 COPE HONOREES!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1

6:00 PM | COPE HONOREE RECEPTION
IN THE LIBERTY BALLROOM C/D

7:00 PM | COPE HONOREE DINNER
IN THE LIBERTY BALLROOM C/D



President Ferritto then introduced Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, who thanked the delegates for the opportunity to join them and expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome. He addressed the group with a message centered on the vital role of working-class Pennsylvanians, emphasizing their contributions to the state’s economy.

Governor Shapiro highlighted several policy initiatives, including the PA Student Teacher Support Program, which helps ease financial burdens for students while addressing the state’s ongoing teacher shortage. He emphasized that on his first day in office, he signed an executive order eliminating the requirement of a college degree for many state government jobs, expanding access to employment opportunities.

“As long as I’m your Governor, I will continue to have the backs of organized labor,” Shapiro said. “I will continue to respect the work you do. As long as I’m your Governor, Pennsylvania will never be a right-to-work state.”

Fred Redmond then took the stage to thank attendees for their continued commitment to the labor movement. He spoke passionately about workers’ rights and voter protections. Redmond underscored the labor movement’s enduring strength and purpose, declaring, “This is our home. This is our country that our workers built. This is ours to win.”

Sara Nelson, International President of the AFA-CWA, was welcomed to the stage with energy as she led the room in a rousing rendition of “Solidarity Forever,” bringing delegates to their feet for the “Unions Make Us Strong” refrain. “When we sing together, we feel that solidarity.”

Nelson also reflected on the courage of American airline workers in moments of crisis, noting, “For one moment, they were just Americans fighting evil when they got that information. They fought like hell and they saved a lot of lives—and that’s part of why we formed the Transportation Security Administration.”

“When one worker is under attack, we’re all under attack.” She encouraged the crowd to band together in support of TSA, “because we know what happens when flights stop,” she said.

Maurice Cobb presented the Boyer-Uehlein-George-Bloomingtondale Award to Tom Tosti, President of the Bucks County Labor Council. President Angela Ferritto then concluded the session with opening remarks that set the tone for the week ahead, emphasizing the “Build Your Union” theme.

