



BUILD YOUR UNION



DAILY UPDATE

PA AFL-CIO 2026 CONVENTION

THURSDAY APRIL 2, 2026

President Angela Ferritto officially opened the session at 9:00 a.m., followed by an invocation and a heartfelt prayer over the Convention by Rev. Lorina Marshall-Blake.

Rob Bair, Chair of the Legislation Committee, thanked attendees, fellow committee members, and delegates for their active engagement throughout the week. “I feel really good about where we’re going. It’s been a privilege to serve you this week.”

The executive committee then turned to resolutions and discussion, adopting measures on key issues. Among them were Resolution 32—opposing school vouchers and affirming support for public education and access—and Resolution 35, aimed at preventing the loss of Medicaid access for workers.

President Ferritto then welcomed Arthur Stineburg, Chair of the Education Committee to deliver its report, which included Resolution 5, supporting the inclusion of labor history in public school curricula, along with Resolutions 6 and 7 addressing related priorities.

Matt Yarnell, Chair of the Officers’ Committee, followed with the committee’s report. The committee adopted several resolutions, including a notable measure to establish an AI coalition focused on emerging technologies and their impact on workers. Multiple delegates voiced their support, emphasizing the critical need to ensure that these technologies serve working people—not work against them.

“I appreciate our committee—thank you for your dedication,” Yarnell said. “Resolutions are strong on paper, but there’s more work to be done. I look forward to tackling it together with all of you.”





Dave Carey, Co-Chair of the Work and Family Committee, presented resolutions focused on expanding access to childcare and supporting working families. The resolution emphasized the commitment to making affordable childcare available to all, ensuring that every family has the resources they need to thrive.

Irwin W. Aronson rose on a point of personal privilege, reflecting on the significance of the moment. “It’s an auspicious time for all of us—a week of celebration and a time of peace,” he said. “With Easter, Passover, and the Jewish holiday marking the journey from bondage to freedom, it’s a powerful parallel to be holding this convention now and concluding on this day.

“We, as a people—and as a labor movement—are united in breaking our chains once again, and in celebrating the freedom to speak, to act, and to stand together,” Aronson said.

Secretary-Treasurer Cobb thanked the audience for their engagement and commitment, closing with a call to action. He announced the upcoming Advocacy Day on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, and encouraged delegates to begin planning now for the day of action. “When we put out the call to get involved, please don’t delay,” he urged. “Let’s make this commitment and let’s make it even bigger this year.”

President Ferritto delivered her closing remarks urging attendees to carry the momentum of the week forward. “As we leave this convention, I want you to carry with you the energy that we’ve built here,” she said. “Remember that every conversation you had, every connection you made, and every plan you helped shape is part of a bigger picture: a stronger, more unified labor movement that can meet any challenge.”

In conclusion, the convention hall filled with “Rise Up” by Andra Day, marking a week of progress, connection, and solidarity.

Congratulations to our COPE Honorees for their outstanding dedication to the labor movement and political engagement! Joanna McClinton, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, delivered the opening remarks, setting an inspiring tone for the celebration.

BRYAN BUSH | President, Sheetmetal Workers Local 19

MATT YARNELL | President, SEIU Healthcare PA

DARRIN KELLY | President, Allegheny Fayette Central Labor Council

WENDY G. COLEMAN | President, AFT PA

