



# DAILY UPDATE

## PA AFL-CIO 2024 CONVENTION

**WEDNESDAY MAY 15, 2024**

Congratulations to our Work and Family Breakfast Honorees. These brothers and sisters have shown exceptional service to the labor movement and remain committed to making every year the Year of the Worker.

**Union Woman of the Year** - Thelma Clements, President, A. Philip Randolph Institute

**Union Man of the Year** - Tom Tosti, Director, AFSCME District Council 88

**Special Tribute** - Jerry Jordan, President, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers

**Work & Family Charity of the Year** - Lori Clark, Beacon Clinic for Health and Hope



President Ferritto opened the meeting at 9:00 am. Rev. Dr. Linda Green Gumby gave the invocation. The pledge of allegiance was led by Emma Cobb, daughter of Secretary-Treasurer Maurice Cobb. A memorial video listing the names of delegates lost was shown while Jon Heller, AFSCME, played “Amazing Grace” on bagpipes.

Reports from the health and safety committee, legislation committee, political action committee, organization committee, and education committee were given by committee chairs. A series of resolutions were introduced, recommended for adoption, and passed. Notable resolutions include: Resolution 12 (supporting Public Sector OSHA), Resolution 15 (in support of the workers of Starbucks Workers United in their organizing efforts), Resolution 18 (defending reproductive justice for all), Resolution 24 (in support of a living wage), Resolution 32 (in support of Union Energy), and Resolution 33 (in opposition to taxpayer funded school tuition vouchers).

President Ferritto introduced Julie Su, acting secretary of the Department of Labor. She described her decades-long fight to protect all workers. “At all these bargaining tables, we are hearing the same old story. When workers organize, it’s bad for the economy,” said Su, “Well, we know that worker power is not a threat to our economy or democracy. Worker power is crucial to both!”

By working hand in hand with the Biden administration, Su has learned they care about the same values found in union halls, picket lines and job sites. “What does it mean to have the most pro-union president in history? Well, it means \$16.7 billion are being poured into Pennsylvania,” said Su, “Look at the Pittsburgh International Airport, which got \$20 million for an expansion project. Work that is being done with union labor!”

### TODAY'S SPEAKERS



JULIE SU, ACTING SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



RANDI WEINGARTEN,  
PRESIDENT AFT



ELIZABETH SHULER  
PRESIDENT AFL-CIO



President Ferritto introduced Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers. Weingarten discussed the "healing of the federation" that President Ferritto's leadership has brought, as well as the dire stakes in this year's presidential election. "It's a race between hope and fear, aspiration and despair, freedom and autocracy," Weingarten said. "It's time to do what we need to do to make sure every worker and every family has the opportunity of the American dream."

President Ferritto invited Secretary-Treasurer Cobb to chair the convention for the election of the president of PA AFL-CIO. Mike Sukal, AFSCME, nominated Angela Ferritto and spoke of her passion as an activist and will as a leader. Rob Bair, PA Building and Construction Trades Council, seconded the nomination. He spoke about when people see Angela and Rob, "shit's going to get real, and shit's going to get done." Delegate Arthur Steinberg, president of AFT Pennsylvania, said "Angela is the perfect person to lead us into the future. She has a clear vision for us to not only survive but to thrive." He moved that the convention elect Angela Ferritto as president by acclamation. President Ferritto accepted the nomination and was elected.

In her acceptance speech, President Ferritto thanked the delegates, telling them she is grateful and humbled by her re-election. She spoke of growing up in a union hall in Erie, PA, and how she never thought she would be standing here today. She thanked her parents for showing her the value of unions. "I am in awe of the trailblazing women of the labor movement," she said. "They have forged this path for all of us." She said continuing to serve as president is the great honor of her life. "Together, let's move forward and begin the year of the worker. Let's move our voice beyond this convention and into our communities, which are counting on us to stand up for them and to lead PA into the next chapter of the labor movement. Sisters and brothers, power to the people. Let's go get them!" she said.

President Ferritto asked for nominations for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. David McCall, president of the United Steelworkers, said he was honored to nominate his friend and fellow steelworker Maurice Cobb. "I can attest to his extraordinary credibility and leadership," said McCall. The nomination was seconded multiple times. Delegate Bernie Hall, United Steelworkers, spoke of the significance of electing the first person of color to the secretary-treasurer office in PA AFL-CIO history. "This team reflects the values, culture, and faces of our membership," a delegate said. Cobb accepted the nomination of Secretary-Treasurer and was elected by acclamation.

Cobb then thanked the delegates for the warm welcome. "The steelworkers will always be my family. I am grateful to my father, his father, and for his father before him for joining a union and instilling the importance of unions in me," he said. "I am truly excited to serve with Angela. We are focused on the future. In the year of the worker, the power is in the hands of the unions," he added.

President Ferritto introduced AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, the first woman to hold the position. In her remarks, Shuler congratulated the officers on their election and spoke on the importance of the labor movement's role in the Keystone State. "The labor movement in Pennsylvania is on the front of the fight for Democracy," she said. Shuler fired up the convention on the election coming this year and the pivotal role that Pennsylvania will play in the election result. "Let's keep building this movement, I can't wait to see where we go from here. Thank you, Pennsylvania!"

President Ferritto called all vice presidents and auditors to the stage for the oath of office. Secretary-Treasurer Cobb read the list of new vice presidents and auditors. Liz Shuler administered the oath of office for officers, executive council members, and auditors. After congratulating officials, Shuler said she was looking forward to serving with everyone.

Secretary-Treasurer Cobb made announcements about the remainder of the day. President Ferritto declared the business meeting in recess until 9 am tomorrow, Thursday, May 16.