

AFSCME DAILY



Tuesday June 29, 2010 | Boston, Massachusetts

McEntee: 'We're Fighting for the Future of Our Country.'

"We are rising up to defend, during this time of challenge, the public services that we provide and the ideals in which we believe," President McEntee said during yesterday's opening. Urging 5,000 delegates, alternates and guests not to waver in their beliefs and the values that make our union great, he called on them to push AFSCME's agenda forward in these tough times.

Following a dazzling laser show, McEntee laid out our roadmap to victory: fighting for good jobs that allow us to support our families; defending the public services that make America happen; protecting our retirement security; and overhauling Wall Street so that the firms that took the country to the edge of economic collapse will never, ever do it again.

McEntee also stressed the need to lay down a political marker and demand accountability from political leaders.

"We support politicians who support working families," McEntee said. "But all politicians, whether they are Democrats or Republicans, must understand: We are holding you accountable. You are not above the people who elected you. And if you turn on us you will pay the price!"

Pointing out how the economic policies set up by the previous administration have left 27 million Americans out of work causing the divide between rich and poor to widen, McEntee highlighted the importance of public services. "We are needed now more than ever, because working people have never faced such an onslaught."

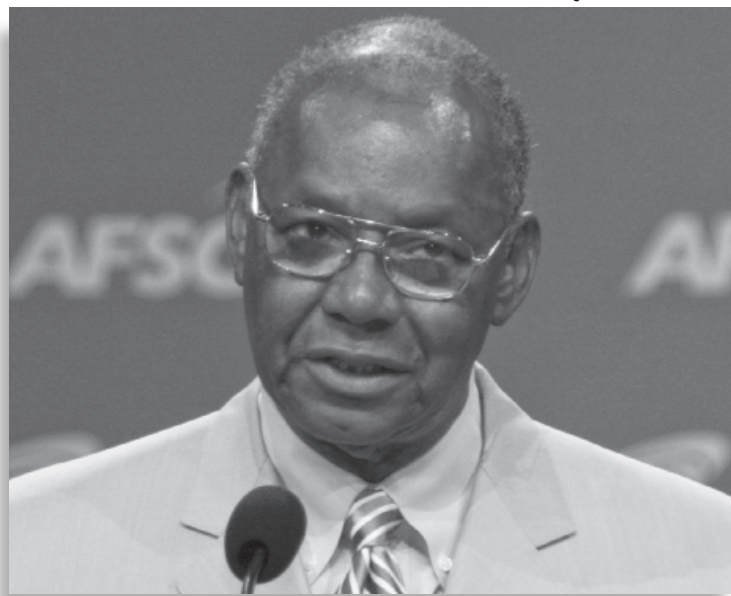
This is why AFSCME stands on the frontlines of critical battles. Thanks to our work, 32 million more Americans will have health insurance. Now, we're fighting for a crucial jobs bill that continues funding public services and helps pave the way to economic recovery.

Finally, we must focus our efforts on the decisive battles that await us in the November mid-term elections.

"With elections approaching, we've got to keep going, keep fighting and indeed keep winning," McEntee said. "Especially the governors' races, because the winners will set the tone for public services and directly impact us and our work."



Farewell Bill Lucy



The end of an era came to pass on Monday, as delegates said goodbye to former AFSCME Sec.-Treas. William Lucy, marking the end of a 57-year relationship.

Bidding farewell amid chants of "Thank you, Bill," Lucy stressed the importance of fighting for social justice, a commitment that has characterized his public service career.

"We've always known that there's a crisis. It may be more intense now, but there's always been a crisis for millions of people not as lucky as we are in this room," Lucy said. "There's a daily crisis in their lives, as they struggle to put bread on their tables, to put clothes on their backs, to have a roof on their heads. We have a responsibility to help them out."

A video tribute highlighted Lucy's trajectory as a tireless fighter for equality and economic fairness. Opening with the famous A. Philip Randolph quote: "Freedom is never given, it is won,"

the presentation recounted Lucy's work alongside the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in civil rights struggles and his support for Nelson Mandela.

At the end of the ceremony, President McEntee presented Lucy with a tribute book from AFSCME members thanking him for his contributions. From the Convention floor, several delegates shared their thoughts on the impact Lucy's work had on our union and the American labor movement. Lucy, who was first elected secretary-treasurer in May 1972, has been actively involved in international affairs. He collaborated with King during the 1968 strike by AFSCME Local 1733 sanitation workers in Memphis until the civil rights leader's assassination. He was also one of the founders of the Free South Africa Movement that launched the successful anti-apartheid campaign in the United States in the mid-1980s.

Lucy is a founder and the president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), an organization of union leaders and rank-and-file members dedicated to the unique needs of African Americans and minority group workers.

RALLY FOR PUBLIC SERVICES!

Rally at Boston Common with Council 93 tomorrow! Protect facilities for developmentally disabled, oppose library cutbacks, support thousands of higher education workers seeking fair and equitable contracts, and urge Congress to pass a jobs bill.

Get a special T-shirt at the registration area, Hall B, starting at 8:30 a.m. Buses leave BCEC after tomorrow's general session. Leave personal items in hotel rooms or take them with you.

HIGHLIGHTS

7a.m.

Registration

BCEC – Hall B, until 1 p.m.

PEOPLE Information & Exhibit Booths

(Until 1 hour after session.

Closed during session)

BCEC – Hall B

9:30 a.m.

39th International Convention Convenes

BCEC – Hall C

PEOPLE Awards

Ron Green, Local 3634

(California Council 36)

Address

Richard Trumka

President, AFL-CIO

Tribute to Sen. Ted Kennedy

Special Guest: Victoria Reggie Kennedy

Generations Program

2 p.m.

Nominations for Secretary-Treasurer

Recess

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Women's Leadership Café

Westin Waterfront, Grand Ballroom Level 3



www.afscme.org

BUST THE MYTHS!

Special job sector caucuses will occur tomorrow from 7:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. We'll be "Busting the Myths About Public Service Workers." Out of 21 caucuses, choose the one that best describes your work. No need to register. Light breakfast begins at 7 a.m.

Administration/Finance	Room 160 BC
Child Support	Room 155
Child Welfare	Room 258 B
Corrections	Room 258 C
Correcciones*.....	Sala 258 C
Early Childhood Education	Room 152
Emergency Services	Room 162 B
Employment & Vocational Services	Room 157 C
Servicios de Empleo y Vocacionales*.....	Sala 157 C
Environmental Protection & Parks	Room 257 A
Higher Education	Room 157 AB
Home Health/Home Care	Room 156 C
Salud Doméstica/Cuidado Doméstico*.....	Sala 156 C
Hospital-Based Acute Care	Room 156 AB
Housing	Room 258 A
K-12 Education	Room 259 A
Law Enforcement	Room 159
Libraries & Other Cultural Institutions	Room 257 B
Long-Term Care	Room 151 AB
Outpatient Services	Room 154
Probation & Parole	Room 153 A
Public Assistance.....	Room 162 A
Asistencia Pública*.....	Sala 162 A
Public Works	Room 52 A
Transportation	Room 52 B
Transportes*.....	Sala 52 B

En los talleres marcados con asterisco (*), se ofrecerá traducción al español. (Spanish translation will be offered.)

Another Advantage Winner!

Today's AFSCME Advantage winner of the his & hers watch set is Sylvan John. He is a member of Local 1502 (DC 37).

RESOLUTIONS

Delegates on Monday moved that Resolution #8 be referred to the Resolutions Committee for further consideration. It calls on Convention to be in session for a minimum of six hours a day and not be allowed to adjourn until at least 90 percent of the amendments are considered and placed on the floor for a vote.

AFSCME Retirees

The Retirees Council held its annual meeting on Saturday and Sunday, marking 30 years of progress. On Sunday, delegates reelected Chair Jerry LaPoint (Wisconsin Chapter 7), Vice-Chair Gary Tavormina (New York Chapter 82), and Secretary Loneste Blackwell (Ohio Chapter 1184).



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CAFÉ TODAY

AFSCME women will gather from **4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** for this first-ever event. Come share ideas about what it takes to become an effective leader. Session is open to all (delegates, alternates and guests). Light snacks provided. Seating is first-come, first-served. Convention Ballroom (Level Three).

ELECTIONS THURSDAY!

Voting for International Secretary-Treasurer will happen Thursday, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., in BCEC Hall A. Nominations take place today.

Upon recess, nominations will be taken for the International Vice President position being vacated by retiring Council 40 Pres. Michael D. Murphy. Delegates from the Wisconsin legislative district will go to Room 160 BC. If more than one candidate is nominated, an election will be held Thursday, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., in BCEC Hall A.

To vote, delegates need a photo ID and Convention badges. The American Arbitration Association will conduct the elections. If necessary, a runoff will be held **Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., in BCEC Hall A.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & CONSTITUENCY CAUCUSES

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE – Upon recess, in front of stage

CONSTITUENCY CAUCUSES – 7:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Conservatives in AFSCME Caucus – Rm. 154

Green Caucus – Rm. 156 C

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Caucus – Rm. 157 AB

Latino Caucus – Rm. 151 AB

Next Wave Caucus – Rm. 156 AB

PEOPLE: Going Once ...

Pick up a gift or a limited edition, commemorative T-shirt to wear for Thursday's PEOPLE-T-Shirt Day.

Every item you receive – in exchange for a PEOPLE donation* – gives us the power to elect leaders who support working families and their unions.

And don't forget the green light special: Buy one and get one at a drastically reduced price.

* In accordance with federal law, the PEOPLE Committee will accept contributions only from members of AFSCME and their families. Contributions or gifts to AFSCME PEOPLE are not tax-deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.



Got Text?

Tell everyone what you're going to fight for and how you're going to lead. If you've already sent your text, send another! If you haven't, do it today! For instructions, look for the banners at the Action Center, then check the computer screen inside the hall.