

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR THE 2020 CONVENTION

PREAMBLE

AFT's concern for the health, safety and welfare of our delegates and surrounding communities because of the COVID-19 pandemic has compelled us to convert the AFT 2020 Convention to a virtual convention. The challenges of using an all-virtual platform has caused this convention to be conducted with modified rules and scheduling. The executive council adopted these rules on June 17, 2020, in order to allow the committees to operate in this virtual environment.

1. VIRTUAL SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS

- a. Delegates shall check in for committees and the convention using the code provided by the AFT.
- b. Delegates shall not be permitted the display of caucus or political signs or placards on their home screen or as background.

2. "FLOOR MICROPHONES"

- a. Delegates shall use the digital options to participate in the debate and voting.
- b. When a question before the convention is put to a vote, all delegates who are in queue awaiting their turn to speak shall be cleared.

3. RECOGNITION TO SPEAK

- a. A delegate desiring to speak to a question before the convention shall not speak until recognized by the chair.
- b. A delegate recognized by the chair must state his or her name and local number before speaking.
- c. No delegate shall be allowed to speak twice on any issue until all who are desirous of doing so, and are entitled to do so, have had a chance to speak.

4. RESOLUTIONS

- a. In light of the limitations presented by the virtual convention, the chair shall determine the number of prioritized resolutions put before the delegates.
- b. Resolutions brought to the convention on which no action has been taken by the delegates shall be referred to the executive council when the convention adjourns.

5. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

- a. Special Orders of Business must be emailed to presoffice@aft.org at least one business session prior to consideration and, if in order, will be made available to all convention delegates prior to the business session in which it will be considered. The special order shall only be considered if approved for consideration by two-thirds of the delegates who vote.
- b. Special Orders of Business must address issues that because of timeliness could not have been dealt with through the Resolutions procedure outlined in Article IV, Section 4 of the AFT Bylaws.

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR THE 2020 CONVENTION

6. MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS

- a. An amendment to a motion to be duly made shall be submitted by email to presoffice@aft.org no later than 5 p.m. Eastern time on July 24, 2020. No seconds are required for the amendment to be considered. Each proposed amendment shall be considered and the movant shall be the first speaker. If more than one delegate submits a proposed amendment that is the same or very similar, then the first person to have submitted the motion shall be the movant. No one shall speak until the motion is displayed on the screen.
- b. Motion to suspend the rules shall only be in order to allow new motions to amend. No seconds necessary. The motion to suspend shall explain the purpose (e.g., a proposed amendment not timely submitted), shall allow one speaker “for” (the movant) and one speaker “against” and requires a two-thirds vote of those voting to pass. If the motion to suspend passes, then the movant shall immediately email the proposed amendment to presoffice@aft.org and while that is being submitted and posted, the chair shall move on to the next resolution or business item. After that next resolution is decided or business item is completed, the chair shall return to the previous resolution and post the motion to amend to be considered.
- c. The following motions are out of order: motions to table, motions to postpone indefinitely, motions to postpone to a certain time, motions to rescind, motions to limit debate, motions for reconsideration and motions to divide the question.
- d. Delegates may appeal the ruling of the chair (challenge the chair). No second is required for consideration. After debate, the appeal shall be sustained only if a majority of those voting vote in favor of the appeal.
- e. The chair may summarize or repeat the motion or amendment before the convention immediately prior to the vote thereon.

7. LIMITATIONS ON DEBATE

- a. A delegate shall be allowed to speak to any question for a period not to exceed three minutes. He or she shall be notified when two minutes have elapsed and again at the close of the third minute, at which time the speaker will be muted.
- b. The debate on any resolution or amendment shall be limited to 15 minutes total unless the chair, by her discretion, allows further debate, or a motion to expand debate is made and passes. The motion to expand debate requires a two-thirds vote of those voting to pass.

8. VOTING

Voting shall only be conducted by delegates selecting either the “for” or “against” digital option. As a result of the digital tabulation of votes, there shall be no division of the house and no roll-call votes.

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9. GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest speakers invited by the executive council or the convention shall be introduced at their convenience by the chair, provided, however, that no speaker currently speaking before the convention shall be interrupted.

10. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- a. The chair of each committee shall, at the opening of the committee meeting, appoint a secretary to record the proceedings.
- b. Only those delegates properly assigned to the committee in question shall be permitted to attend and to participate in committee business.
- c. All the foregoing Rules of Conduct that can be made applicable to committee meetings shall apply, such as the limitations on debate, and voting procedures. Motions and amendments shall be submitted by email to presoffice@aft.org by July 8, 2020, at 5 p.m. Eastern time except for motion as to priority.
- d. It shall be the responsibility of the chair and secretary of each committee to see to it that the resolutions that the committee wants to report to the convention are submitted to presoffice@aft.org for distribution to delegates on or before July 23, 2020.
- e. For purposes of clarity and consistency, committee recommendations should be presented in a uniform manner: The committee recommends adoption, adoption as amended, defeated, precluded by other resolutions or referred to the executive council.
- f. The number of resolutions to be prioritized for consideration by the committee shall be determined by the committee chair. The motion for priority does not require a second and is not subject to amendment. The motion for priority shall be limited to the number of resolutions that the committee chair has determined.
- g. The committee chair shall report the recommendations of the committee to the convention on the basis of a majority vote of its members present and voting.