

Understanding How Business Is Conducted at the 2022 AFT Convention

The proceedings at the AFT convention are a lively mix of speakers, videos, presentations and business matters, which include amending the constitution and bylaws, enacting policy resolutions and electing officers.

CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

Convention proceedings are governed by the AFT constitution and bylaws, tradition and the convention rules of conduct. The order of proceedings is as follows:

1. Seating of delegates, which takes place during the morning session on the first business day, which this year is Friday, July 15. We also begin the morning session every convention day with a report of the count of delegates.
2. Adopt the order of business and the rules of the convention.
3. Amend the constitution and bylaws (the AFT bylaws require that this be done first, prior to any other convention business).
4. Enact policy resolutions recommended by 13 committees. (at this convention we have merged some committees and only have 1)
5. Elect officers and the executive council.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ARE THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS OF THE AFT

Amending the AFT Constitution and Bylaws:

- Constitutional amendments must be submitted to AFT prior to the convention and require a two-thirds vote of the body to be adopted.
- Amendments to the bylaws must be submitted to AFT prior to the convention and require a majority vote of the body to be adopted.
- Amendments are submitted by affiliates or the AFT executive council.
- Deadline for submission was March 15, 2022.
- Deadline to send to delegates was April 15, 2022.
- Debate and voting follow the same process as outlined in “The Debate and Voting Process” section below.

POLICY RESOLUTIONS SET THE AGENDA, PROGRAMS AND PRIORITIES OF THE AFT

Submission of Resolutions:

- Resolutions are submitted by affiliates or the AFT executive council.
- Deadline for submission was June 2 (the constitution requires this date to be no later than six weeks before the opening day of the convention).

Consideration of Resolutions:

- Resolutions are *first* considered by committees.
- All delegates were provided the opportunity to choose a committee assignment.
- Your assigned committee is identified on your badge.
- Committees discuss, debate, amend and recommend action on resolutions to the full body.
 - Possible actions that a committee can *recommend* to the full body:
 - Adopted;
 - Adoption as amended;

This document is not intended to replace or supersede the official Rules of Conduct, as adopted by the 2022 Convention body and published in the Constitutional Amendments and Proposed Resolutions book. Rather, it is intended as an interpretation of the process to be provided to new delegates who may not be familiar with how the business of the AFT convention is typically conducted.

- Defeated;
- Tabled;
- Precluded by; or
- Referred to.
- Resolutions are reported as “concurrence”, “concurrence as amended” or “nonconcurrence”
- Resolutions are placed in priority order by the committee.
- Each committee reports its first three priority resolutions in the first round of reports, then the next three in the second round of reports, etc.
- At the end of the convention, the remaining business of the convention may be referred to the executive council for action.

Special Orders of Business:

- These are items of immediate concern that arose after the deadline for submitting resolutions.
- Consideration of a special order of business requires a two-thirds vote of the body to consider it in the following business session.
- The item is then distributed to all delegates and considered in the next business session.

THE DEBATE AND VOTING PROCESS

Understanding the Debate Process:

- We follow *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*; the rules are summarized in your resolutions book.
- *During a business session*, we begin with microphone No. 1 and rotate microphones numerically for debate on constitutional amendments and resolutions.
 - If debate on the first piece of business *ends* on microphone No. 4, then debate on the next piece of business *begins* on microphone No. 5.
- *At the start of the next business session*, we begin again at microphone No. 1.

Understanding the Voting Process:

- Most actions are taken by voice vote—“aye” or “nay.”
- If the outcome is not clear from a voice vote:
 - First, the chair calls for a show of hands.
 - Second, the chair calls for a standing vote.
 - If a division of the house is called, then we may go to a roll call vote; this rarely happens, but it is possible.