



March 5, 2026

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Heidi Drygas, Executive Director  
Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA), AFSCME Local 52  
2601 Denali Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Paul Hatcher, President  
Anchorage Municipal Employee Association (AMEA), AFSCME Local 16  
2601 Denali Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Sister Drygas and Brother Hatcher:

I am in receipt of your joint letter informing me that the executive boards of your unions have voted to unify. I have been informed that yesterday, the membership of AMEA has also overwhelmingly voted in support of unification.

I agree that unification of AMEA with ASEA, with AMEA becoming a chapter of ASEA, is in the best interest of the membership. Together, you recently negotiated a strong collective bargaining agreement covering AMEA's membership, and it is clear that the membership has been energized over this success. I believe that together, you will achieve more for members of AMEA than would be possible if it continued to stand alone. I congratulate you on your vision in moving this unification forward and look forward to working with you.

I am approving your request to unify AMEA with ASEA pursuant to Article IX, Section 35 of the AFSCME International Constitution. ASEA will be the surviving local. Accordingly, effective April 1, 2026, AMEA, AFSCME Local 16 will become a chapter of ASEA, AFSCME Local 52 and the members of AMEA, AFSCME Local 16 will become members of ASEA, AFSCME Local 52. All necessary steps should be taken to effectuate this, including amending the ASEA Constitution to address representation of AMEA members on the ASEA Executive Board. The Organizing and Field Services Department will provide any assistance you require related to this unification.

Congratulations, and I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming ASEA Convention.

In solidarity,

LEE SAUNDERS  
President

LS/MLA:rm

cc: Ashley Jenkins, Director, Organizing & Field Services  
Walter Blair, Western Regional Director  
Jeremy Kruse, Area Field Services Director

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**