Alaska State Employees Association ASEA/AFSCME Local 52

Anchorage Chapter

2601 Denali Street, Anchorage, AK 99503   907-277-5200

Meeting Minutes

Anchorage Chapter Executive Board Meeting

March 4, 2026

I. **Call to Order @ 5:31pm –** Quorum established – Braxton Bundick, Paul Keller, Portia Hall, William Hurr, Samantha Simien, Tanner Howard, and Billy Stapleton

II. **Agenda –** William Hurr moved to approve; second by Tanner Howard; no objections

III. **Secretary's Report –** Samantha Simien reported the January and February 2026 minutes will be presented for approval at the April 2026 meeting. In the mail we received a donation flyer requesting support from Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission, and by email we received information about the CLC Labor Walk. Samantha S. stated she would manage the sign-up list for the Labor Walks on Saturday mornings if any members were interested in attending to report back to the CLC. Chuck Stewart was given the floor and discussed the purpose and process for Labor Walks and the need for our chapter to get involved as one of the largest unions in Anchorage. William Hurr asked if there are times other than Saturdays, and Chuck S. stated if you let the CLC know in advance you would like to volunteer on another day they will print out a list for you to go out. Portia Hall asked if the chapter has given support to the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission, and Samantha S. stated in the past we have not. Portia H. suggested we look into volunteering at the Mission in the future or pick up donations to donate during the holiday season. Paul Keller explained where the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission is located.

IV. **Treasurer's Report –**

a. Portia Hall reported she tried to contact the previous Treasurer, Jodi Andres, with questions and requests for reports, but Jodi A. has not responded; so, Portia H. has no report to give. William Hurr asked about the transition of signers at the bank. Braxton Bundick responded and talked about the response given to Paul Keller. Paul K. was told in order to change signers we would need written approval from the ASEA State President that is also signed by Lawrence Camp (State EBoard Secretary) and Jodi Andres (State EBoard Treasurer). Chuck Stewart recommended we submit a formal letter to him that he will sign acknowledging the new Anchorage Board, and then all signers go to the bank on the same day and complete paperwork and sign. Paul K. stated there is a form that can be completed electronically with all signatures and sent to the bank. Chuck Stewart reiterated that all signers should go at the same time on the same day.

b. Audit report – no report, Samantha Simien reported a motion was made and approved at the February chapter meeting to have the audits completed by February 28, 2026, so that trustees would then submit their reports at the March Executive Board and Chapter meetings. Samantha S. spoke with Lawrence Camp on Friday, February 27, 2026, and he stated he spoke with the previous treasurer, Jodi Andres, about it and requested she drop off all of the books at headquarters; but nothing has been provided.

c. Portia Hall made a motion to transfer $2,000 from Public Relations line item into the Convention line item to cover additional costs; second by Tanner Howard. Discussion: William Hurr clarified the purpose is to increase the convention budget to ensure costs of swag and additional things related to convention are covered, and Portia H. confirmed. No further discussion, and motion passed without objections – ***Motion #26-03-E-01***
d. Tanner Howard made a motion to pay for renewal of zoom link subscription up to $200 from the Marketing line item; second by Paul Keller. Discussion: William Hurr requested clarification regarding which zoom account this is for, and Braxton Bundick confirmed it is for the zoom account originally made available to the chapter for committee meetings. No further discussion, and motion passed without objection – ***Motion #26-03-E-02***
e. Portia Hall stated the 2026-2027 budget meeting needs to be scheduled as soon as possible so that it can be presented at the April and May Chapter meetings. Meeting will be scheduled through zoom at the end of March. Chuck Stewart was given the floor and spoke about the budget process, suggested no one take leave to discuss and create proposed budget, and to reach out to committee chairs to determine budget needs. William Hurr and Samantha Simien offered to assist. Zoom meeting will be held the week of March 23, 2026.

V. **Staff Updates –** Heidi Drygas reported they are currently having a merger vote occurring at headquarters with Anchorage Municipal Employees Association (AMEA). AMEA is independent and they represent 400 employees. Last year they were in need of contract negotiations, ASEA offered at no cost to assist them, and Maryann Ganacias and Doug Carson were able to negotiate a great contract, and AMEA saw the significant benefits of merging with ASEA. If it is approved, then ASEA will notify the membership by email, and we will be able to hire a new business agent to help represent AMEA. Heidi D. spoke about staff getting ready for the upcoming convention, and AFSCME President Lee Saunders will be speaking; this will be his last convention to speak at in Anchorage due to his retirement. Legislative session is moving along, and updates can be provided at the link shared in the chat. We are hoping to get a vote on the Senate floor regarding the pension bill by the end of session. Heidi D. introduced the new business agent, Stephen Sabot.

VI. **State President and State Executive Board Comments/Report –** Chuck Stewart reported the State EBoard meeting went fantastic last week. They are working hard on getting ready for convention. He discussed the Constitutional Amendment that will be presented regarding the Chapter Support for each chapter. This will cause Anchorage Chapter and other larger chapters to get less support yearly, but it will allow for smaller chapters in the rural and bush areas to receive a little more. Tanner Howard indicated the Anchorage EBoard understands the reallocation of funds and agrees with the possible change in favor of helping the smaller chapters. Portia H. asked if approved, when will this change go into effect. Chuck S. stated it will go into effect starting next year, and more members means more money allocated to that chapter.

VII. **New Business**

a. Officer Training Part 2 & Bylaw Meeting – Samantha Simien stated we just had a quick bylaw meeting that went well. William Hurr agreed and stated we will schedule future meetings to further discuss the bylaws and make suggested changes that will simplify the bylaws. Once we figure out what changes are needed then we will need to present it to the chapter to get input and approval. We will resume after convention, and get things figured out at the end of April and May. Samantha S. asked if Part 2 of the officer training has been scheduled. Braxton Bundick stated no, but we are looking at the end of April for possible dates. Braxton B. will send out an email to coordinate a good day during the week.

b. Convention – Samantha Simien made a motion to expend up to $2,500.00 from the Convention line item for t-shirts and swag bags for Stewards; second by William Hurr. Discussion: Portia Hall asked about the quote for the shirts, and Braxton stated the total for the shirts was originally $1,900.00 but the cost has dropped to $1,700.00; but the cost could change based on the timeframe needed to get the shirts in time for convention. William H. requested clarification regarding the type of shirts that would be ordered – t-shirt or polo, and if the business that is being used is a union supported business. Braxton Bundick stated it is not a union supported business because we had to go with the business that could get the shirts within the limited timeframe at the best price. Portia H. made a motion to amend the original motion to state, "delegate shirts" and not steward shirts; second by Tanner Howard. No discussion; amended motion passed without objection. Original motion as amended passed without objection– ***Motion #26-03-E-03***

c. New Delegates – Braxton Bundick reported Eugene Loftin has requested to be a delegate and will be an irregular delegate so he will be sworn in at convention. William Hurr made a motion to add Eugene Loftin as a delegate; second by Tanner Howard. Discussion: William Hurr asked how many delegates we have, and Braxton Bundick stated 27 delegates. Motion passed without objection – ***Motion #26-03-E-04***

d. Back Up Laptops for Secretary & Treasurer – Samantha Simien made a motion to expend up to $1,000.00 from the Public Relations line item to purchase two backup laptops from the State Surplus and to purchase any licenses, applications, or subscriptions needed to update the laptops; second by Portia Hall. No discussion, and motion passed without objections – ***Motion #26-03-E-05***

e. Labor Walks on Saturdays – Braxton Bundick stated we discussed this previously.

f. Rec. Nights – Tanner Howard made a motion to expend up to $500.00 from the ACT line item for food and drinks for the Friday night socials starting March 27, 2026; second by Paul Keller. Discussion: William Hurr asked if the $500 will be used across multiple Fridays, and Tanner H. confirmed the money will be used for Friday nights for the next couple of months. No further discussion; motion passed without objection – ***Motion #26-03-E-06***

g. Samantha Simien reported the Solidarity Picnic will be Saturday, June 13, 2026, at the Airstrip, and we will be getting the sponsorship request soon. Once received, then we will make a motion to sponsor the picnic in the amount of $5,000.00 plus any additional costs that may come up for possible ice cream/sno-cone tickets. Samantha S. stated this is just an update so members can save the date. Hopefully in April we will start seeing the fliers go out.

VIII. **Old Business**

a. Valentines Day Event – Samantha Simien reported this event went very well. We made 125 valentines day cards that were brought over to the Anchorage Pioneer's Home for the elders/seniors. We took pictures and sent them to Samantha Harris to post on social media.

Our members were very creative with the cards, and Portia Hall stated there was some strong competition with how many cards each member could make within the time allotted.

IX. **Committee Reports**

a. **Stewards -** Billy Stapleton provided updates and made the following motions:
   1. Motion to expend up to $1,000.00 from the Steward's line item to purchase refreshments twice a month starting in March for Chief Steward Chats to connect with stewards and get them more involved at their worksites; second by Paul Keller. No discussion; motion passed unanimously – ***Motion #26-03-E-07***
   2. Motion to expend up to $500.00 from the Steward line item to purchase name tags for stewards; second by Tanner Howard. Discussion: Chuck Stewart was given the floor to ask how many stewards we have. Samantha Simien reported we have 50-55 stewards. Chuck S. reported the name tags with magnets cost between $11 and $12 each. Billy S. amended the original motion to state $750.00 instead of $500.00; second by Tanner H. No discussion regarding amendment; motion to amend passed without objection. Original motion as amended; no discussion; motion passed as amended unanimously – ***Motion #26-03-E-08***
   3. Billy Stapleton reported Steward's Basic Training is April 1, 2026

b. **Good & Welfare –** Kimberly Reynolds was not able to be present, but Samantha Simien stated the committee report was submitted to all of the board by email and the report will be attached to the minutes.

c. **Scholarships –** Portia Hall stated Scholarships will be opening on May 1st – June 19th. She and Samantha Simien have been working on updates to the forms and verbiage for the website. Portia H. will be submitting information to Samantha Harris to update the website and remove the AFSCME tuition reimbursement program since the program no longer exists. The dependent applications will also be updated to show how disbursements are given and new essay questions will be geared toward more current union events.

d. **Refreshments –** Samantha Simien reported food for the chapter meeting coming up will come from Mama Carol's (BBQ chicken, mac-n-cheese, green beans, salad, and rolls). Chuck Stewart was given the floor to suggest keeping snacks in the storage room to share during meetings and be careful with the amount of sodas purchased.

e. **Veterans –** no report.

f. **Public Relations & Marketing –** Portia Hall stated no report at this time.

g. **Next Wave –** Tanner Howard made a motion to expend up to $1,000.00 from the Next Wave line item to host a Super Mario Movie Event at Cinemark and up to $500.00 from the ACT line item to purchase items for photos with Easter Bunny and gift bags; second by Paul Keller. Discussion: William Hurr asked if this was the same event with requests from two different line items. Samantha Simien stated we did not have a budget and did not know how much money we had in each line item. Portia Hall stated she does not have anything current, but based on the January budget that was presented, she feels the request could all come from one line item. Samantha Simien requested to amend the motion and state, "up to $1,500.00 from the Next Wave line item" and remove the request for the $500 from the ACT line item; second by Portia H.; no discussion; the amendment passed without objection. Original motion was presented as amended; Paul Keller called to question and no objection to the call to question was made. Original motion as amended was passed without objection – ***Motion #26-03-E-09***

h. **Hot Fridays –** Tanner Howard stated we will start Hot Fridays in May.

i. **No reports were given for the following committees that have vacant committee chairs –** Website, Rallies, Elections, Adopt -a-Highway, and League Sports

X. **Member Comments –** two members present in-person at the meeting, and two members online; one member who is a convention delegate stated she does not have internet access at her home and requested assistance with being able to attend the first two days of convention which is all virtual. Braxton Bundick stated he is currently working with staff to address the member's request and stated the backup laptops that will be purchased in the future will also be used for members should they have similar situations like this for union business and training needs. Samantha Simien stated she created a sign-in and sign-out sheet for all electronic devices for our chapter. Member Dixie Duryee asked if the board or staff had any updates regarding the SSOA dissolvement. Paul Keller explained what was currently occurring with SSOA and the concerns. As of July 1, 2026, all employees with that unit will be absorbed by their original departments they represented. William Hurr added that the biggest issue during the Legislative sessions is whether there will be layoffs, and there won't be any. If there is a situation where an employee is laid off, then they need to contact the union and speak with a business agent. Dixie D. stated it would be great to see the union communicate that information to SSOA employees.

XI. **Chapter Meeting Agenda –** Samantha Simien reported we will have an upcoming calendar of events for members, and it will be added to the website. The agenda will have the QR code added to it so that members can start signing in with the Mobilize QR code and link. Samantha S. also asked if the board had anything to add to the chapter meeting agenda for next week. If there is anything, please contact her by Monday next week.

XII. **Adjournment –** Paul Keller made the motion; second by Portia Hall; no objections. Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.