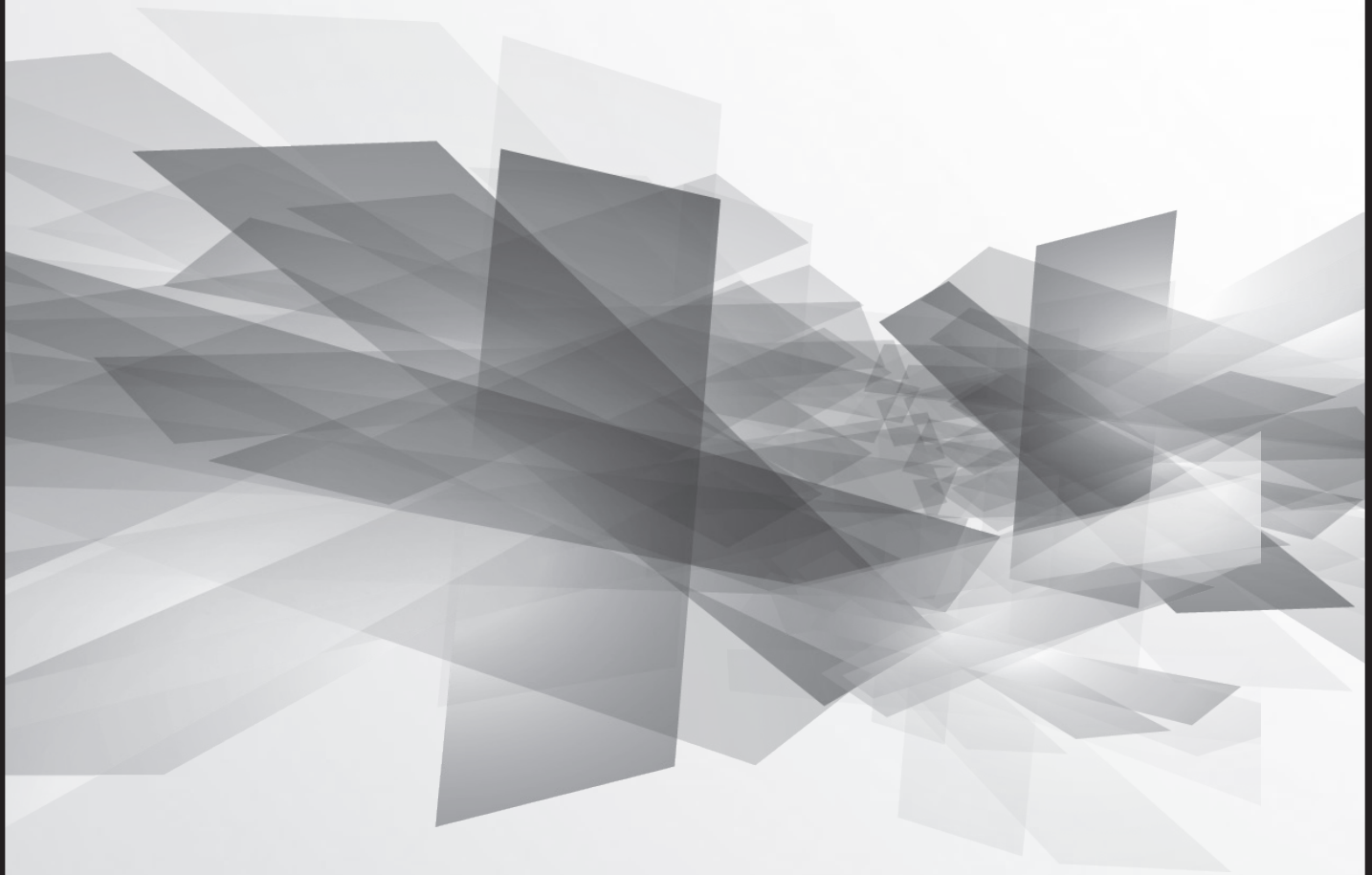


# 2019 Texas AFT Convention Rules



JUNE 7-9 // HOUSTON, TX

CONVENTION

AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES CONFERENCE



# Texas AFT Convention **Rules for 2019**

## **I. Credentials**

Delegate credentials must be submitted by locals using the paper form provided by Texas AFT. The delegate credential list and alternate list shall be signed by the president and a second officer of the local, and should be returned by certified mail to the Texas AFT office to ensure delivery and receipt. All credential lists are due into the Texas AFT office four weeks prior to the start of the convention.

Delegates must present themselves no later than the close of registration on the first day of the convention. The delegate will present a form of photo identification at the time of registration. The credentials committee shall verify that the final Texas AFT credential list comprises the names of the credentialed delegates submitted by the locals. Original credentials will be on site at the convention. Registration shall consist of matching the names on the verified credential list with delegate's photo identification. If the delegate's credentials are in order, the delegate shall be issued an official delegate's badge and kit.

If the delegate's credentials are not in order, he/she may appeal to the Credentials Committee by completing an irregular credential form which shall be available at the registration desk.

A list of officially approved delegates shall be available. The convention shall approve the seating of delegates. Upon recommendation of the Credentials Committee, those having irregular credentials may be seated if the majority of the duly credentialed delegates approve. An appeal of the decision of the Credentials Committee would be in order following the report of that committee. No delegate shall be seated after the close of registration on the first day, as per the Texas AFT Constitution, Article VII, Section 3.

## **II. Resolutions**

Resolutions should be submitted to the Texas AFT office by locals, Texas AFT executive bodies or the Texas AFT president no later than four weeks prior to the convening of the convention, so that resolutions may be distributed to delegates at the time of registration. Constitutional amendments which have been submitted in accordance with the constitution will be included in the delegates' kit.

Resolutions not submitted in conformance with the above rules must be submitted directly to the chair of the Resolutions Committee with sufficient copies to provide to each delegate.

Every resolution passed by this and subsequent conventions of the Texas AFT shall be included in a report sent to all executive council members, local presidents, and staff of Texas AFT, to be reported by them to the general membership.

Appropriate reports of the ad hoc and standing committees, secretary-treasurer, and president should include the actions of the organization in response to the resolutions passed in the previous year's convention.

Resolutions will be numbered as they are received by the Texas AFT and will be considered by the convention in the order of their number as they are passed out of committee, except that the first report by the committee chair shall comprise the committee's top three resolutions.

Resolutions, amendments, committee reports and other action items will constitute the proceedings of the convention and the record of these proceedings will be sent to every local following the convention.

Resolutions that are not acted upon shall be referred to the succeeding Executive Council.

### **III. Procedure for Nominations for Office**

1. An official nomination for office petition will be provided at the Texas AFT registration from 11:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on the first day of the convention.
2. In order to nominate a candidate for the office of president or secretary-treasurer, a petition bearing the signatures of twenty delegates supporting the nomination of the named candidate must be collected.
3. Petitions should be submitted to the chair of the Elections Committee by 3:00 p.m. on the first day of the convention, preceding the nominations of officers before the convention body.
4. Declination for nomination should be made to the chair of the Elections Committee by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the convention.
5. The chair of the Election Committee shall serve as chair to the General Convention during nominations.
6. Candidates for office shall be introduced to the convention at the time of nominations and will have an opportunity to address the delegates prior to the election.
7. The procedure for nominations shall be: The chair shall open nominations for president by asking for any person bearing a valid petition with at least 20 signatures to formally make the nomination.
  - a. Nominating speeches are permitted by the bearer of the petition, not to exceed three minutes.
  - b. The chair will call for any other nominations with a valid petition from the floor of the convention. The chair will say three (3) times "Are there any further petitions for nominations for the office of president?" The chair will then declare the nominations closed.
  - c. The chair shall open nominations for secretary-treasurer by asking for any person bearing a valid petition with at least 20 signatures to formally make the nomination.
  - d. The procedure shall continue as stated in (a) and (b) above.
8. The Election Committee shall handle the details of the election, if needed. The Election Committee shall consist of persons who are not candidates for Texas AFT office, appointed by the president and approved by the Executive Committee.
9. In the event that the election for an officer of Texas AFT is uncontested, the chair of the Election Committee has the discretion to accept a motion to conduct the election of that officer by acclamation.

### **IV. Committees**

Delegates will be assigned to committees by the president after considering the delegates' stated preferences as indicated on their credentials. The chair of each convention committee will be designated by the president. Committees may conduct themselves informally except that Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall serve in any case where called for by the chair of the committee. Each committee chair shall be responsible for seeing that the committee actions are transmitted to the Texas AFT president or the registration desk at the close of the committee meeting. Instructions to committee chairs (Section VIII) shall constitute a part of these rules.

## **V. Convention Order**

The convention agenda shall begin early enough to accommodate the full schedule of business and will conclude when all the convention business has been finished, but no later than 3 p.m. on the last day of the convention.

All notices and announcements shall be made through the president or the secretary-treasurer. The president shall appoint sergeants at arms. The Texas AFT Executive Committee shall approve the selection of a parliamentarian from outside the federation membership. The president shall confer with the parliamentarian on rulings from the chair.

The Convention shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, except where the subject is covered by these rules or the Texas AFT Constitution.

Committee reports shall serve as a motion and do not require a second in accordance with regular convention and parliamentary procedure. Reports shall be made by the chair of the committee or his/her designee. At the option of the president, committee chairs should be prepared to report on their committee's top three resolutions in their first report to the convention, and then report on the remaining resolutions in their subsequent report to the convention. The president shall determine the order of committee reports.

A delegate desiring recognition by the chair shall move to the designated microphone, stand in line and be recognized in turn unless he/she wishes to make a privileged motion. A delegate who wishes to make a privileged motion shall move to the head of the line and be recognized for the purpose by the chair, after which the next person in line may be recognized. Delegates shall not stand around or wait at the microphone for any purpose other than to talk to a motion which is on the floor or, if no business is immediately pending, the delegate may stand before the microphone and seek to be recognized by standing and raising his/her hand.

Motion for a roll call vote must be seconded by at least 25 percent of the delegates present and no adjournment or recess shall take place until the results of the roll call have been announced. A roll call vote shall be taken by the secretary-treasurer who shall call the name and number of each local. The head of each delegation shall state the number of "ayes" and nays."

A motion to reconsider must be made by a delegate who voted in the majority.

Space for visitors and alternates will be set apart from the delegate area on the convention floor on the final day of the convention when action on resolutions takes place.

## **VI. Officers of Texas AFT**

Officers of the Texas AFT shall have the same rights as delegates except they may not vote unless credentialed by their local.

## **VII. Approval of the Rules**

These rules shall have been proposed by the Texas AFT Convention Rules Committee and shall have been voted upon by the convention. The rules shall be considered on-going between conventions.

## **VIII. Instruction to Committee Chairs**

1. Pass around a sign-up sheet.
2. Appoint a recording secretary.

3. Introduce resolutions assigned to your committee.
4. Debate each resolution and make a recommendation.  
Note: Committees may NOT generate new resolutions. They may make a recommendation to the convention body to change a submitted resolution through the amendment process, so long as it does not change the intent of the original resolution. The committee may create an amendment to propose to the convention. The committee should recommend “Concurrence,” “Non-Concurrence,” “Concurrence with amendment(s),” “Refer to Executive Council,” or “Table” for no action.
5. Each committee needs to select its top three resolutions to present in the chair’s first report to the convention, should the president opt for split reports. The chair’s second report will include the remaining resolutions in the order of their assigned numbers.
6. When called by the convention chair, the committee chair will refer to each resolution by name and number and read the committee’s recommendation. The committee’s recommendation will constitute a motion and a second.
7. Turn in the recording secretary’s official committee minutes and sign-in sheet to the Texas AFT president or registration desk upon conclusion of the report.

## **IX. Procedures for Officer Elections<sup>1</sup>**

1. Election of officers shall be by roll call vote, as per the Texas AFT Constitution, Article V, Section 2A. The vote will be held during the opening session on the last day of the convention.
2. The offices of president and secretary-treasurer will be determined by a majority of the votes cast.
3. Only delegates seated by the close of registration on the first day will be eligible to vote.
4. The chair of the Elections Committee will conduct the roll call.
5. Each local represented shall be entitled to the number of votes equal to the number of delegates allowed, representing the full membership voting strength of the local. The votes of the local shall be distributed as evenly as possible among the delegates present at the time of the voting, but no votes shall be fractioned (i.e.  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). The roll will be called by the Texas AFT secretary-treasurer and answered by the chairperson of each delegation. The polling of any delegation may be called for by any member of the delegation. See Texas AFT Constitution, Article VII, Section 7.

### a) Delegate voting

1. Questions were submitted to the Election Committee about the distribution of a local’s votes to the delegates from the local. More specifically, the Election Committee was asked if locals could apply a so-called “unit rule” to the local’s votes or if a delegate “owns” their vote and may vote as he or she sees fit. A unit rule provides that delegates must vote as a unit, as determined by a majority vote of the delegates attending, as directed by the local’s executive board, or the local’s membership. If a delegate does not agree with the candidate choice of the unit, or how the candidate choice was determined, enforcement of such a rule would mean that the delegate’s vote would not be

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<sup>1</sup> These provisions include a summary of decisions made by the 2019 Texas AFT Convention Elections Committee, which the Rules Committee wanted to include for the sake of clarity and transparency.

allowed to be cast for the candidate of the delegate's choice but would instead be cast for the unit's choice. In a 2-1 decision, the Election Committee ruled that while delegates may voluntarily agree to follow a unit rule, a delegate ultimately owns his or her own vote.

2. The Election Committee also addressed the circumstances when there are fewer delegates present at the convention than the local is allowed, and the delegates in the local have been apportioned more votes than just a single vote. In a unanimous decision, the Election Committee ruled that, assuming that a delegate owns his or her vote, the delegate may split his or her votes among the candidates.

b) *Voting status of organizing committees*

1. A question was submitted regarding whether organizing committees are entitled to have voting delegates at the convention. In a unanimous decision, the Election Committee held that organizing committees are entitled to delegate representation as described in the Texas AFT Constitution.
2. Another decision was submitted regarding the voting status of an organizing committee should that organizing committee not have maintained affiliation with the local Central Labor Council (CLC) but instead, joined the CLC prior to the Texas AFT Convention. In a unanimous decision, the Election Committee ruled that an organizing committee has to have shown an established record of affiliation. If such an affiliation cannot be shown, the organizing committee would not be entitled to delegate representation.

6. The lead delegate will cast the votes for the entire delegation.

7. Voting by Texas AFT Members-at-Large.

All Members-at-Large may attend the convention. Voting for Texas AFT officers shall be through the Member-at-Large caucus established by Article VII, Section 4 of the Texas AFT Constitution. The rules for balloting shall be the same as for Texas AFT locals, except that the chair of the caucus will serve as the Lead Delegate.

8. Members of the Election Committee will tally the votes and assist the chair.

9. The Election Committee Chair shall be responsible for certifying the vote count, and announcing the results of the election to the convention delegates.

10. Notwithstanding the above, in the event that the election for an officer of Texas AFT is uncontested, the chair of the Election Committee has the discretion to accept a motion to conduct the election of that officer by acclamation.



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