

Resolution 2025-08

Re-visiting AFT-Oregon pledge for transparency and accessibility

Whereas, the 2019 AFT-Oregon Convention amended the Bylaws (Article 9 Transparency and Accessibility), with Section 6 requiring that “AFT-Oregon Convention proceedings and resolutions shall be made available online within 45 days to all members. At least 10 years of resolutions will be made available online to all members,” and

Whereas, AFT-Oregon staff decades ago researched and compiled resolutions beginning from 1985 into a Word document searchable through ordinary document search features; and was continued through at least 2016; and

Whereas, the archive of resolutions is an historical resource that does not require original development, provides greater examination of AFT-Oregon policy positions adopted the State Federation convention, and allows leaders to build on these policy resolutions without re-inventing them; and

Whereas, institutional memory is preserved and available to new leaders when there is significant turnover of leaders and staff; and

Whereas, the critical preservation of governing records was modified by the Executive Council in 2014 by deleting from the *Business Document Retention/Destruction Schedule* the requirement for listing minutes among those items that should be permanently retained, as described in the *AFT Records Retention Guide for Locals* available through AFT Leadernet; and

Whereas, the guide recommendations follow federal guidelines on retention and have been adjusted for best practices recommended by the AFT archivist at the Walter P. Reuther Library; and

Whereas, the guide specifically includes that “Board Meeting minutes/agendas and related documents” are to be kept “permanently”; and

Whereas, with respect to the keeping minutes and agendas permanent, AFT-Oregon Executive Council may be inadvertently obscuring a complete record of its business through its recent practice of conducting substantial business and votes outside of meetings and meeting records when the subject and discussion or outside of regular meetings; and

Whereas, while the Executive Council *Electronic Mail Standards* (2023-25 Executive Council Handbook, Page 20) allows for electronic voting, it recognizes that “Official business requires a succinct, clear and retrievable record for verification of the actions of the Council should questions arise, for audits and for an historical record.” But when choosing to conduct an

electronic vote, “It is not intended to supplant the face-to-face decision making processes of AFT-Oregon Executive Council;” and

Whereas, the policy on voting between meetings (2023-25 Executive Council Handbook, Page 29) makes clear that the Executive Council only may conduct votes between meetings “when an emergency or other matter requires action between meetings and before the next scheduled meeting. The Executive Council may conduct votes when an emergency or other matter requires action between meetings and before the next scheduled meeting.” And

Whereas, the Executive Council use of significant voting outside of its regular meetings -- with more than 100 votes identified since beginning in July 2023 -- is inconsistent with the promise of transparency and maintenance of permanent records; now

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the AFT-Oregon Executive Council visit availability of resolutions; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that the AFT-Oregon Executive Council visit its decision-making outside of its meetings, permanent record-keeping requirements, and its obligation as a governing body to make and maintain accessible records consistent with legal requirements and Bylaw requirements for transparency and accessibility.

Submitted by AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter 8035R