



AFSCME 1624 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

APRIL 24, 2025 – 6PM | [ZOOM](#)

BOARD MEMBERS:

At Large:

Brydan Summers, President
Whitney Holt, Secretary-Treasurer
Ashlee Kraus, Recording Secretary

City Vice-Presidents:

Isaac Dill
Jason Lopez
Joel Manzo
Trish Niswander

County Vice-Presidents:

Jack Chincanchan
Armando Martinez
Tonya Nixon

BUSINESS MANAGER: Carol Guthrie

The AFSCME 1624 Executive Board will grow a well-informed, well served, well activated, and engaged membership that values equity and solidarity for all workers within and beyond our union.

Minutes

The general business membership meeting of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1624 was called to order at 6:01pm in the Texas AFL-CIO meeting room by Brydan Summers.

Board Members Absent

Jason Lopez
Joel Manzo
Trish Niswander
Jack Chincanchan
Armando Martinez
Tonya Nixon

REMINDER

Brydan Summers presented rules of engagement reminders and opened the floor for first time attendees to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Isaac Dill motioned to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2025, General Membership meeting. Theophilus Holley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT & GENERAL PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

2. Brydan Summers invited members to take part in a social bike ride after the meeting. Ride happens every Thursday. Ask Brydan Summers or Joel Manzo for more information.
3. Brydan Summers announced the County vs. City All-Star Baseball Game to benefit the Sobering Center at the Long Time Austin on Sunday, May 18 from 2pm-4pm.

4. City of Austin Emergency Management staff provided an update on City leadership advocating for the department to return to office 5 days per week. Current information is the department will be expected to return three days per week beginning in July 2025.

RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING MEMBERS

5. Brydan Summers announced that members can nominate other members for outstanding member recognition on our website www.afscme1624.org
6. Ashlee Kraus recognized Mike Conti - Library Associate, John Gillum Branch, Austin Public Library, City of Austin as outstanding member for April 2025.
7. Brydan Summers recognized Jessica Gonzalez, Development Services, City of Austin, who was awarded outstanding member in March 2025.

TREASURER'S REPORT

8. Whitney Holt presented the Treasurer's Report. Overall budget is in a good place with spending compared to revenue.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

9. Carol Guthrie presented the business manager's report with updates on budget outlooks at both the City and County. Commissioners and council members widely accept progressive pay scale. We do not yet have budget information for personnel from either the City or County.
Iris Suddaby asked about separate pay scales for ITS and Attorneys having their own pay scales. Carol gave some detailed information about the market study.
Mike Conti asked about bad weather pay being eliminated in favor of modified operations. There were further conversations with Jose Velasquez's office, and we plan to move on this after the budget sessions.
Ramsey Bissex asked clarifying questions about the progressive pay structure.
Ben Suddaby asked strategy questions around non-sworn employee pay and union position.

ORGANIZER'S REPORT

10. Mark Maldonado gave the organizer's report. The Local added 80 new members this month. We attended the county clerk picnic. The Write for Workers event was successful with over 400 postcards ready to send to potential new members. AFSCME 1624 can be found on Instagram, Twitter, Blue Sky, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL REPORT

11. Ben Suddaby reported on the Central Labor Council (CLC). He gave a brief overview of the purpose of the CLC and what they do in the local community. Ben provided solidarity updates and opportunities with sibling unions in town and calls for support. Ben gave updates on recent unionizing throughout the country.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

12. Brydan Summers gave the President's Report on items from the April 7, 2025, Executive Board meeting.
 - a. Executive Board Appointments – Brydan Summers was appointed President and Ashlee Kraus was appointed Recording Secretary.
 - b. Braden Latham-Jones was appointed as a delegate to the Central Labor Council occupying the seat previously held by Pedro Villalobos.
 - c. A \$500 contribution to the Worker's Memorial Day Event was tabled until the event is rescheduled.
 - d. Ashlee Kraus presented on the Day of Action on May 7th for Austin Public Health Committee Meeting beginning at 9:30am at City Hall.
 - e. Whitney Holt presented on the Texas AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention, June 26-28, San Antonio. The board will send ten delegates giving priority to at least 3 staff members, board members and CLC delegates.
 - f. Brydan Summers discussed the five-year budget forecast at City of Austin with an emphasis on protecting against layoffs. Members will be asked for their priorities on a potential Tax Rate Election (TRE) at a future meeting.
 - g. Brydan Summers discussed a recent resolution at City of Austin regarding Artificial Intelligence. AFSCME was successful in championing the adoption of AI guidelines, to include no displacement without consultations. The resolution included human worker protections. Whitney Holt asked if something similar can happen at the county with Brydan and staff committing to looking into it.

OLD BUSINESS

13. Brydan Summers gave the Legislative Update provided by Krissy O'Brien.
14. Brydan Summers recalled the Resolution on Policy Resolution and Motions at Executive Board Meetings and General Membership Meetings from the April General Membership meeting. Chris McConnell made a motion to send to committee. The motion was seconded. Brian Weldon made a substitute motion to replace the language in the original resolution. The motion was seconded. After spirited debate and discussion the substitute motion to replace the language in the resolution passed via simple majority of those present and on Zoom.
15. Ashlee Kraus presented a Social Committee update, inviting members and non-member coworkers to Meanwhile Brewing – 3901 Promontory Point 78744, Friday, May 30th at 5:30pm
16. Juany Torres provided the update on the Steward/Organizing Feasibility Committee. The goal is to have a liaison in every department in the County and City. Members can contact Juany Torres, Ramsey Bissex or Brydan Summers for more information or to join the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

17. Brydan Summers made a call for Elections Committee members to oversee Officer Nominations in September and the election in October. Members interested in joining the committee can reach out to Brydan at Brydan@afscme1624.org. More county representation is needed. The committee is working to identify how to best work with staff and colleagues. Next meeting is May 5, 2025, from 12pm-1pm. Meetings are usually on Mondays during lunchtime.

18. Brydan announced two vacancies on the executive board for First Vice President and City Vice President. An email with details on how to express interest will be sent out to the membership.
19. City of Austin Resource Recovery staff discussed the memo sent out from the City discussing the new contract with Sterling to run background checks. There is some concern because Sterling has a history of monitoring social media accounts and selling personal information. Brian Weldon made a motion for Chris Blanton to report back. The motion was seconded. The motion passed without objection. Chris Blanton committed to doing a public information request to investigate the terms of this agreement.
20. Paul Quinzi offered his services at the law library to help people in Travis County expunge records or otherwise clean up criminal background concerns. Paul can be reached at 512-854-1631.
21. City staff talked about a new location that may replace One Texas Center. Braden Latham-Jones is interested in meeting with other union members who work at One Texas Center. Braden can be reached at 512-689-8091. Andrew Rivera asked if AFSCME had considered speaking against the selling of One Texas Center due to the union's emphasis on telework in favor of adding more offices. We did not have an official position on this item, but the union would support members in OTC organizing around that cause.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.