

OCSEA AFSCME Local 11

Official Convention Call

***to Subordinate Body
Presidents & Secretaries***

for the

36th Biennial Convention

August 28-30, 2025

Cleveland, Ohio

This is the official Convention Call to all OCSEA subordinate bodies. Included in this call is important information about Convention registration, special events at the Convention, how to elect your delegates and more. Please read it carefully as this will be the only mailing providing you with the opportunity to register your delegates. NOTE: *The call is mailed to subordinate body presidents and secretaries and either forms can be used.*

When and Where

The convention will take place August 28 through August 30, 2025, at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown, 100 Lakeside Avenue East, Cleveland, OH 44114. The option to check in to the convention early is available on Wednesday, August 27th, starting at 5 pm. Overnight accommodations can be made at the Hilton by calling 216-413-5000, ext. 1, for room reservations. All convention events, with the exception of the Thursday night special event, will be held at the Hilton.



Convention Theme

“Solidarity is Our Strength”

This year’s convention theme, “Solidarity is Our Strength,” emphasizes the power of our union when we work together with unity and determination. As we gather for our biennial convention, there is much to discuss about the challenges and opportunities facing organized labor. Collective bargaining rights in Ohio are under attack once again and our union brothers and sisters in the federal workforce are losing their jobs in unprecedented numbers. Our theme also looks to the future of public service and how, by working together, we can grow and adapt to keep our union strong. As we have proven through the years, when we stand shoulder to shoulder as members and leaders of OCSEA, there is nothing we can’t accomplish through solidarity!

Delegates and Elections

Number of Delegates

Article IX of the OCSEA Constitution sets forth the formula for determining the number of delegates each chapter can send to the Convention.

Pursuant to the Constitution, the official count of delegates for this year's Convention cannot be certified until June 27th. Because it would be extremely late for Chapters to wait until June 27th to elect their delegates for an August 28th Convention, we are advising Chapters of the **probable** number of delegates they will be entitled to send.

Chapters should proceed to elect delegates to the OCSEA Convention—pursuant to the AFSCME Elections Code and our Constitution and By-Laws—based on the estimate of probable delegates indicated in this call. ***Another mailing confirming the number of delegates the chapter is entitled to send to Convention will be mailed out on June 27, 2025, only to those chapters with an increase or decrease in delegates.***

Whether the chapter is entitled to additional or fewer delegates, the Chapter President will be required to use the initial delegate election results for this change. If the number allowed increases, the next highest vote getter will be moved to delegate status. If the number allowed decreases, the delegate who received the least votes will be moved to alternate status. Note: you are not required to send an alternate and the delegate can be moved to not attending.

All Chapters are entitled to send the Chapter President and one delegate to the Convention. If the Chapter President is a delegate-at-large by virtue of being a member of the Board of Directors, or an Assembly or District Council President, the Chapter Vice President, shall attend as the delegate-at-large in the President's place. (See Article IX, Section 1(A) for the full substitution rules). Additionally, each Chapter is entitled to one additional delegate for each 100 members.

As an example, a Chapter with 170 members would be entitled to three delegates (President, plus one, plus one delegate based on its membership size.) Chapters are also entitled to elect an alternate for each delegate, which in this example would include 3 alternates. Alternates may attend the Convention as observers, but do not have floor privileges unless they are moved up and seated as delegates by the Credentials Committee. Alternates

will be given a Convention kit only if a registration fee of \$25 is paid in advance for them.

Your Delegate Count

Each District Council and Assembly can send one delegate and one alternate. Follow the other delegates at large section below for selection.

Chapters whose current membership hovers around the "100's" mark have the greatest potential for a change in final delegate count. As stated earlier, if the number of delegates you are entitled to changes as a result of the June 27th certification, you will be notified by mail to the Chapter Presidents and Secretaries. You may rely upon this letters' numbers **unless** you are notified to the contrary.

Other Delegates at Large

In addition to Chapter delegates, the OCSEA Officers, Board Members, Assembly Presidents and District Council Presidents are delegates at large to the Convention. If an Assembly or District Council President is unable to attend the Convention, the Vice President shall be the delegate. Any further substitution is governed by Article IX, Section 1(A). There is no right of substitution for a Board Member.

Delegate Elections

All delegates to the Convention must be elected pursuant to the same rules that apply to the election of any OCSEA/AFSCME officer. **This means that all eligible members must be given written notice of the election by mail to their last known address at least 15 calendar days prior to nominations and elections. Those chapters who do not conduct elections in compliance with this rule may find delegates challenged and possibly stripped of their delegate status.**

Keep in mind the union office must receive requests for election notice mailers 23 calendar days prior to the date of the nomination to get your mailing out on time. **NOTE: Notices that cannot be mailed at least 15 calendar days in advance of the nominations will not be mailed.** Upon receiving your timely request, the union office will mail out the notice and deduct the cost of the mailing from your next rebate.

To assist subordinate bodies in the election of delegates, OCSEA offers a post card service to notify members of an upcoming election. To request a Delegate Election Notice postcard, subordinate body Presidents or Secretaries can do one of the following:

Go to **ocsea.org/meetingnotices** and complete the required fields. Choose "In a direct mailing piece (postcard)" under publication options. *Please note, the deadline to publish delegate election notices in the union magazine has passed.*

OR

Send an email to meetingnotices@ocsea.org. Include the following: *Subordinate Body name; Nominations, Elections and Run-Offs Time (start and end); Location(s) with full address; and follow up contact person and phone number. Please make sure to include any special instructions.*

Registration and Logistics

How to Register

All delegates and alternates must register on the enclosed forms. The delegate form and/or the alternate form must be returned to the OCSEA office by **5:00 p.m. on August 8th, 2025**. To facilitate the processing of registration forms and the appointment of Convention committees, we ask you to send delegate and alternate forms ASAP.

To be considered for a convention committee, **elected delegates** can submit the committee preference forms, starting June 2nd, 2025, and must be received by July 10, 2025. Note: given the size of our convention, not all delegates will receive a committee assignment. Contact Gina Ison at gison@ocsea.org for any questions.

The form is online only this year and can be found at:



All registrations must be accompanied with a check for the appropriate amount. There is no charge for Delegate or Alternate registration. The convention kit is provided to all delegates. However, if an alternate wants to receive the convention kit, a \$25 fee must be paid in advance. See the enclosed instructions on the registration form for full details.

Registrations received after August 8th will be considered late registrations. Delegates, except automatic delegates, will not be seated until after the Credentials Committee makes its report. This involves a trip to the Credentials Committee to get your status resolved and then waiting for the Convention body to accept the Credentials Committee report, after the Convention opening remarks and speakers, before you can be issued a delegate's badge and seated as a delegate.

Documents will be sent to attendees' emails during the convention. Please fill out your **personal email address on the credential paperwork to ensure you receive these documents.**

Lodging

Lodging will be available at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown, 100 Lakeside Avenue East, Cleveland, OH 44114. For reservations, please contact the hotel directly at 216-413-5000, ext. 1 or visit <https://book.passkey.com/go/OHCSEA>. Mention OCSEA when booking. The Room rate is **\$189.00 plus tax** for single/double and **\$214.00 plus tax** for triple occupancy. **The deadline for reservations is August 5, 2025.**

For any questions regarding the hotel, please contact Gina Ison at gison@ocsea.org or Theresa Smith at tsmith@ocsea.org.

Parking

The Hilton has a parking garage. The cost is \$45/night for self-park and \$55/night for valet.

Events

Special Event: On Thursday evening, August 28th, there will be a special event at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium. Further details will be announced from the convention floor. This event has no cost for delegates and alternates to attend. The cost for guests is \$10.

Convention Reception: A Convention Reception will take place at the Hilton, Friday evening, August 29th. There is no charge for Delegates and Alternates to attend. Additional tickets for guests

can be purchased at \$20 each. Drinks and heavy appetizers are included.

OCSEA's Minority and Community Affairs and Women's Action Committee Lunch

Both Committees will host their luncheon on Thursday, August 28th. Tickets are \$45.00 and are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Refunds will only be made for checks received after the lunch is sold out. If there are any tickets left after registration, they will be sold at the Convention customer service.

New Delegate Workshop

Each year a New Delegate workshop is conducted. The workshop is a great place for any delegate (not just the new ones) to get information on how the Convention is run, parliamentary procedure, rules of the Convention and other helpful tips for delegates. The workshop will be held on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

Convention Business

Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments

In accordance with Article XVI of the OCSEA Constitution, proposed amendments to the Constitutions and By Laws must be submitted in writing to the OCSEA office, Attn: Layne Reed, by **5:00 p.m. on June 20th** to ensure that such amendments can be distributed to all chapter presidents at least 30 days prior to the Convention. Subordinate bodies may be asked to submit a copy of the body's minutes showing that the body did adopt the recommended amendment at a meeting of the body.

Constitutional amendments received after June 20th will not be considered by the Convention. Proposed amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws or Subordinate Body Constitution must be signed by the President and one other officer of the subordinate body proposing the amendment. At the Convention, a two-thirds vote is required for amending the Constitution. Amendments to the By-Laws or Subordinate Body Constitution require a simple majority vote.

The delegates to Convention also consider **Resolutions** for adoption. Resolutions put the union on record as supporting various issues such as anti-privatization, for example. They do not involve amending the Constitution or By-Laws. Resolutions must be submitted in writing to the OCSEA office, Attn: Kiere Miller, by **5:00 p.m. on**

August 8th. Resolutions submitted after August 8th will not be considered by the Convention.

In this mailing are forms on which proposed amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, Subordinate Body Constitution, or Proposed Resolutions can be submitted. If your chapter is planning on proposing a large number of amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws, it would be appreciated if they are submitted via email to Layne Reed at lreed@ocsea.org. The preferred format is Microsoft Word.

QUESTIONS

General/Committees: Gina Ison
614-865-4706
800-969-4702
gison@ocsea.org

Registration/Credentials: Theresa Smith
614-865-4714
800-969-4702
tsmith@ocsea.org

Constitutions/
Amendments: Layne Reed/Patti Hill
614-865-4719/614-865-4709
800-969-4702
lreed@ocsea.org
phill@ocsea.org

Resolutions: Kiere Miller
614-865-2605
800-969-4702
kmiller@ocsea.org

Send credential forms to: Theresa Smith
Email: tsmith@ocsea.org
Fax: 614-865-4030
or mail: 390 Worthington Road
Westerville, OH 43082