



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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MATTHEW S. BIGGS
President

GAY HENSON
Secretary-Treasurer

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

John Mader
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
WESTERN

Katie Barrows
SOUTHEAST

John Dimas
SPEEA

Ben Emmel
EASTERN FEDERAL

Frances Hsieh
WESTERN

Michelle Johnston
CANADIAN

R Matthew Joyce
SPEEA

Joan Mah
WESTERN

Richard Mahé
CANADIAN

Sean P. McBride
ATLANTIC

Steven Pinto
ATLANTIC

Denise Robinson
NORTHEAST

Ryan Rule
SPEEA

Jamie Uyeunten
WESTERN FEDERAL

Gus Vallejo
WESTERN

IFPTE Executive Council Meeting **Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 1-4 pm** **Agenda**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82673799993>

The following members of the Executive Council were in attendance and introduced themselves:

Matt Biggs, President
Gay Henson, Secretary-Treasurer
John Mader, Executive Vice President, Western Area
Katie Barrows, Vice President, Southeast Area
John Dimas, Vice President, SPEEA Area
Frances Hsieh, Vice President, Western Area
Michelle Johnston, Vice President, Canadian Area
Matthew Joyce, Vice President SPEEA Area
Richard Mahé, Vice President, Canadian Area
Sean McBride, Vice President, Atlantic Area
Steven Pinto, Vice President, Atlantic Area
Denise Robinson, Vice President, Northeast Area
Ryan Rule, Vice President, SPEEA Area
Jamie Uyeunten, Vice President, Western Federal Area
Gus Vallejo, Vice President, Western Area

Western Federal Area Vice President, Dr. Joan Mah, had an excused absence.

In attendance as observers and guests were Assistant to the Executive Officers Brian Kildee, Legislative Director Faraz Khan, General Counsel Teresa Ellis, Convention Coordinator/Meeting Planner Candace Rhett, and Office Secretary Karen Nairn.

1. **Welcome/Report from the Executive Officers**

President Biggs welcomed the Council and stated the meeting will include the approval of the three-year budget recommendation for the Convention Finance Committee to consider. Once recommended by the Council, it will be sent to the Convention Finance Committee Chair Jimmy Mathis.

2. **Appointment and Swearing-in of Eastern Federal Area Vice President.**

According to the IFPTE Constitution Section 7.4 vacancies in office occurring between conventions shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Council of a

qualified member to serve until the convention. Therefore, the Executive Council considered its appointment to the position of Eastern Federal Area Vice President to replace Renae McKenzie. Vice President McKenzie had been on the Council since 2021. She notified President Biggs on February 28th that she accepted a job that is not represented by IFPTE. The International notified all Locals on March 7th, and two candidates were nominated to fill the position - IFPTE Local 1921 President Ben Emmel and IFPTE Local 98 President Chris Dols. Many Eastern Federal Area Locals in good standing expressed support for Ben Emmel. Chris Dols was nominated and supported by his Local, Local 98.

Vice President Joyce – Motion to Elect Ben Emmel to the Position of Federal Area Vice President

Vice President Robinson – Second

Vote – Passed

Unanimous

President Biggs contacted Ben by phone and asked him to join in the meeting. He congratulated Ben as the new Vice President of the Eastern Federal Area. Biggs added that Ben is a good trade unionist and is a good addition to the Council. Secretary-Treasurer Henson swore Ben Emmel into office as the Eastern Federal Area Vice President.

Newly elected Vice President Emmel commented that he is honored to be in this role, noting that the federal sector in the United States is a pivotal time in history and it is critical that IFPTE locals work together in addressing the issues of importance facing IFPTE members employed by the federal government.

3. **Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) Council update and possible Executive Council Action**

President Biggs and Secretary-Treasurer gave a report on the status of the ACE Council and discussed questions about whether the ACE Council was in fact chartered nearly 23 years ago at a previous IFPTE Executive Council meeting. Biggs and Henson reported that there are meeting minutes that show that the Council approved creating a charter but that there is no record of how votes were conducted in the various locals, no evidence that a charter was formally completed, and no charter found in the IFPTE archives or produced by the ACE Council.

In addition, Biggs reported that if the ACE Council were in fact a properly chartered labor organization under IFPTE that they would have had to file LM forms with the Department of Labor; however, not a single LM form was ever filed for the ACE Council.

Biggs and Henson further reported that research on the ACE Council history shows that the ACE Council was formed about 23 years ago and IFPTE billed and collected from participating ACE Council Locals 50 cents, per member, per month on behalf of participating ACE Council Locals for ACE Council dues. Biggs reported that this is not the case for any chartered IFPTE Council or body. When the current ACE Council representatives decided to try to resurrect the ACE Council a couple of years ago (with the full blessing of IFPTE) and asked for the dues money to be transmitted again to a separate ACE Council bank account the International accommodated that

request, as it was past practice before the ACE council went defunct many years ago. However, the International later requested that any ACE Council expenditures be approved by the IFPTE executive officers, as it was the International collecting the funds and filing LM reports, not the ACE Council.

Biggs and Henson noted that the International consulted with outside counsel who advised that based on the IFPTE Constitution and the lack of a formal charter, coupled with the fact that the ACE Council was dormant for many years and has never filed LM forms, the IFPTE Executive Council could vote to revoke the ACE Council Charter, if it ever existed in the first place.

Biggs and Henson noted that given what has been learned about the creation of the ACE Council, particularly with respect to the collection of dues, that all monies collected for ACE Council dues should be proportionally distributed back to the ACE Council participating Locals, and that any future collections cease.

Vice President Joyce: Motion that the ACE Council was never properly chartered and did not fulfill its duties as a chartered council under IFPTE, and that even if a charter did exist at some point, that the charter be revoked and that all ACE Council monies be given back to ACE Council participating locals.
Executive Vice President Mader – Second
Vote – Passed
Unanimous

4. **Convention Business**

Biggs reported that the Council must vote on a three-year budget recommendation for the Finance Committee. Per Capita tax – The recommended per capita tax for the next three Fiscal Years (FY) is FY26 - .27 cents; FY 27 .28 cents; and FY28 .29 cents. The recommended per capita tax was based on projected inflation over that year period.

- Biggs and Henson reported that Fiscal Year 2025 - starts April 1. The per capita tax increase for this coming fiscal year was set at the 2021 convention at \$0.18.
- For Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, 2027, and 2028, the per capita tax is calculated using \$0.27, \$0.28, \$0.29 that is based on estimated 2.8% increase over the current per capita, rational being.
- IFPTE's per capita tax increase at the last convention averaged about 2%, far below the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rates. For example, the Minneapolis Fed Reserve reported that the CPI was 8% in 2022 and 4.1% in 2023, far below our per capita tax increase.
- The numbers in the budget recommendation considered by the Council balance the costs the International has experienced over the past years with the projections we expect to spend in the next three years.
- The budget considered recommends a \$0.27, \$0.28 and \$0.29 per capita increase for IFPTE's FY26, 27 and 28 cycles, to fund the projected expenditures.
- The Executive Council's final recommendation will be given to Brother Jimmie Mathis (Finance Committee Chair), and the members of Finance Committee to work with, amend and recommend to the delegates at the convention.

After a thorough review by the Council of the three-year budget projections, including questions and clarifications, Biggs asked for a Motion to recommend the Budget by the Executive Council.

Vice President Joyce – Motion to Approve the Recommended Budget by the Executive Council to the 61st Convention

Vice President Robinson - Second

Vote – Passed

Unanimous

5. Convention Planning Update (Candace Rhett to outline the Convention Agenda/Events)

Candace Rhett, Convention Coordinator/Meeting Planner updated the Council on Convention dates and details including, travel dates, committee assignments and speakers along with the timeline of the Convention. The Convention Rules will be updated from the 59th Rules because the 60th convention was held virtually.

- A) Committee assignments (list provided as read-ahead document prior to meeting)
- B) Committee schedules (*Note: Resolutions and Amendments from Locals are due to be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer by May 9, 2024*)
 - Policy (to meet virtually on June 13th)
 - Law (to meet virtually June 18, 19 or 20)
 - Finance Committee (to meet virtually on June 3rd)
 - Credentials (to meet virtually on July 2nd) – *note: Credentials from Locals are due to the International by June 24, 2024*
- C) Preliminary Convention schedule

Former President of IFPTE Local 1921 Ron La Due Lake, will be the Parliamentarian.

Executive Council Pre-Convention Meeting will be July 6

Executive Council Post-Convention Meeting will be July 12

Sunday - Federal Caucus - July 7th - Registration Fee \$100.

Monday - Convention opens with a full agenda of keynote speakers, allowing 15-20 minutes for speakers – topics to be announced.

Tuesday – Committees will work together prior to the convention as well at the convention, Monday through Wednesday if necessary.

Wednesday – Nomination of officers at 10am

Thursday – Election of officers 10am.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Workshops on energy, legislative, race relations, etc.

Consideration and Approval of any Executive Council Resolutions and Amendments

Review of Resolutions and Amendments submitted by Locals thus far.

Executive Council members and staff will be on the master rooming list. Guests should register using the Hilton link to get discounted rates. Registration will be continually updated. will have an attendee hub, and app for delegates.

Registration fees will increase after June 24th. Any cancellations, IFPTE will retain \$75 to cover the cost expensed for Food and Beverage.

Convention timelines and planning documents have been sent to locals. An internal timeline to be reviewed with the Council. The Run of Show will be provided to staff and convention operations. After much research into electronic voting, we found nothing that fits our needs. Therefore, we will be using paper ballots for election of officers.

President Biggs stated that convention rules will be followed and that the code of conduct, to include meeting decorum and proper behavior, will be strictly adhered to.

6. Union Council 8 Financial Recovery Plan – Update on the three-year financial recovery plan that Union Council 8 has been adhering to, and possible vote on forgiving their past arrears in dues and reestablishing them back in good standing.
President Biggs stated that the three-year financial recovery plan with NJCSA 8 ends on April 1, 2024. The leadership has done an outstanding job in turning the Local around. The local signed an agreement and have been paying on time and have paid \$72,000 over the last three years. VPs McBride and Pinto complimented the great work of Union Council 8 leaders and advocated for them being put back in good standing.

Vice President McBride – A Motion for forgiving NJCSA 8, their past arrears in dues and re-establishing them back in Good Standing

Vice President Pinto - Second

Vote – Passed

Unanimous

7. **Planning for Upcoming Meetings:**

Post-Convention Executive Council meeting – July 12th Time 9am-1pm; Travel Day - July 13th

- 2024 Fall Executive Council Meeting – IFPTE traditionally does not hold Executive Council meetings in the Fall during a Convention year. This is for two reasons: Budgetary purposes to avoid another high-cost event after expending considerable resources on the Convention, and because the two minimum Council meeting requirements called for in the Constitution would already have been met. If there is a need to hold a meeting in the Fall of 2024, it will be held virtually in November.
- 2025 Spring Executive Council Meeting – Tentative/Proposed dates are May 15th and 16th. The location is either in DC or Las Vegas.

In Solidarity,



Gay Henson, Secretary-Treasurer

Meeting Adjourned at 3:50pm