

Minutes
February 12, 2026
Southcentral Chapter Meeting
Online via Zoom

Mike Miller, chapter chair, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Mike reported on Virta program sign up and requirements. Plan participants taking GLP-1 for weight loss must sign up for Virta by April 1, 2026, to obtain prescriptions. This does not apply to those using GLP-1 to manage diabetes.

Virta requires weekly weigh-ins, and you must report side effects. Prescriptions will only be provided for 30 days of use. You can get a 90-day prescription before you sign up for Virta.

Mike attended a Virta presentation given to the Health Benefits Evaluation Committee. He noted there are more people signed up for Virta than using GLP-1 prescriptions as of the presentation. Virta includes other programs for lifestyle and weight maintenance. There may be other conditions besides BMI that might make you eligible to use GLP-1, such as sleep apnea.

Mike wants feedback on member experience with Virta and GLP-1. One concern is that Virta requirements will take precedent over a trusted doctor.

Barbara Strong, APEA/AFT staff member in Anchorage, reported on issues regarding remote work. A memo regarding remote work in inclement weather was circulated after Southeast storms wreaked havoc, requiring people to work if they were working remotely. Barbara asked SU employees to contact [Agel Collins](#), APEA/AFT staff member in Juneau, if you were not allowed to [use administrative leave when offices were closed](#) for inclement weather. Barbara also reported on reaching an agreement with the Department of Administration regarding timing and resolution of [notices of pay problem filings \(NOPP\)](#). The issue did not go to arbitration.

Barbara also announced members can get a “geo-diff” if they supervise someone with a higher geographic differential. Contact APEA/AFT for help with “geo-diff”. This is different than a supervisor differential. You must be in the same location as the direct report.

Mike announced the [2026 APEA/AFT Caucus](#) will be held in October 2026. Each union presents recommendations on where our Statewide affiliate should go. SU is the biggest local, we have 18 [19] delegates to caucus. Certain delegate seats are filled by current board members, chapter chairs, and chapter vice chairs.

Mike announced a series of elections in the coming months. Nominations for chapter chair and vice chair will be accepted starting March 1, 2026. The nomination period will be announced by mail.

Nominations for negotiators will be accepted later in the year so a negotiating team can be in place by December. The negotiators will be ready to meet with Department of Administration negotiators by the beginning of 2027. The local will build a contract action team by that time. Continue to maintain membership information for voting.

Mike announced members will see additional information regarding an APEA/AFT dues increase. An amendment to allow the APEA/AFT board to establish dues was voted down in a vote by all 24 locals in 2025. The APEA/AFT board responded to members to develop information on dues increases. Mike acknowledged he has been on the executive board for 10 years and the APEA/AFT budget is getting tighter. Mike Williams, SU Secretary/Treasurer gave additional context on the dues increase. The proposal will include a set dollar amount with a single-digit increase. There is no proposal before members yet.

Questions asked during the good of the order included requests for membership numbers, salary study hearings and results update, and which ranges are outside of the target range for salary updates, including administrative positions. It was announced the new head of the Department of Administration Division of Personnel wants another salary study. New wage schedules would need to be negotiated if there is a new salary study. A new study should not be warranted if SU gets information from the first salary study. Also, a member requested a Virta forum. A member requested open negotiations. Another member replied the State doesn't want open collective bargaining.

The next chapter meeting was announced for Thursday, April 9, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

The meeting participant list was used to complete the employee representative roll call.

Last	First or Nickname	Present
Bukovich	Lorena	
Foster	Jason	Yes
Heusser	Heather	Yes
Kusche	Kara	
McDonald	Kelly	
McDonald	Norm	
Milburn	James	
Miller	Mike	Yes
Mueller	Marta	Yes
Mullen	Janelle	
Paperman	David	Yes
Sanders	Cris	
Shryock	Benjamin	Yes
Stewart	Kandi	Yes

Vey	Kelli	
Watson	Tyler	Yes
Williams	Mike	Yes

Approximately 95 members and staff participated. SU President Jesse Slone joined the meeting as well.