

Minutes
July 9, 2026
Southcentral Chapter Meeting
Online via Teams

Tyler Watson, chapter chair, called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm. He presented the agenda and explained how to participate in Good of the Order by raising a hand or sending topics to the chapter chair and vice chair in advance.

Marta Mueller, chapter vice chair, called the employee representative roll.

Last	First or Nickname	Present
Bukovich	Rena	
Foster	Jason	X
Heusser	Heather	X
McDonald	Kelly	X
Milburn	James	
Miller	Mike	X
Mueller	Marta (Chapter Vice Chair)	X
Mullen	Janelle	X
Paperman	Dave	X
Sanders	Cris	X
Shryock	Ben	
Stewart	Kandi	X
Vey	Kelli	
Watson	Tyler (Chapter Chair)	X
Williams	Mike (Statewide Secretary)	Excused

Tyler introduced himself as the new chapter vice chair as of July 1, 2026. He described his work at the Department of Public Safety, number of years as a Supervisory Unit member, and leadership roles as SU employee representative and EPIC director for APEA. Tyler expressed his enthusiasm to increase member engagement and membership. He provided personal contact information to participants, encouraging them to use the information for topics that members do not want to share on the State of Alaska network. He acknowledged the meeting had a different format than in the past and thanked participants for patience with technical issues.

Sean Tupper, Field Representative, gave the APEA staff update. He announced the next series of Union 101 and Employee Representative virtual training sessions listed on the [APEA-AFT training and events page](#). He described the topics covered. Sean discussed some of the benefits available to members and requested the notes contain the following links and contact information.

- [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#)
- [SU Local 4900 Website](#)
- [APEA-AFT Website](#)
- [APEA-AFT Legal Trust](#)
- [AFT+ Member Benefits](#)
- [Union Plus Member Benefits](#)

Sean Tupper
Field Representative
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Anchorage

Lindsay Kavanaugh
Assistant Business Manager
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Jeff Kasper
Business Manager
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Juneau

Tyler announced upcoming events for the quarter.

- July – August: Negotiator nominations and elections
- July – September: Statewide APEA, EPIC nominations
- August 3 – 7: Back to School Events in Anchorage and the Valley
- August 31: [Dependent scholarship for graduating seniors application deadline](#)
- August – September: [Caucus](#) delegate nominations and elections
- August – October: [APEA Trainings](#)
- September: Tentative trip to the Peninsula
- October 23 – 24: [APEA Biennial Caucus](#) in Anchorage

Tyler also announced recurring events.

- Quarterly chapter meetings are at noon on the second Thursday of the first month of the quarter.
- New member orientations are at noon on the third Thursday of each month by Teams.

Marta presented highlights from the annual membership meeting on June 25, 2026. Mike Williams is responsible for the annual membership meeting minutes. The minutes from the 2025 meeting were approved at the meeting and should be posted soon. The minutes for the 2026 meeting will be posted after approval at the next annual membership meeting in 2027.

- Jesse Slone gave his president's report.
 - He described his work looking at the number of positions in the bargaining unit and turnover.
 - There are approximately 2,380 positions in the bargaining unit, down 59 from FY2025. There were over 250 hires to the bargaining unit in FY2026. Approximately 70 hires were new to state service.
 - Turnover is about 12.8%. Approximately 311 employees left state service. Overall, there have been about 200 positions that remain unfilled over the past few fiscal years. The biggest changes are in DFG, Health, DOT, Corrections.
 - Jesse gave an update on pay issues after related to the FY2025 salary study. We are underpaid by 1 – 2 ranges, not steps. SU and ASEA are still trying to get records to see how fairly the study was contracted.
 - Jesse plans to continue to work with Legislators on issues that affect us that aren't part of collective bargaining, such as a defined contribution plan for public employees. Pay attention to who is elected in November. We will have to

negotiate with a new governor and make sure increases are included in the budget passed by the next Legislature.

- Jesse obtained a certificate from the AFT-Cornell Collective Bargaining Certificate Program from the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution. The program is part of the Cornell University [School of Industrial and Labor and Relations](#).
- Jesse also attended training for retirement plan management because it appears DOA DRB isn't sending employees to plan management training.
- Mike Williams presented the FY2027 operating budget. There is no capital budget.
- The results of the Statewide Secretary/Treasurer nominations and elections were announced. Mike Williams from DOR will continue as our SU Secretary/Treasurer effective July 1, 2026.
- The results of the Southcentral and Northern Region Chapter chair and vice chair nominations and elections were announced. Tyler Watson from DPS is the new chapter chair. Marta Mueller from DNR will continue as the vice chair.
- Business Manager Jeff Kasper in Juneau gave an association report.
 - The APEA-AFT budget is tight. There is one less field representative position because of cost increases. The dues haven't been increased in 13 years. The association dues are different than the SU dues of \$1 per month. APEA-AFT dues fund association operations, including support from the national AFT affiliate.
 - Look toward renewing altered work week and telework agreements in July.
- Mike Williams announced there will be an SU dependent scholarship again this year. There aren't scholarships for members yet because of laws prohibiting direct payments to union members. The SU needs to find a different funding mechanism to offer member scholarships.

Marta announced chapter meeting notes and annual membership meeting minutes are posted to the [Local 4900 website](#).

Tyler reminded members that the wage increase as of July 1, 2026, is 2.5%. The increase should be on the wage stub for the pay period with July 1 in it.

Tyler opened the floor for the Good of the Order. Members were asked to raise their hand in Teams to be recognized or post questions and comments in the meeting Q and A. Members were encouraged to email the chapter chair and vice chair with questions that needed more context or research. This section includes on-mic questions and comments as well as Q and A comments through the meeting.

What is the strategy to increase membership? Continue to reach out to potential new members on hire lists and provide new member orientations.

Why was a particular candidate endorsed by APEA? The candidate was considered based on support for return to defined benefits (pensions), support for pay increases, and support

for lifting the hiring freeze. Tyler is a voting member of the APEA political action committee, EPIC. He would like to keep politics out of day-to-day operations. Discussions of political nature should be made off SOA resources.

Will health care premiums increase this year? We won't know what the premiums are until open enrollment starts in November 2026. Our representation on the Health Benefits Evaluation Committee is Mike Miller with DOR.

Will the meeting be recorded to watch later? No, the meetings will not be recorded. Some people are not comfortable with being recorded. Meeting notes will be posted on the [Local 4900 website](#).

Are there plans to offer the second part of the Employee Representative training? No, the APEA training sessions have been revamped. Marta plans on providing training specific to SU and is developing a manual. The APEA training is for all 24 APEA locals in the state.

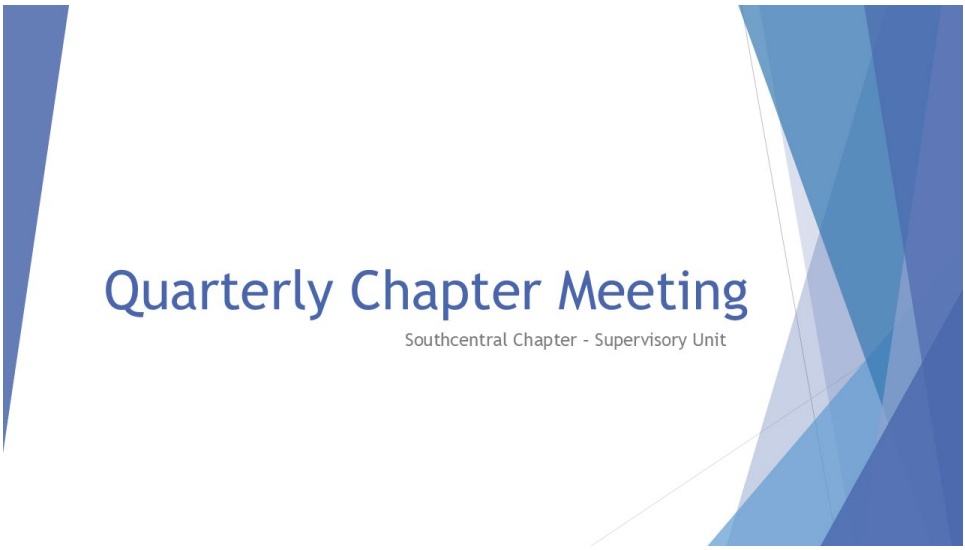
Is the dependent scholarship just for graduating seniors? It appears the scholarship is for graduating seniors, according to the [application form](#). Look for changes in coming years.

When and how can we propose topics for the next round of negotiations? Members can propose topics for the next round of negotiations at any time. Please email our negotiators from the [Local 4900 contact list](#). Copy Tyler and Marta, your chapter chair and vice chair.

Approximately 48 members, APEA/AFT staff, and work sites participated.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm.

The agenda slides follow.



Quarterly Chapter Meeting

Southcentral Chapter - Supervisory Unit

Updated agenda

- ▶ Employee Representative roll call
- ▶ New chapter chair introduction
- ▶ APEA Staff update
- ▶ Upcoming events
 - ▶ SU Dependent scholarship
 - ▶ Negotiator nominations and elections
 - ▶ Caucus
 - ▶ APEA Trainings
 - ▶ Recurring quarterly chapter meetings
 - ▶ Recurring new member orientations
- ▶ Information
 - ▶ Highlights from annual meeting
 - ▶ Chapter meeting notes available on website
- ▶ Good of the Order
 - ▶ Thank you for raising your hand
 - ▶ Email the chairs for next meeting's topics

New chapter chair introduction

- ▶ Tyler Watson
- ▶ Information Officer 3
- ▶ Department of Public Safety

- ▶ Contact information:
- ▶ Tyler.watson@alaska.gov



APEA Staff update

- ▶ Southcentral Regional Field Office in Anchorage
- ▶ Contact information online at www.afea-aft.org

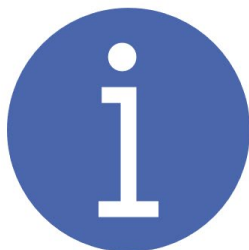
FY 2027 First quarter events

- ▶ July - August - Negotiator nominations and elections
- ▶ July - September - Statewide APEA, EPIC nominations
- ▶ August 3 - 7 - Back to School Events in Anchorage and the Valley
- ▶ August 31 - Dependent scholarship deadline
- ▶ August - September - Caucus delegate nominations and elections
- ▶ August - October - APEA Trainings
- ▶ September - Tentative trip to the Peninsula
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Recurring chapter events

- ▶ Quarterly chapter meetings the second Thursday of the first month of the quarter
- ▶ New member orientations the third Thursday of each month by Teams



Information

- ▶ Highlights from June annual meeting
- ▶ Meeting notes are posted to Local 4900 website
- ▶ Look for changes in SU contact information with the start of the new fiscal year!
- ▶ Wage increase as of July 1 is 2.5%

For the good of the order

