

# **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

2016 Resolution

## **OFT Resolution: Member Engagement**

1 WHEREAS, we are proud members of the American labor movement, and we  
2 understand that collective action gives us the power to ensure justice, fairness and  
3 opportunity for all; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, our union was founded over 75 years ago to establish a voice for  
6 teachers as workers so they could combat factory-like conditions in our schools,  
7 advocate for fair pay and better working conditions, and stand up for greater  
8 autonomy as professionals and advocates for their students; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, today, the Ohio Federation of Teachers is a union of professionals that  
11 champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public  
12 education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our  
13 communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community  
14 engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially  
15 through the work our members do; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, we are fighting a battle of immense proportions that threatens to destroy  
18 all we and others in the labor movement have worked for. This battle is ultimately  
19 over who holds the power in our economy and our democracy. It is a battle to reclaim  
20 the promise of America; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, to combat those who wish to undermine unions, we must strengthen the  
23 bond with all members. We must show them that workers are the union. We must  
24 engage in a collective conversation about the challenges we face, the aspirations we  
25 have and the strategies we must implement. We must create the collective will and  
26 shared avenues for our members, along with community partners, to fight those  
27 obstacles and reach those aspirations:  
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED, that our union will increase member activists to 10 percent,  
30 increase the number of members who engage in any union activities to 70 percent,  
31 and reach out and speak to 100 percent of our members. And while less than 10  
32 percent of those we represent are agency fee payers, we will reach all of them, with  
33 the goal of their choosing to have their voices heard as union members; and  
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will be accountable to each other—activists  
36 and leaders on the local and state levels —to achieve these goals; and that the state  
37 union will support this recommitment, to our members, to our families, to our  
38 communities and to our ideals in every way possible; and  
39

40 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we look forward to taking what was to be—as the  
41 Louisiana Association of Business and Industry called it—a "fatal spear through the  
42 heart" of labor and transforming that into a revival of the soul of this union, our  
43 members. Our soul, our heart, our courage and our power lie with our members and  
44 our communities, and always have. Through this journey of engaging with our  
45 members and potential members across the country, we will honor and build on the  
46 proud history of our union, counter the forces attacking our democracy and our labor  
47 movement, and continue to reclaim the promise of America for all of us.