

APWU Local 497 Delegates for Western Mass Area Labor Federation

What is the Western Mass Area Labor Federation? The WMALF is a group of the three different Central Labor Councils within the area of Western Massachusetts that consolidated to become an Area Labor Federation. The current ALF is a combination of different labor unions and other groups whose focus is to make working conditions better for workers.

There are many different ways that the ALF supports workers in the area. Working in cities and towns to get them to pass wage theft ordinances. It might be supporting workers who are trying to form a union or supporting nurses in their quest to achieve safe staffing levels. You also might be asked to support other unions when needed.

On the political front the ALF supports local politicians who have requested support and went through the vetting process. That might mean joining a labor walk or stand out.

The best way to understand more about what the ALF is about would be to become a member and attend a meeting or two as a delegate of Local 497.

Delegates to the ALF are simply representatives from each labor body to the organization. The first expectation of a delegate from this local would be to attend meetings. When I started in the CLC I was told that no one expected me to go to every meeting but to attend some. Meetings are on the second Monday of the Month. During COVID these meetings were all via Zoom. Now that things are returning to normal it has been decided that every other meeting will be done via Zoom with the odd month meetings being conducted live. Each live meeting will be held in a different area of the three former CLC's. They are Berkshires, Western Mass (generally Northampton) and Pioneer Valley.

If you are a member in good standing and are interested in becoming a delegate to WMALF please contact the APWU Local 497 union hall at 413 543-1146.