



To: Affiliated Locals and State Federations

From: Lorretta Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer

Date: August 15, 2017

Subject: Agency Fee Rates 2017-2018

The American Federation of Teachers has carefully analyzed and followed, in consultation with its attorneys and auditors, the legal standards governing the portion of the agency fee (fair share fee) that is chargeable and the amount that is non-chargeable (rebateable) to the agency fee payer.

The attached AFT agency fee report includes the calculation of chargeable and non-chargeable expenses and related chargeable and non-chargeable percentages of the AFT and the report of the independent auditors, Calibre CPA Group, PLLC for the year ended April 30, 2017. Based on the allocation of total expenses for the year, the AFT agency fee and per capita rates for the 2017-2018 year are as follows:

- AFT Convention approved per capita rates effective September 1, 2017 = \$19.28 per month (full dues payer); \$9.64 (half dues payer); \$4.82 (quarter dues payer); and \$2.41 (eighth dues payer)
- Chargeable percentage for 2017-2018 (effective 9/1/17) = 65.74%
- Non-chargeable percentage for 2017-2018 (effective 9/1/17) = 34.26%

No expenses have been included in the AFT agency fee calculation for the occupational liability or AD&D insurance. If your local provides these insurances (one or both) to an agency fee payer, they should be listed on your local's agency fee calculation as a chargeable expense.

This entire AFT calculation and the accompanying auditors report must be combined with your local and state federation reports as well as a copy of its challenge and objection procedures (often called the "Hudson Notice") and it should be provided to agency fee payers at least 30 days prior to the collection of the first agency fee for the 2017-2018 school year, or the number of days required by applicable state law.

LJ:JGB:dw

Enclosure

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO**

COMBINED STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUND,  
MILITANCY/DEFENSE FUND AND SOLIDARITY FUND EXPENSES  
AND ALLOCATION BETWEEN CHARGEABLE  
EXPENSES AND NON-CHARGEABLE EXPENSES

APRIL 30, 2017

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUND, MILITANCY/DEFENSE  
FUND AND SOLIDARITY FUND EXPENSES AND ALLOCATION BETWEEN CHARGEABLE  
EXPENSES AND NON-CHARGEABLE EXPENSES**

APRIL 30, 2017

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## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

The Secretary-Treasurer  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

We have audited the accompanying combined statement of General Fund, Militancy/Defense Fund and Solidarity Fund expenses and allocation between chargeable expenses and non-chargeable expenses of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO (the Federation) for the year ended April 30, 2017, and the related notes to the combined statement.

### **Management’s Responsibility for the Combined Statement of General Fund, Militancy/Defense Fund and Solidarity Fund Expenses and Allocation Between Chargeable Expenses and Non-Chargeable Expenses**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this combined statement in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1, as modified for the accounts and funds described in Note 1b, and the allocated combined expenses between chargeable and non-chargeable expenses, on the basis of the definitions and significant factors and assumptions described in Notes 2 and 3; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the combined statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditors’ Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the combined statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the combined statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditors’ judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the combined statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the Federation’s preparation and fair presentation of the combined statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Federation’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the combined statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the combined statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the combined expenses of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO for the year ended April 30, 2017 on the basis of accounting described in Note 1, as modified for the accounts and funds described in Note 1b, and the allocated combined expenses between chargeable and non-chargeable expenses, on the basis of the definitions and significant factors and assumptions described in Notes 2 and 3.

## **Other Matter**

The total expenses reflected in column A of the combined statement are based on the expenses of the Federation for the year ended April 30, 2017, as modified for the accounts and funds described in Note 1b. The allocation of combined expenses between chargeable (column B) and non-chargeable (column C) is based on the definitions and significant factors and assumptions described in Notes 2 and 3. The accompanying combined statement was prepared for the purpose of determining the fairshare cost of services rendered by the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO for employees represented by, but not members of the Federation and its affiliated local unions. The accompanying combined statement is not intended to be a complete presentation of the Federation's financial statements.

## **Intended Use of Report of Independent Auditors**

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO and its agency fee payers and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Calibre CPA Group, PLLC*

Bethesda, MD  
August 11, 2017

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUND, MILITANCY/DEFENSE FUND  
AND SOLIDARITY FUND EXPENSES AND ALLOCATION BETWEEN  
CHARGEABLE EXPENSES AND NON-CHARGEABLE EXPENSES**

YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2017

	<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>	<u>Column C</u>	
	Total	Chargeable	Non-chargeable	
	Expenses	Expenses	Expenses	Notes
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries	\$ 39,760,238	\$ 33,720,960	\$ 6,039,278	3a
Fringe benefits	16,126,068	13,756,188	2,369,880	3b
Payroll and other taxes	2,952,396	2,505,621	446,775	3b
Severance and vacation pay	1,725,567	1,464,444	261,123	3b
Travel and related expenses	5,127,339	4,110,427	1,016,912	3b
Dues, donations, and membership fees	3,373,760	-	3,373,760	3c
Publications:				
<u>American Educator</u>	1,157,045	89,271	1,067,774	3d
<u>PSRP Reporter</u>	74,067	62,101	11,966	3d
AFT-COPE and related activities	6,111,276	-	6,111,276	3e
Affiliation fees	10,734,404	-	10,734,404	3f
Educational training programs	346,046	339,837	6,209	3g
Regional conferences and training	1,558,059	1,558,059	-	3g
AFT Teach conference	10,022	10,022	-	3g
Assistance and collective bargaining	27,949,103	27,949,103	-	3h
State federation rebates	2,001,527	2,001,527	-	3i
Militancy Fund	44,994	-	44,994	3j
Defense Fund	11,857,038	11,082,473	774,565	3k
Solidarity Fund - National	26,532,203	2,350,000	24,182,203	3l
Solidarity Fund - State Federations	8,407,080	8,407,080	-	3l
Legal, audit, and consulting	2,607,705	1,846,345	761,360	3m
Legal, audit, and consulting - agency shop	85,224	85,224	-	3m
Legislative activities (non-collective bargaining)	820,846	-	820,846	3n
Member benefits activities	1,115,502	-	1,115,502	3n
International affairs activities	294,361	-	294,361	3n
Convention and executive council meetings	3,700,146	3,700,146	-	3o
Departmental meetings and projects	7,090,874	5,536,512	1,554,362	3p
Funding Our Priorities	7,805,974	3,844,123	3,961,851	3q
Regional offices	239,942	220,483	19,459	3r
	<u>\$ 189,608,806</u>	<u>\$ 124,639,946</u>	<u>\$ 64,968,860</u>	
Total direct expenses				

See accompanying notes to combined statement.

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUND, MILITANCY/DEFENSE FUND AND  
SOLIDARITY FUND EXPENSES AND ALLOCATION BETWEEN CHARGEABLE  
EXPENSES AND NON-CHARGEABLE EXPENSES (CONTINUED)**

YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2017

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Notes
	Total	Chargeable	Non-Chargeable	
	Expenses	Expenses	Expenses	
GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND				
OPERATING EXPENSES				3s
National office and equipment rental	\$ 3,358,628	\$ 2,207,805	\$ 1,150,823	
Depreciation and amortization	992,493	652,418	340,075	
Repairs and maintenance	326,094	214,359	111,735	
Information technology	55,312	36,360	18,952	
Computer implementation	1,783,653	1,172,490	611,163	
General insurance	1,056,063	694,206	361,857	
General legal, audit, and consulting	2,557,902	1,681,445	876,457	
Postage, express and delivery, and telephone	504,550	331,668	172,882	
Office supplies, subscriptions, books, and other	1,570,178	1,032,161	538,017	
Total general, administrative, and operating expenses	12,204,873	8,022,912	4,181,961	
Total expenses	\$ 201,813,679	\$ 132,662,858	\$ 69,150,821	
	<u>100%</u>	<u>65.74%</u>	<u>34.26%</u>	

See accompanying notes to combined statement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO

NOTES TO COMBINED STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUND, MILITANCY/  
DEFENSE FUND AND SOLIDARITY FUND EXPENSES AND ALLOCATION BETWEEN  
CHARGEABLE EXPENSES AND NON-CHARGEABLE EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2017

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- a. **Basis of Presentation** - The accompanying combined statement was prepared for the purpose of determining the fair share cost of services rendered by the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO (the Federation) for employees represented by, but not members of, the Federation and its affiliated local unions. The accompanying combined statement is not intended to be a complete presentation of the Federation's financial position, changes in its net assets, or its cash flows in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- b. **Accounts and Funds Excluded from the Combined Statement** - The expense of providing accident and liability insurance to members and agency fee payers is recovered through premium charges to locals and has been excluded from the combined expense statement. Rent and various other operating expenses associated with the subletting operations of the Federation, which are accounted for in the Federation's Building Fund, have been excluded from the combined expense statement.
- c. **Income Taxes** - The Federation is exempt from Federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, except on net income from unrelated business activities.
- d. **Retirement Plans** - The Federation contributes a percentage of eligible employees' salaries to retirement plans. The amount of the contribution is included in net periodic pension expense. The adjustment required as a result of the change in the liability to recognize the underfunded status of the Plan is not reflected in this statement.
- e. **Severance and Accumulated Vacation** - The Federation accrues accumulated severance and vacation expense as it is earned by its employees under various contracts and agreements.
- f. **Depreciation and Amortization** - Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets.



**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

- g. **Leases** - The Federation occupies office space in a building which is owned by a limited partnership of which the Federation, through its wholly owned subsidiary, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Inc., is the controlling partner. Annual rental payments were approximately \$3,131,473 of which 96 percent or approximately \$3,014,000, is charged to the General Fund based on the space occupied by the Federation.
- h. **Estimates** - The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported expenses during the reporting period and the allocation of expenses between chargeable and non-chargeable. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**NOTE 2. DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions of chargeable and non-chargeable expenses are based on existing law and the Federation's interpretation of court cases.

**Chargeable Expenses** - Chargeable expenses are those incurred by the Federation that reflect the share of the costs of operations of the Federation which are considered necessary and reasonably incurred for the purpose of assisting state federations and local unions and councils in the performance of their duties as a representative of the employees in dealing with the employer on labor management issues, including the costs of: negotiating and administering the collective bargaining contract; settling grievances and disputes by mutual agreement, or in arbitration, court or otherwise; activities and undertakings normally and reasonably employed to implement the duties of the local union or council as representative of the employees in the bargaining unit; and the maintenance of the Federation's, state federations', local unions' and councils' associational existence.

The following are examples of expenditures classified as chargeable: preparation for and negotiations of collective bargaining agreements; contract administration including investigating and processing grievances; meetings, conferences, administrative, arbitral and court proceedings, and pertinent investigation and research in connection with work-related subjects and issues; handling work-related problems of employees; communications with community organizations, civic groups, government agencies, and the media regarding the Federation's position on work-related matters; maintaining membership; employee group programs; and providing legal, economic, and technical expertise on behalf of employees in all work-related matters.

**NOTE 2. DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)**

**Non-Chargeable Expenses** - Non-chargeable expenses are those of an ideological or political nature and those that are not germane to work-related interests of employees.

The term "political" is defined as support for or against candidates for political office of any level of government and any office in the union structure. The term "ideological" is defined as support for or against certain positions that the union may take which are not work-related.

The following expenses are classified as non-chargeable: lobbying, electoral or political activities outside the limited context of contract ratification or implementation; litigation expenses that do not concern the objecting employees' bargaining unit; and public relations efforts designed to enhance the reputation of the teaching profession.

**NOTE 3. SIGNIFICANT FACTORS AND ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THE ALLOCATION OF COMBINED EXPENSES BETWEEN CHARGEABLE AND NON-CHARGEABLE**

- a. **Salaries** - Salary expenses of executives, editorial department editors and administrative staff, as well as salary expenses for personnel responsible for office management, finance, travel and meetings have been allocated between chargeable and non-chargeable activities based on time spent by personnel on such activities. The salaries of office and clerical personnel are allocated between chargeable and non-chargeable in the same percentage as their supervisors.
- b. **Fringe Benefits, Payroll and Other Taxes, Severance and Vacation Pay, and Travel and Related Expenses** - These expenses are allocated on the basis of salary expense allocations described in Note 3a above.
- c. **Dues, Donations, and Membership Fees** - Dues, donations, and membership fees to all organizations are considered to be 100 percent non-chargeable.
- d. **Publications** - Direct printing and publishing expenses of the publications are allocated based on the specific content of articles in the publications as determined by the Federation's editorial department. Expenses allocable to articles considered political or ideological in nature are deemed not to benefit nonmembers and are non-chargeable. Expenses allocable to reporting on legislative and lobbying activities, litigation activities, public relations activities, illegal strike activities, and articles

**NOTE 3. SIGNIFICANT FACTORS AND ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THE ALLOCATION OF COMBINED EXPENSES BETWEEN CHARGEABLE AND NON-CHARGEABLE (CONTINUED)**

relating to enhancement of the reputation of the teaching profession as a whole are non-chargeable, except for those related to collective bargaining. The contents of articles deemed chargeable were reviewed by editorial staff and are directly related to issues in collective bargaining, contract administration, and grievance matters.

Chargeable articles include topics such as collective bargaining contracts negotiated by locals throughout the country and arbitrations won by the Federation's locals. Chargeable articles also include topics such as salary and fringe benefit improvements, health and welfare areas such as asbestos removal, etc. Other chargeable articles deal with specific topics like class size and educational reform issues on new and advanced methods of classroom instruction. Expenses allocable to advertising, net of advertising revenue, are considered non-chargeable.

- e. **AFT-COPE and Related Activities** - Expenses related to the Federation's Committee on Political Education (COPE) Fund are considered to be 100 percent non-chargeable.
- f. **Affiliation Fees** - Affiliation fees are considered to be 100 percent non-chargeable.
- g. **Educational Training Programs and Conferences** - Educational training programs and conferences are for local, state, and national staff and are to enhance staff skills in collective bargaining, grievance handling, and contract administration. These educational training programs and conferences are considered to be 100 percent chargeable, except that items of a political or public relations nature contained within the programs are non-chargeable.

The AFT Teach conference is a biennial conference that concentrates on educational reform and new instructional methods. As this conference focuses on education related issues, the related expenses are considered to be 100 percent chargeable.

- h. **Assistance and Collective Bargaining** - Expenses of organizing, collective bargaining, assistance to local unions, grievance handling, contract administration, etc. are 100 percent chargeable.
- i. **State Federation Rebates** - State federation rebates are required by the Federation's constitution and are therefore 100 percent chargeable. These funds are to be used to hire staff at the state and local level, to negotiate collective bargaining agreements, and to enforce contract administration. Also, funds are used to service members directly.

**NOTE 3. SIGNIFICANT FACTORS AND ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THE ALLOCATION OF COMBINED EXPENSES BETWEEN CHARGEABLE AND NON-CHARGEABLE (CONTINUED)**

- j. **Militancy Fund** - The Militancy Fund supports members and locals involved in strikes. These expenses are considered to be 100 percent non-chargeable.
- k. **Defense Fund** - The Defense Fund is a legal defense fund available to members and nonmembers which grants assistance to local and state bodies to help protect the rights of teachers, career service personnel, and other educational workers, as well as, health care and Federal, state, and local employees. Matters involving contract administration, grievance handling, and litigation involving the defense of the Federation are considered to be chargeable. Expenses of litigation unrelated to an objecting employee's unit and not germane to the Federation's duties as exclusive bargaining representative are not considered to be chargeable as defined in Lehnert v. Ferris Faculty Association (1991). However, based on Locke v. Karass, U.S. Supreme Court, January 21, 2009, nonmembers could be charged by the local or national union for national litigation expenses as long as the subject matter of the extra-local litigation was of a kind that would be chargeable if the litigation were local and the charge was reciprocal in nature. This fund is administered through a committee comprised of Vice Presidents, the Secretary-Treasurer and the General Counsel, all of the Federation.
- l. **Solidarity Funds** - Solidarity Funds - National - National expenses consist of payments made related to political and legislative activities. These payments are considered to be 100 percent non-chargeable unless the expense is directly related to improving the wages, hours, or working conditions of the members of the bargaining unit(s).

Solidarity Fund - State - State expenses consist of payments made to AFT State Federation Solidarity Funds as required by the Federation's Constitution and are considered 100 percent chargeable.

- m. **Legal, Audit, and Consulting Expenses** - Legal, audit, and consulting expenses related to specific projects are allocated based on the chargeable percentages of the related departments, except that legal, audit, and consulting expenses primarily for non-chargeable activities are considered to be 100 percent non-chargeable.

Legal, audit, and consulting expenses - agency shop are fees paid to outside lawyers, auditors, and consultants for services directly relating to agency shop matters. These expenses are considered to be 100 percent chargeable.

General legal, audit, and consulting expenses are allocated as described in Note 3s below.

**NOTE 3. SIGNIFICANT FACTORS AND ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THE ALLOCATION OF COMBINED EXPENSES BETWEEN CHARGEABLE AND NON-CHARGEABLE (CONTINUED)**

- n. **Legislative Activities (non-collective bargaining), Member Benefits Activities and International Affairs Activities** - Activities related to legislative (non-collective bargaining), public affairs, member benefits, and International affairs expenses are generally considered to be 100 percent non-chargeable.
- o. **Convention and Executive Council Meetings** - Expenses related to the Federation's biennial convention and periodic Executive Council meetings are considered to be 100 percent chargeable.
- p. **Departmental Meetings** - Departmental meeting expenses are allocated based on the chargeable percentages of the related departments, except that meeting expenses primarily for non-chargeable activities are considered to be 100 percent non-chargeable.
- q. **Funding Our Priorities** - Funding Our Priorities expenses are allocated based on the chargeability or non-chargeability of each project.
- r. **Regional Offices** - Regional offices expenses are allocated based on the chargeable percentages of the regional office directors.
- s. **General, Administrative, and Operating Expenses** - General, administrative, and operating expenses have been allocated to chargeable and non-chargeable expenses based on the same ratio as total direct expenses.

**NOTE 4. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS REVIEW**

Subsequent events have been evaluated through August 11, 2017, which is the date the combined statement was available to be issued. This review and evaluation revealed no new material event or transaction which would require an additional adjustment to or disclosure in the accompanying combined statement.