Town Meeting participants discussed their vision for a young workers movement in AFSCME:

What is your vision for a young workers movement within AFSCME?

- Use technology to increase involvement & improve communication
- To have younger members trained and confident in their ability to move the union forward
- Lead by example and share knowledge; mentor young workers
- Develop a better understanding of how the labor movement as a whole impacts all of us
- Next Wave representative required to be on every board
- Reach out to new members so they join
- Use examples from everyday interests to involve younger members
- Would like AFSCME to sponsor events & increase AFSCME's presence, branding and networking
- Reflect membership with respect to diversity
- Use relationships or links between younger and older members

The next table discussion focused on what AFSCME affiliates are currently doing to engage young members.

What is AFSCME doing now at the national, state and local level to facilitate young member activism?

- Asking young members to take on leadership roles such as stewards or delegates
- Creating Next Wave committees or chapters
- Asking from the national level, not much
- Starting a mentoring program to train younger members
- Bringing younger members in through MAT & VMO
- Using technology (MySpace, Twitter, Facebook) to get people active/organize
- Locals are having Next Wave meetings
- Having social events (movie nights, bowling, BBQ, beach, etc)
- On the local and state level – hold education conferences and sessions
- Recently, including local union leadership academy involvement

Participants answered questions about how active they are in their own affiliates:

As a young member, do you feel welcomed and supported in your union?

- Not Welcomed: 8.6%
- A little: 7.3%
- Somewhat: 26.3%
- Quite a bit: 25.7%
- Very Much: 37.8%

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Roles in the union
Percentage of participants who are:

Town Meeting responses about the economic picture and bargaining priorities:
The final discussion question was about how AFSCME can increase participation among young members:

What are your top three recommendations for the union to further facilitate your participation and activism?

- Have a mentorship program at every level of AFSCME to get younger members involved
- Provide funding
- More social events to engage young members
- Use new technology to teach & communicate
- National networking to connect Next Waves to each other
- Organize and recruit new members at orientations to get them at the very beginning and introduce them to AFSCME
- Be more supportive of families and involve them in union events
- Develop one-on-one network to target younger members
- Leadership needs to give new members opportunities to get involved with training/leadership academies
- Better internal communications and more frequent website updates