



President's Message

Greetings Retirees!

Hope everyone enjoyed their summer despite the heat!

At our Board meeting in July, Barb Randall-Saleh informed us that this was to be her last meeting with us as she would be moving to Pennsylvania in September! We wished her well then as we do now. Barb and I met when I was serving as President of AFT Renton in 1998, then worked with her as TFESP's (formerly TFP) Labor Representative when I joined the staff at AFT Washington in 2001. I found her to be a caring Paraeducator for her students with the Tacoma School District, where she worked for 43 years, and 35 of those years she served the TFESP union membership. She advocated for the membership with great devotion. She wants to keep in touch with AFT Washington and join the retirees in Pennsylvania. Gotta love her! Please send her your well wishes!

You might recall, if you're on our email list, that we're looking for two new members of the Executive Board. This is one of the positions that I emailed you about that we need to fill. We also posted the information on our website for those that we do not have emails for. Check it out, and if you have questions please fill free to contact me, Cortney, or you can find our contact info on the AFT Washington website, under Retirees. We would love to have you join us!

Have a great Fall!

In solidarity

Merrilee Miron



Our Coalition Work This Summer

By Jim Howe, Director (Legislative)

WSLC Convention

I was one of four AFT Washington delegates to the Washington State Labor Council this summer. It was a very active and engaged event, meeting in-person again after a virtual session in 2020. Our team was successful in passing the AFT Washington Resolution on CTC Workforce Pay. We learned a lot about co-sponsoring and lining up resolution supporters, with some help from our friend David Loud, representing our ally, Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action. David and I introduced the 2022 Healthcare Resolution, which also passed. In the aftermath of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overturning Roe v Wade, Washington Labor took a bold and courageous stand on reproductive rights.

Health Care Is a Human Right

As the Washington Universal Healthcare Commission heads toward its first-year report (due in November) Health Care is a Human Right leads the coalition in pushing for meaningful progress. Passage of a state-based universal healthcare bill in Congress is vital to obtain the federal waivers that Washington, California, Massachusetts, and New York need to lead the way from the state level.

Public comment at another Washington state commission, the Healthcare Transparency Board, was largely from the industry side until HCHR got coalition members to show up. We're pushing for more patient membership on the board.

The MLK Labor Council will kick off the Labor dialog called for in the Healthcare Resolution we co-sponsored at the WSLC Convention with a personal presentation by Rep. Pramila Jayapal at the October membership meeting.

PEBB Coalition

When the Healthcare Authority planned to drop the popular PEBB Traditional Medicare option for retired Public Employees, HCHR and others got hundreds of people to show up at a Healthcare Authority (HCA) zoom, delaying the decision for a year and obtaining feedback from stakeholders. The Retired Public Employees Council is leading a coalition to provide this feedback, and I've been asked to represent AFT Washington at these HCA meetings. This is another battle in

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our fight against the privatization of Medicare.

Support for Plan 1 COLA

Another WSLC Resolution, which we supported, highlighted how far behind our oldest state retirees have fallen due to dropped COLAs and inflation. We co-signed a letter with a coalition of retiree groups, and this will be a legislative priority for AFT Washington in the coming session.

Inflation Reduction Act

We celebrate the climate, tax and healthcare provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act, but expect more work to be necessary to expand Medicare benefits and the drug prices impacted.

It's been a busy summer for working in coalitions.

AFTerburners Update for September 2022

By Renee G Potter, Director (National Advocacy)

The AFT National Program of Retirees formed the AFTerburners group during 2020 to make virtual phone calls to encourage union members to register and get out to vote. We were able to support national, state, and local elections and legislative efforts, and to make wellness calls during the height of the pandemic.

Our outreach efforts via phone banking have continued to include building and supporting locals and chapters throughout the U.S. Several AFTerburners volunteered to help the AFT Washington Retiree Chapter with our 2021 membership drive.

The pie chart shows the results of phone calls made from January to August 2022 covering topics ranging from voter registration and general federal legislation to limited issues, such as gun violence legislation. The 6,776 phone attempts sometimes can include left-messages, and the 519 conversations indicate more time spent with an individual, for example, guiding someone in how to access an online voter registration site. As you can see, we're working on a lot of critical issues, and with less than 60 days to go before the election, we're ramping up efforts. If you're interested in getting involved, you can visit <http://go.aft.org/volunteer>, or just scan the QR code below.

2022 Election Report AFTerburners Canvass Results from LAN

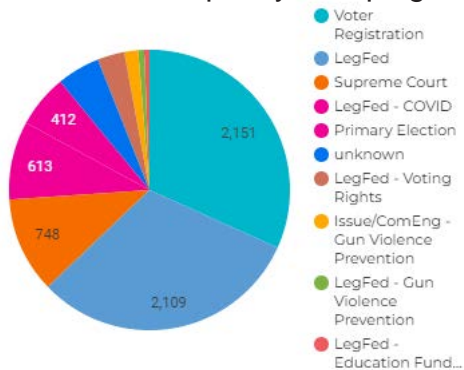
Conversations

519

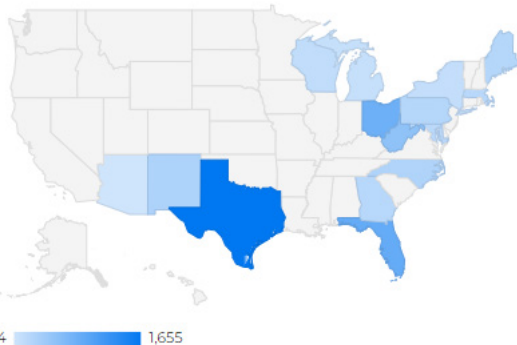
Phone Attempts

6,776

Canvas Attempts by Campaign Type



Canvas Attempts by State



94 1,655



**Get involved with AFT's Retiree Powered
Political Action Team
– The AFTerburners! –**

**Have real and measurable impact in key races
across the country**

**Build social connections with other like-
minded peers**

**Continue as part of the AFT union family –
Activists Never Retire!**

<http://go.aft.org/volunteer>