



Spotlight on Retirees in Action

Annual Meeting Update

As you may know, the Retiree Chapter Board voted to postpone the Annual Meeting this year, when we could not establish a quorum of attendees. The Board opted to delay the meeting in the interest of using the summer to begin the organizing project (discussed below) and increase turnout to the Annual Meeting. The Board met in mid-June to set a new date for the Annual Meeting, and will also follow up with appropriate notice via mail, email, and our website, <https://aftwa.org/retirees>.

The meeting will be hybrid; we will have more details very soon. Please note that the Annual Meeting is where we elect new Board officers, so if you are interested in getting involved, now is a great time!

If you are interested in attending the *rescheduled* Annual Meeting, please contact Cortney Marabetta at cmarabetta@aftwa.org.

New Retiree Organizing Project To Launch This Summer

by Renee Potter, Director

In April this year, the national AFT Retirees hosted an organizing conference in Orlando, Florida. Three members (Susan Levy, Jim Howe and Renee Potter) from our Washington Retiree Chapter 8045R attended and drafted a resolution to present during the May AFT Washington Convention. Resolution 2023-04 was adopted by the Convention on May 20, 2023.

The text of the resolution is included here, and is available on the website. Refer to the Resolveds for key points to look over and pass on any comments or ideas. If you would like to become involved, or you know anyone we should contact, let us know.

AFT WASHINGTON CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2023-04: Organized Retirees For Action

WHEREAS: The AFT has created the AFT Retirees PPC (Program and Policy Council) to serve as a voice for retiree interest within the union and a vehicle for retiree involvement in the organizational, civic, and political needs of the AFT and its state and local affiliates; and

WHEREAS: There are likely over 1,000 people from AFT Washington Locals living in Washington State who are or should be active members of the Retiree Chapter; and

WHEREAS: These potential activists would bring energy, power, skills and abilities to support all our union goals; and

WHEREAS: Our local state and national unions would all benefit from more active retiree members; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: AFT Washington create an Organizing Project led by the Retiree Chapter to develop and implement a strategic plan with specific numerical goals such as number of contacts or number of new members or activists or number of new e-mails; and, be it further

RESOLVED: AFT Washington would ask AFT National for help with this project, including the possibility of monetary or project staff; and, be it further

RESOLVED: AFT Washington urge and encourage AFT Washington Locals to support this project by undertaking some or all of the following activities:

- To appoint a retiree representative to the Retiree Chapter;
- To invite an organizing project person to a local leadership or membership meeting;
- To appoint one or two of their local members to join the organizing project team; and, be it finally

RESOLVED: AFT Washington work with the project, the Retiree Chapter, and locals to sponsor a gathering for current retirees in at least three congressional districts during the 2023-2024 timeframe, and three more congressional districts during the 2024-2025 timeframe.

The Chapter will be reaching out to locals and to members as the project develops. If you are interested in getting involved or getting updates on the status of the project, please contact Cortney Marabetta at cmarabetta@aftwa.org.

Debt Ceiling Deal Preserves Retiree Benefits

by Susan Levy, Director

The debt ceiling deal passed the US Senate and House of Representatives without cuts or changes to Social Security and Medicare. This is a big deal. There will be more attempts at cuts and changes in the future, but for now, retiree Social Security and Medicare benefits are safe.