

## Six Reasons for Organizing Retirees

An active, organized group of Retirees ...



*Susan Levy at North Seattle's walkout, 2021. Photo courtesy Garet Munger.*

- can support current members as they approach retirement and have questions about benefits, bureaucracies, and balancing emotions.
- can build camaraderie and community with other retirees.
- can give powerful support to labor- and education-friendly candidates in their election campaigns.
- can engage students and parents in the political process – voter registration drives are one example.
- can lobby for legislative changes at the local, state, and national level.
- can help build local unions by assisting with membership recruitment, turning out for pickets or other mobilizations, and assisting with trainings and presentations.

For these reasons and more, at the 2023 AFT Washington convention, delegates unanimously adopted Resolution 2023-04, “Organized Retirees For Action”. Now the AFT Washington Retiree Chapter, local 8045R, is calling on local leaders to do two things to support this resolution.

1. Appoint a retiree from your local to serve as a representative and advisor to the Retiree Chapter.
2. Send a message to AFT Washington and AFT National granting authorization to move identified retired members in your local’s Connect database account to the Retiree chapter’s Connect account. You can use this suggested message!

**Dear AFT Membership, Data, and Analytics Department:**

**I’m writing to give you my permission to have any retirees currently listed in AFT CONNECT as part of my local [fill in local number here] listed instead as members of the AFT Retiree Chapter, local 8045R.**

Got Questions? Need help? Contact Richard Burton, State Affiliate Political Organizer, at [rburton@aftwa.org](mailto:rburton@aftwa.org), or at 206-225-0621.