



## President's Message

**Save the Date!** The AFT Washington Retiree Chapter Biennial meeting and social event will be held on May 17th at the Murano Hotel in Tacoma. At the time of this writing the final details have not been worked out, but more information will be coming your way, and you can also check our website at <https://aftwa.org/retirees> for updates.

There are two things that I am asking of you for the Biennial meeting. We would like you to attend and share your story on what you have been doing in retirement. Whether it be gardening, travel, writing poetry, or other, it all is interesting and important to share. We want to hear from you!

The second ask is that there will be Board positions to fill for the next two years at the Biennial meeting. The Board meets quarterly, either via Zoom or hybrid. We work on organizing social events, keeping updated on the political front, and reaching out to retirees on anything that they would want to share with the Chapter. You can check our bylaws on the website for the formal version of the directors' positions but I am asking you to please consider joining us! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of our Board members or me at [Merrilee.miron@gmail.com](mailto:Merrilee.miron@gmail.com).

One last thing. At this time, the plan is for upcoming Spotlights to be sent out digitally, so we would like to make sure that all retirees receive it. Updating your email is important. It is one way AFT Washington and the Retiree Chapter keep you informed, and I know many of you rely on it. Please contact Cortney with your email – [cmarabetta@aftwa.org](mailto:cmarabetta@aftwa.org).

Thanks for all you do!

Enjoy Spring and Go Mariners!

Merrilee Miron, Chapter President

## Legislative Update: A Very Busy Session

*By Jim Howe, Director*

**T**his has been the busiest Legislative session I've participated in. Weekly updates and the *Legisletter* are great for keeping track of opportunities to take action. A permanent COLA for PERS/TRS 1 recipients is a top priority right now.

HealthCare is a Human Right's bills are mostly doing well,

due to the hard work of the coalition's active members. Whole Washington has become a powerful advocate for our agenda. Many bills that have budget implications remain in play past the policy cutoffs. A number of friends testified at the important Keep Our Care Act hearing.

A meeting I attended with US Rep. Adam Smith's Legislative Director in DC showed how under siege Congress is from the Administration's chaos. We're hoping to rein in the aggressive and confusing yearly Medicare Advantage advertising to seniors and make them transparent about denial rates.

As a member of AFT Washington's Legislative subcommittee on Gun Violence Prevention, I've tracked legislation sponsored by the Alliance for Gun Responsibility. Despite an excellent hearing featuring students from Lake Washington High School and Harborview's front line workers, Sen. Orwall's SB5273 for support, mental health services and Medicaid funding for Community Prevention and Treatment did not make it past the Policy cutoff. Other Gun Responsibility bills are moving forward so far.

AFT Washington's Lobby Day had a very impressive turnout. As a Retiree, it was a chance to reconnect with colleagues, help others work with Legislators for the first time, and advocate for a wide range of important issues.

## The Union Spotlight Is Going Digital!

**T**his issue of the *Union Spotlight* will be the last print issue. To make sure you keep getting the Spotlight and the Retiree Insert, please contact Cortney Marabetta at [cmarabetta@aftwa.org](mailto:cmarabetta@aftwa.org) or 206-499-4826 to update your email address for our records.

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## Join the Retiree Chapter!

**W**hen educators retire, we don't stop being educators. After working for years to make our workplaces better, the bonds with our brothers and sisters are strong. We know the power of we, not me. Many of AFT Washington's retirees remain affiliated with their local, but there's another option – the AFT Washington Retiree Chapter Local 8045R.

If you are considering retirement or are already retired, you are eligible to join the Retiree Chapter. Joining the chapter gives you access to AFT's Retiree Benefits program, and a way to stay active and engaged with your union!

### How to Join

Once you retire, your membership is not automatically transferred to the Retiree Chapter. It remains with your local until you request that it be changed. You can fill out the membership form located at [wa.aft.org/retirees](http://wa.aft.org/retirees) and turn it in.

Via USPS: AFT Washington, 604 Oakesdale Avenue SW,  
Suite 103, Renton, WA 98057

Via email: to [aftwashington@aftwa.org](mailto:aftwashington@aftwa.org)

There are no dues for retiree membership.