

March 25, 2016

Dear Local Leader,

As you know, the AFT Washington Executive Board passed a resolution to engage our members and strengthen our union by having conversations with members about recommitting to the union and to fee payers about choosing to have their voices heard as union members. AFT Seattle Local 1789, Tacoma Federation of ParaEducators Local 461, Edmonds Community College Federation of Teachers Local 4254, Pierce College Federation of Teachers Local 4821, and Shoreline College Federation of Teachers Local 1950 have already begun their membership engagement efforts, resulting in over 200 new members.

As you may know, we set several goals around member engagement (conversations with 100% of the membership, increase attendance at union events to 70%, and 30% of members identified as activists), and I hope that each of your boards has or will adopt the Member Engagement resolution (enclosed). The participation of all of our locals in this effort is essential, as is tracking these conversations. To help with this, we are enclosing a toolkit to help with each part of this so you will readily have what you need to engage members. If you are not able to copy some of the materials, please contact AFT Washington at 206-242-4777 and request the number of copies you need. We also have materials on our website at <http://wa.aft.org/join-union>.

My optimism about the future of labor received a boost by the commitment of so many members to increasing the power of our collective voice. I encourage each of you, as leaders of your local, to take some time each week to make the rounds and talk with two or three members you have not spoken to recently.

If you have questions or would like training on any of the materials presented here, please contact your labor specialists, Nancy Kennedy (nkennedy@aftwa.org) or Merrilee Miron (mmiron@aftwa.org).

We really are so much stronger when we **Stand Together Now!**

In solidarity,



Karen Strickland, President
AFT Washington, AFL-CIO

KS/cr
opeiu8/afl-cio

Enclosure

cc: Local Presidents
Local Secretary or Membership Chair
Local Communications Chair