



THANKS TO ROSS RIEDER!

by Karen Strickland, President,
AFT Washington

Ross Rieder! What a solid rock he has been, both within AFT Washington and in the labor movement! I have known Ross since 2011, but he has been a part of us since 1962 – first as an activist and leader in Local 772, the Everett Federation of Teachers, then as the president of the Washington Federation of Teachers, our Retiree Chapter President, and a member of the AFT Washington Executive Board. Also, he has contributed significantly to the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, creating inspiring calendars, teaching labor history classes, and more.

Ross has decided to retire from AFT Washington activities and take life a little easier. He is always ready to



share a bit of history, a bit of perspective, a bit of humor, and a bit of agitational inspiration – all of which I have learned from and appreciated.

I appreciated Ross’ role on our board because he analyzed issues with a historical perspective and a clarity of values. He always spoke up to reinforce the need for solidarity with our union family in hotels, stores, etc., as well as the need to use our members’ dollars with integrity. Ross urged us to set a high bar in regard to the impact we could have, whether in terms of turn-out

AFT WASHINGTON RETIREE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

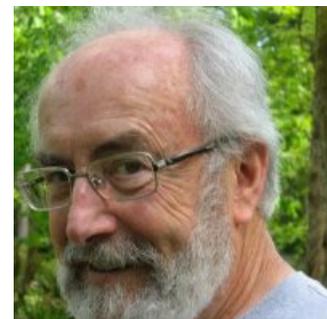
January 24, 2018
11:00 AM

AFT Washington Office
625 Andover Park W.,
Ste. 111, Tukwila

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please let Susan Levy,
Vice President, know if
you plan to attend.
sjlevy.01@gmail.com

at rallies or engaging our members in the work of the union. Finally, Ross was always quick to share a funny story or laugh at someone else’s. He took the work of the union very seriously, and himself just a little bit less so.



Ross Rieder

REMEMBERING

MARY LOUISE (PAETOW) HALE AFT WASHINGTON RETIREE EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT

A celebration-of-life service was held for Mary Hale, AFT Washington Retiree President, at the Everett Golf & Country Club on Saturday, November 25, 2017, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

There was food, drink, and happy memories.

Herald Notice: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldnet/obituary.aspx?pid=187137960>

Executive Board Highlights

by Carla Shafer, Secretary

The meeting held on October 12, 2017, in Tukwila, 11 AM to 1 PM was attended by board members Mary Hale, Ann McCartney, Susan Levy, Carla Shafer, and Glenda Hanson.

The AFT Washington Retiree Account balance is \$2,584.00. The Voluntary Contribution Account balance is \$901.24. Two Scholarship contributions of \$100 were made, one each to AFT Washington and to the South Seattle campus of Seattle Colleges in memory of Robin Guevarra.

Karen Strickland reported:

- The National Right to Work and the Freedom Foundation in Washington State are undermining labor unions. They are spending \$330 million to turn

Washington into a right-to-work state. They are working on disorganizing our memberships and taking away the agency fee. As this and the *Janus v. AFSCME* case before the U.S. Supreme Court, both challenging mandatory fees, pose significant threats to unions and to workers' right to organize, AFT Washington is working to increase membership. The goal is for 90% of members to recommit and to gain 90% fair share conversions. Publicity efforts will raise public understanding of and increase good will toward unions.

- In Michigan, AFT Michigan was infiltrated by Project Veritas, working with James O'Keefe to make damaging recordings for films. AFT filed a restraining order to shut down this level of assault.

See:
<https://www.politico.com/>

<blogs/under-the-radar/2017/09/29/teachers-union-james-okeefe-243323>

The AFT Washington Retirees Annual meeting will be held on Solidarity Day, May 19, 2018. The Attorney General's office will be contacted to see if they can provide a program on the latest scams targeting seniors and strategies to protect oneself.

We were reminded of our purpose:

- 1) Maintain, restore, or create camaraderie and communities of interest with retired members of the AFT Washington.
- 2) Foster social, political, cultural, educational, and civic pursuits of retirees.
- 3) Maintain association with AFT Washington.

We discussed the need for strategies for energizing engagement.

You Can Help with Planning Ahead

Fall program for getting people involved - Which topic would you like:

- How to stay engaged?
- Where is your power?
- Getting your voice heard!
- How to stay connected to the local union leaders.
- What help do unions need from retirees?

Suggestions to:

sjlevy.01@gmail.com

How do I explain

to my 19-year-old grandson what his long-dead great grandpa taught me about working in unions; united by a lifetime of mill work and family values?

You knew their local by the big knuckled, pitch-filled ruts in their calloused hands, not by the political slogans they exchanged or songs they sang.

They worked for one another, not as warriors in the “big one” but as a band of brothers who turned the green blanketed Northwest hillsides into lumber to build two-bedroom, one-bath bungalows for “the kids.”

Today, this young man sitting across the breakfast table speaks of working for justice and fair wage, but not of unions or comradery. Embedded in his world can he comprehend the meaning of my father’s splinter-handed comradery and sore-backed friendships?

by Paul Marshall, (Everett CC)
Whidbey Island, WA



UW Library Archives



July 2016, Familias Unidas por la Justicia negotiates first contract



H-2A workers gather for community blessing, Bellingham, August 2017.

Union Makes Change

Food Sovereignty means that how our food comes to our plates defines what kind of people we are and how we treat workers and the environment. It means making sure the food represents social, cultural, economic, and agricultural sustainability. Last

summer, Families United for Justice (FUJ) negotiated a worker's contract with Sakuma Farms. This summer, workers had a process to keep the employers honoring the contract. This summer, the union was able to assist approximately 80 of 500 H-2A workers in north Whatcom

Co. when they were let go after asking questions about Honesto Silva Ibara's death, inadequate supplies of water and food, and expired visas. Finding refuge on a nearby farm, workers were helped by the FUJ as well as Bellingham and Whatcom County residents. Just the tip of the iceberg.

AFT Washington Retirees fosters social, political, cultural, educational, and civic pursuits of retirees and supports the aims, goals, and objectives of AFT Washington and the AFT.



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