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Vol. 9, No. 4
July/August 2018

Annual Meeting Highlights

The AFT Washington Retiree Chapter’s annual meeting was held on May 19, 2018, at the IBEW Local 46 Hall in Kent, Washington.

Chapter board members confirmed at the annual meeting were Susan Levy, President; Glenda Hanson, Vice President; Carla Shafer, Secretary-Treasurer; Ross Rieder, Ann McCartney, Burt Weston, Directors. The E-Board welcomed Renee Potter and Debbie Dodd to fill vacancies on the E-Board as Directors. Thank you, John Guevarra, for your service.

We have \$2,480.70 in our AFT Washington account and \$901.38 in our voluntary account for a total of \$3,382.08 funds available.

We amended the Bylaws (Article V, Section 1 Officers) to allow the treasurer position to be combined with the secretary position.

We voted to support I-1631, a statewide initiative to the people that would charge pollution fees on sources of greenhouse gas pollutants. The membership’s approval was conveyed to the Washington State Labor Council COPE Convention.

Resolution 2018-01 that addresses the retirement security crisis by supporting a bill in our Legislature to create a state-based, long-term care program was also approved.

Governor Jay Inslee signed a bill that mandates that workers in Washington state be eligible for paid family medical leave funded by employee and employer contributions beginning in 2020.

Susan reported that attacks on Social Security are tracked by the Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA) and suggested that we build an alliance with that group.

The AFT Convention will be held July 12 through July 16 in Pittsburgh and if someone volunteers to attend at their own expense, the Executive Board would endorse the person as a Retiree Chapter Delegate.

The Executive Board will meet in September to begin planning for 2019 activities. All members are welcome. Contact Susan Levy at sjlevy.01@gmail.com for more information.

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From President Susan Levy

I was going to write a bit about our annual meeting, but I was so impressed by what others had to say, I changed my mind. However, I thought the meeting was fun, interesting and informative.

What came out of the meeting was an energy for the retiree chapter to engage in some activity, and, the timing suggested it be a political activity. This November's election will be important. We need to change the direction of our country so it becomes, once again, pro education, pro working families and pro human decency. And, if each of us does a little, it will make a difference.

At our next Executive Board meeting in late September we will be talking about the things we can do to make a difference. First, of course, is to make sure our friends, family and colleagues are registered to vote. Second is to check with AFT Washington and local labor councils to find out about endorsed candidates. And, then, of course, make sure we and others vote.

Do you have suggestions on how we should undertake these activities? Are there other things you think we should be doing? And will you help?

Please let me know any ideas, suggestions or thoughts you might have. And, if you would like to come to our next Executive Board Meeting scheduled for September 27, 2018, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., near Northgate, please let me or Merrilee Miron, mmiron@aftwa.org, know and we will get you the details.

Enjoy the summer!

Susan



Make New Friends, Keep the Old By Glenda Hanson

Remember the adage, "Make new friends; keep the old. One is silver and the other gold." At our Annual Retiree Meeting I spent time with friends I have known for several years and also had the chance to meet someone new. Our retiree chapter president, Susan, recently discovered that her new neighbor, Elaine Berman, had been president of an AFT local in New York and invited her to our annual meeting. Elaine had been a teacher for over 40 years and retired some years back. She now lives nearer to her son and his family and enjoys her retirement in Seattle. I was pleased to find out that she had been a French teacher and we talked together for a while in our second language. Elaine leads a monthly get-together to practice French at her retirement home in North Seattle. She invited me to join her group to play French scrabble or discuss a French novel. Perhaps you might want to join us at our next AFT event or come practice French. It's always a great time to nurture connections with those who share your interests.



AFT East Coast—West Coast By Elaine Berman

Well, moving from one coast to another is bound to introduce some changes in what one has come to know and expect, and having a vision of a “typical” Long Island/New York AFT meeting has been one of those things.

New York is an “AFT state” (although now merged with NEA), and so even my own local Port Washington Retiree Chapter had over 500 members--only a very small percentage of whom, admittedly, came to meetings. So imagine my surprise in attending my first AFT Washington Retirement Chapter meeting and meeting the TEN other members in attendance! It was a definite plus, however – needing only to put ten names together with ten faces for recall in the future!

The meeting was beautifully and efficiently run by president Susan Levy. The agenda, stated and adhered to, included an Amendment to the Bylaws, consideration of proposed Resolutions, and reports from various AFT members and staff. I would have liked hearing more from AFT State President Karen Strickland, but her time was limited by other commitments; however, she did allude to the time table and possible outcome of the *Janus* Supreme Court decision, an issue of major importance to unions.

During and following lunch a presentation was made by the Attorney General’s office. This covered much material with which we “very informed” retirees were already familiar with--avoiding scams, ID theft, awareness of reverse mortgages, etc.

Thank you, Susan, for my introduction to AFT Washington State style! The middle of my country may not often be on my spectrum, but both coasts will stay in focus.

Keeping Unions Strong By Carla Shafer

I attended the AFT Retirees Annual Meeting on May 19, 2018. I came because we talked about legislation and keeping unions strong. As a recent founding co-president of the professional staff AFT at Everett Community College, my purpose in coming to these meetings has been to meet the Washington community and technical college retired faculty and staff who still give energy and thought to workers, democracy and justice issues. I like the way people who come are helpful to AFT Staff because of the institutional memory and our convictions that support their work. Also, with so much political angst and fascist, racist resurgence in the federal government now, I appreciate that the AFT retirees give me another way to get my shared viewpoint on higher education and democracy, that carries the weight and resources of AFT, to the Governor, the State Legislature and nationally. We ate well with food from RTC and the meeting was short and well run, so there was time to catch up on travels and families.

AFT Washington Retiree Chapter, Local 8045R Officers

- Susan Levy, President
- Glenda Hanson, Vice President
- Carla Shafer, Secretary/Treasurer
- Debbie Dodd, Director
- Ann McCartney, Director
- Renee Potter, Director
- Ross Rieder, Director
- Burt Weston, Director



Annual Meeting Notes from Your E-Board

Ross K. Rieder

At the recent meeting of AFT Washington Retiree Board, I was pleased to see some newer faces and hear about some very creative plans for future AFT Washington retiree activities. What I saw and heard bodes well for the chapter's future.

Burt Weston

At our annual meeting, after introductions we received several reports. One of the reports focused on AFT Washington's legislative successes for our union, for labor, and for social justice issues. The collective bargaining law has been modified to allow salary to be bargained locally. The social justice issues include voting rights, Washington DREAM Act (which protects financial aid eligibility for undocumented students), help for schools to provide meals to disadvantaged students, ban on using income levels to discriminate against prospective tenants, other housing bills, and student loan bill of rights.

AFT Washington staff presented a report plus we heard reports from AFT Washington President Karen Strickland and Retiree Chapter President Susan Levy.

We approved two resolutions to be presented to the state convention. Resolution 2018-01 involves increasing retirement security for retirees. Resolution 2018-02 involves a pollution fee on sources of greenhouse gas pollutants to be used to provide jobs and promote clean energy.

We passed an amendment to the chapter's bylaws to streamline the administrative structure and we confirmed the officers to serve for the next year

After socializing over a catered lunch, a representative from the fraud section of the Attorney General's office gave a presentation on identity theft and scams directed at retirees.

Retirees in Action

Sandra Toussaint, Political Organizer for AFT Washington, says, "Retiree activists are the backbone of any labor campaign, and this year that hasn't changed. We have several opportunities for our retirees to step up and get union-backed candidates in to office. We have open seats and good viable candidates all over the state and national level, and the most important is flipping the 8th Congressional District, replacing Dave Reichert." There are virtual phone bank opportunities, calling your fellow members. We can't win these races without your help, so reach out; let us know what you are already doing and that you're willing to do more. Contact Sandra at stoussaint@aftwa.org or contact Susan at sjlevy.01@gmail.com to get more information and we'll get you the details.

Jobs for Seniors

Summer time is normally vacation time, but for some it might be time to look for work. Recently the Seahawks, AARP Washington, and Century Link reported that they are working together to fill positions at Seahawks and Sounders FC games, major concerts and other events held at Century Link and/or WaMu Theater.

If you are interested, Google 'aarp seahawks jobs' or visit <https://local.aarp.org/seattle-wa/jobs/> for more information and a link to apply.



Scamming Seniors Washington State Attorney General's Office

The guest speaker at our Annual Meeting was Elena G. Huizar, who is the Consumer Services Language Access Specialist in the Consumer Protection Division for the Washington State Attorney General's Office. Her work takes her all across the state, in an effort to inform LEP (Limited English Proficiency) and English-speaking communities of their rights as consumers and their rights and responsibilities as business owners in Washington. She was born and raised in eastern Washington and moved to the Seattle area in late 2014 with her two daughters. This year marks her tenth year with the Attorney General's Office. She discussed ways to recognize scams, report fraud, and protect ourselves and others from fraudulent activity. Three alarming statistics about senior scamming that she reported are:

1. According to a study by AARP, more than 50 percent of all fraud victims are seniors.
2. Seniors are less likely than other consumer groups to report becoming victims.
3. Consumer education can cut the risk of being victimized by more than 50 percent.

The Attorney General's office operates the Fraud Fighter Call Center along with the AARP Foundation to help consumers with tips on fraud prevention and what to do if victimized. Fraud prevention efforts are supported by a collaboration of many organizations including the Federal Trade Commission, the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions, the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, the Washington State Crime Prevention Association, the Better Business Bureau, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Have you ever received a call from a computer company telling you that you need a repair or has the IRS contacted you by phone saying you are behind in your taxes? These types of calls can be from imposters. How savvy are you in identifying a possible threat? Here is a link with more information and a quick quiz that you, yourself, can take to find out what your fraud IQ is: <https://states.aarp.org/what-is-your-impostor-iq/>

Also check out the Washington State Attorney's website <https://www.atg.wa.gov/fraud-fighters> for information on Senior Fraud in these categories:

- **Senior Fraud**
 - Fraud Fighters
 - Identity Theft
 - Relative in Need Scam
 - "Grandparent" Scam
 - Foreign Lottery
 - Home Improvement Scams
 - Internet Scams
 - Investment Scams
 - Living Trust Scams
 - Sweepstakes Scams
 - Travel Scams
 - Internet Safety for Seniors
 - Dealing with Death
 - Medicaid Fraud
 - Prescription Drug Prices
 - Vulnerable Adult Abuse

If you have questions or would like the Fraud Fighter Call Center to contact someone you think may need help, call (877) 908-3360. Elena in Consumer Services - Outreach & Education can be contacted directly at ElenaP@atg.wa.gov



Want to Help at Fraud Call Center?

There are volunteer opportunities to work at the AARP Foundation Fraud Fighter Call Center in SeaTac. Various shifts are available and lunch is provided. Parking is free and there are public transportation options. Before you begin working with consumers, you will be given extensive training. For more information contact Call Center Director Leeta Scott at lscott@aarp.org.

Got News?

Glenda Hanson, chapter Vice President, has volunteered to edit our newsletter for the next year. If you are willing to write an article or have something you'd particularly like to see covered in the newsletter, contact Glenda at 2grh@comcast.net. For back issues, visit <http://wa.aft.org/retirees>.

New AFT Benefits

By Susan Levy

Loretta Johnson, AFT Secretary-Treasurer just announced a new benefit for ALL active and retired members as of July 1, 2018. AFT is excited to offer free services available to ALL members upon registering, and other services that can be purchased. Some of the free services include:

- ID Threat Score Snapshot
- An online Safe Wallet for securely storing ID information and account numbers
- Assisted restoration and recovery services
- Access to a fraud resolution specialist for advice
- \$10,000 identity expense reimbursement with zero deductible

The services that can be purchased provide active identity theft monitoring and unlimited restoration and recovery services, as well as \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance.

For additional information visit <https://bit.ly/2IH3RfV> and you can enroll at aft.clcidprotect.net.

Our Newsletter Contributors, 2010-2018

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