



Spotlight on Retirees in Action

President's Message Greetings Retirees!



Hope the New Year has been an improvement for all compared to 2021!

Recently you should have received a mailed survey from the Retiree Chapter Board. Your responses are very important to us in our future planning. We want to give you what you deem to be important. So if you have not filled out and sent back (or sent it in digitally) the survey PLEASE do! For those of you who have returned the survey we appreciate it and THANK YOU!

The Retiree Chapter Board has an open Director's position that needs to be filled. Currently we meet quarterly. Our meetings have been by Zoom but in the past we have met in person. The Board makes decisions on future events and written materials, along with any new items that come before us. The position runs until Spring of 2023. We really would like you to consider joining us on the Board. If you are interested or have any questions, please free to contact any one of us.

In Solidarity

Merrilee Miron

SAVE THE DATE

**Friday, May 20th, 2022
10 AM – 2 PM**

The AFT Washington Retiree Chapter will be co-hosting a solidarity event in May, and you are invited! Focusing on the newly-published book *Revolutionary Nonviolence: Organizing For Freedom*, by James Lawson, this event is a seminar for students, labor, and community members alike. Co-authors Kent Wong, Director of the UCLA Labor Center, and Michael Honey, Labor and Civil Rights Historian at UW, will lead discussion and workshops on the Four Steps of organizing, with the goal of providing an opportunity to think practically about how to effectively build the next mass movement for social and economic justice. Viewing parties will be available, as well as a virtual option.

We will send out the registration information via email. If you are not already receiving emails from the AFT Washington Retiree Chapter, please let **Cortney Marabetta** know at cmarabetta@aftwa.org. It's also posted on our website at <http://wa.aft.org/retirees>, and we will update that listing when the registration information is available.

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Public Service Loan Forgiveness

One of AFT Washington's bills this session is SB 5847, Providing Information About PSLF to Public Service Employees. This bill does two things: it requires public employers provide updated and detailed information about the changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF) and it establishes a statewide standard ratio of 3.35:1 for the calculation of work hours for adjunct faculty who apply for PSLF. We believe that it is a first step to our ultimate goal of eliminating student debt, and free college for all.

Jim Howe has been active on this bill. In his testimony, he made an excellent point about the people who don't qualify for PSLF. "PSLF was designed for people going to school, THEN working 10+ years in Public Service. My wife has worked over 22 years in public service in Washington, including 10 years in mental health for the state Department of Corrections. But she didn't start the graduate work she needed as a therapist until later in life and could only get private loans (which we later converted to qualifying loans). She and other Washington seniors will retire soon on a limited income with no chance to ever qualify for PSLF. This is just wrong. This notification bill is necessary, but just a start."

We believe that student debt should never follow people into retirement. This is an important fight, and we'll keep at it. In the meantime, if you have student debt that's followed you and are looking for help, we can put you in contact with Summer, a benefit offered through the AFT. Contact **Cortney Marabetta** at cmarabetta@aftwa.org for more information.

In Memoriam

The AFT Washington Retiree Chapter, AFT Washington, and the Labor movement have lost several members recently. We extend our condolences to their loved ones, and our appreciation for the work they did in their lives.

In Loving Memory

Patty Alicea

TFESP, Local 461

John Guevarra

AFT Seattle, Local 1789

JB Hanna

AFT Yakima, Local 1485

Ross Rieder

Everett Federation of Teachers, Local 772

