



Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

Affiliated with: AFL-CIO
International Association of Fire Fighters
Washington State Labor Council

June 17, 2020

To: WSCFF Affiliate Locals

Dear Local Leaders:

The WSCFF Retirees Association (RA) Board held its first meeting virtually on May 28, 2020. The inaugural meeting was originally set for the IAFF-WSCFF Jointly Sponsored Educational Seminar, which was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our meeting was robust, with much of the discussion focused on recruiting and retaining active (dues-paying) retirees, who make up the RA. Several board members remarked that many members are unaware of the option to maintain an active membership in the WSCFF once they retire. It was also noted that many retirees pay retiree dues to their local, but these dues do not necessarily include per capita to the WSCFF or IAFF.

The board would like to work with our locals to improve communications with and simplify dues collections for members who are or have retired. It is our hope to have more retirees be active in the RA.

The RA Board had many ideas for improving communications with retirees, including sending packets to retirees when they retire, creating a retiree portal on the WSCFF website, communicating with locals about the importance of retiree membership, and establishing retiree liaisons within locals to help locals stay in touch with their retired members. It was decided that a more active approach to signing up retirees as they leave employment will be key to growing the RA.

Other topics the board discussed included potential legislative issues and how we could create greater dialogue with other agencies representing fire fighters.

The next meeting of the Retiree Board will be prior to convention in August. We look forward to representing all retired fire fighters as we navigate the future of our RA.

We will be reaching out to you later this year to get information about how your local manages retirees. In the meantime, if you have ideas or input for the WSCFF Retirees Association, the board can be reached at retirees@wscff.org. Information about the RA and full meeting minutes can be found on our website at <https://www.wscff.org/wscff-retiree-association/>.

In Solidarity,

WSCFF Retirees Association Board

Dean Shelton, Chair

Bruce Baurichter, Local 31/LEOFF 2

George Orr, Local 876/LEOFF 1

Pat Hepler, Local 1828/LEOFF 2

Roy Orlando, Local 31/LEOFF 1

Curt Vandver, Local 726/LEOFF 1

Steve Hostetter, Local 2819/LEOFF 2

