AFSCME C75 RETIREE 2021 CONVENTION

Presidents report Pat Riggs-Henson

I want to take this time to welcome our delegates to our 2021 Convention and to take a moment of silence (which we will also do at the convention) to honor those retired union members who have passed from life due to natural causes, the pandemic or wildfires. **If you have a name you wish to honor please send me their name and what local they belonged to before retiring.** **henson2831@comcast.net**

**LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD:** For the past 2 years our Retiree Chapter has been in transition. Our dues structure changed in 2020 and members needed to chose to remain members and pay their dues directly to the Oregon AFSCME C75 Retiree chapter. Thank you to all of our members who chose to stay with us. With your help we will make a difference for current and future AFSCME retirees.

We have a lot to be proud of in the 2020 Election. We asked and our retirees turned out to vote! Thank you. Locally retirees stepped up to help our active/working AFSCME members in their struggle to maintain their membership. We are now reaching out to give those active members an option to become part of our AFSCME C75 Retiree Chapter.

During the past year I have reached out to some members to see how they were handling the Covid Pandemic. So many expressed loneliness and some depression. When talking to them I realized that just a phone call makes so much difference when you are in lock down. **If you know someone that doesn’t have family to help them through this uncertain time *Please* reach out to them…you will make such a difference.** Many of our Retirees were stepping up to help take care of the grandkids and great grandkids that were suddenly at home all day and doing virtually school. Wow the things we have learned… like math is way different now than when I was in 5th grade! The support we give to our families helped them work (even from home) and provided a sense of security for our grandkids. Cooking classes with grandma or grandpa is a huge treat. We will have a whole generation of children embracing the kitchen and knowing cooking can be fun.

Our AFSCME Retiree Chapter and local Sub Chapters donated to the Council 75 wildfire emergency funds. Bev Swanson, our communication director, reached out to our members asking anyone that was affected to please contact us. Bev Thank you. We had one person get help and another decided he was ok when his insurance came through.

WE HAVE A WEB PAGE!!! **BIG** Thank you to Frank Vehafric for being our WEB master Extraordinaire. **Ch75retirees.org**

AFSCME retiree members qualify for many services under the International AFSCME Advantage program. We will have those available on our webpage **ch75retirees.org .** The most popular is the educational scholarships that you or your family members can qualify for. We also have the annual **Michael Arken scholarship** available.

Politically we have the May election which is important on a local level. The 2021 legislative session is long and very cumbersome with everything being done virtually. Visit OLIS (Oregon Legislative Information System for more information. Sign up to receive reports from your local legislators.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD IN PORTLAND: **VOTE FOR AFSCME LABOR RETIREE MARY BOTKIN FOR MULTNOMAH ESD IN THE MAY 2021 ELECTION!**

**BIG THANK YOU:** It takes a great team to keep our Retiree Chapter moving forward. Please Join me in thanking your current Executive Board members: Turner-Morfitt 1st Vice President, Robin Mariani-Moffit Treasurer, Judy Langdon Recording Secretary, Bev Swanson Sub Chapter 46 Vice President, Lou Sinniger Sub Chapter 41 Vice President and our Trustees, Jim Gehardt, Bing Wong and Janice Larken. They are the glue that keeps our Oregon AFSCME Retiree C75 Chapter together and they are committed to Standing up for you and those you love.

Oregon AFSCME Council 75. Council 75 is one of the few AFSCME Councils that have a Retiree Vice President on their Executive Board. During the past 2 years of transition AFSCME support staff has been amazing. Thank you President Jeff Klatke, Director Stacy Chamberlain and our AFSCME Retiree staff Dan Torres for helping us move forward.

Our AFSCME International Retiree Council is working very hard to protect our social security and Medicare. Part of your dues go directly to the International to help keep up the National battle to safeguard our retirement security. We work in partnership with AFSCME International to make sure our voices are heard. Thank you Carlos Lopez, our Regional AFSCME International staff, who is always there when I need him. Thank you to AFSCME International staff Ben Hodapp and International AFSCME Retiree Director Ann Widger for keeping us informed on what is happening in DC.

Our future is what we want to make it and WE are going to make our future a place where we are safe and financially secure and our families have a safe and secure future for generations to come.

Pat