

AFSCME, DC 47 Retirees Chapter President's Report
For the Retirees Chapter General Membership
November 17, 2021 Meeting (virtual)

I attended the AFSCME Retiree Council June, July, September and October meetings for Chapter Presidents.

Federal legislation regarding retiree issues, membership recruitment, communication, PEOPLE and next year's Convention which will be in Philadelphia were discussed.

The Retirees Chapter leadership met with Ben Hodapp, Kayce Reed and Terri Brady of the AFSCME Retire Council to discuss chapter specific issues. Which included a website, communication with members, membership recruitment, ways to have a voice within the Council, COLA's and the two proposals regarding an increase in the life insurance policy and an increase to \$1,000.00 monthly for retirees who currently receive less than that in their monthly pension check.

The Retirees Chapter leadership met with DC 47 Council President, Cathy Scott regarding the two proposals indicated above. We met with Cathy to encourage her to include our proposals in the then contract negotiations. New retirees will receive \$7,500.00 in life insurance. However, the contract negotiations did not result in an increase for current retirees. Also, an increase in the monthly pension payment of current retirees who receive less than \$1,000.00 was not obtained.

In our subsequent meeting with Cathy we agreed and provided her with a summary regarding the two proposals. We are currently actualizing a strategic plan which includes working with the DC 33 retirees chapter and lobbying City Council to obtain these benefits for our membership.

Carol Stukes, the Pension Board Representative and I met with Eddie Williams who is the President of the Golden Age Club which is the Retirees Chapter for DC 33 regarding developing a coalition to advocate for our mutual concerns as City of Philadelphia retirees.

Our Chapter partnered with the National Council of Negroe Women (NCNW) on a town hall titled, “Can We Talk?” which was an intergenerational discussion regarding the COVID vaccines.

I attended the Annual Labor Day Parade of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO. The Retirees Chapter had a table under the umbrella at the Grande area of Penns Landing where we registered people to vote and gave out information regarding the Philadelphia Board of Education policy to register eligible students to vote.

I also attended the Philadelphia Retiree Council, AFL-CIO Delegates September and November meetings.

Officers election, federal legislation and the annual holiday party were discussed. The November meeting had guest speaker Anthony Lucker from the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office discuss tips to prevent seniors from becoming victims of fraud. The information provided during that discussion has been posted on our page on the Council’s website.

The Retirees Chapter did not previously have a page on the Council’s website. Chapter Vice President, Tom Cronin and I met with Stephen Mora, the Communications Director for DC 47.

The Retirees Chapter now has a page on the Council’s website. Please visit the site for information regarding our Chapter.

I met with the Membership Committee which currently consists of Cynthia Harmon-Williams who is the Retirees Chapter Executive Board Liaison regarding membership, Carol Stukes, Ora King and myself.

We are updating our records regarding members and developing a recruitment plan for non-City locals. We also plan to meet with the International to obtain information and assistance with the plan.

I have attended the DC 47 Executive Board July, September and October meetings. I also attended the DC 47 Delegate Assembly July and September meetings where I provided a report regarding the Retirees Chapter.

The Retirees Chapter Executive Board met in June, July, September, October and November regarding various retiree issues and concerns.

I attended the scheduled PEOPLE committee meetings where we interviewed candidates for the 2021 Primary and General Elections. The PEOPLE committee also makes recommendations to the Delegate Assembly for consideration of political candidates to be endorsed by DC 47.

I am also a member of the fundraising committee for DC 47's PEOPLE committee.

The Retirees Chapter leadership has sent out four mailings since the June, 2021 officers election to the membership; the first provided the results of our June officers election, the second was a postcard asking members what you wanted us to focus on moving forward and asked for members email addresses, the third gave an update of the contract negotiations and the labor day parade information and the fourth which the International Retiree Council mailed for us was the announcement of the November 17th membership meeting.

Submitted by: Vanessa L. Fields, Chapter President