

Historic Timeline: AFSCME Retirees

1980

- The AFSCME Retiree Program began operation, following an amendment to the AFSCME Constitution that created a new structure for retiree membership in the union.
- Started with 13,000 members in 6 chapters.
- First meeting of the AFSCME Retirees Council, the governing body of the AFSCME retiree membership.

1986

- Delegates to the International Union convention adopted a constitutional amendment that gave each retiree chapter voice and vote at all future biennial conventions.

1987

- Membership in the Retiree Program grew to 100,000 members when New York's CSEA Retiree Division affiliated. The new Retiree Chapter 1000 brought in 38,000 retiree members.
- The AFSCME Retiree Program became an official department of the International Union.

1988

- The AFSCME Retiree Program was accepted for membership in the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), the umbrella coalition for all the leading aging groups in the country.

1996

- AFSCME helped form the National Democratic Seniors Coordinating Council (NDSCC) of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). [Currently, AFSCME Retirees Director Steve Regenstreif serves as NDSCC Chairman.]

2000

- AFSCME was a founding union of the Alliance for Retired Americans, the federation of union retirees and other senior citizens that's supported by the AFL-CIO.

2006

- At the International Union Convention, a constitutional amendment was adopted making the Chair of the AFSCME Retirees Council the official retiree representative to the International Executive Board (IEB). Jerry LaPoint currently serves as Chair of the AFSCME Retirees Council and sits at the table at all IEB meetings.
- Name of the AFSCME Retiree Program officially changed to "AFSCME Retirees."

2007

- Following in the footsteps of the International Union's Committee on the 21st Century, the AFSCME Retirees Council issued "AFSCME Retirees in the 21st Century," the final report of its Retirees' Committee on the 21st Century. The report made numerous recommendations to the International Union for growing and strengthening the retirees organization and increasing the retirees' participation in all areas of AFSCME activity.
- One of the key recommendations in the 21st Century report was to increase the number of retiree contributors to PEOPLE -- AFSCME's political action fund. Since that decision in 2007, the number of retiree PEOPLE contributors has more than doubled, growing from 5,000 to 12,000 by the end of 2011. AFSCME retirees make annual contributions of approximately \$400,000.

2008

- AFSCME Retirees had 35 delegates to the Democratic National Convention -- more than the total delegation of most unions. Seven AFSCME retirees currently serve on the Democratic National Committee.

2010

- AFSCME Retirees celebrated its 30th Anniversary at the 2010 International Convention in Boston.

2012

- Currently, AFSCME Retirees counts 250,000 dues-paying members in 41 chapters and 260 local groups. The newest chapter is Texas Retiree Chapter 12, which had its founding convention on March 22nd. The 42nd chapter will be Florida Retiree Chapter 79, with a founding convention scheduled for May 31st in Orlando.
- AFSCME Retirees is the largest public-sector retirees organization in the U.S. and the fastest growing retirees organization in the labor movement. More than 10,000 members have been added annually over the last 15 years.