

AFSCME Retirees



If you're a retired public employee, there's one sure way to **improve your retirement benefits** and have the dignity and security you deserve...





...Organize! And AFSCME can help

A career in public employment is something to be proud of. It means you've earned the right to a secure and dignified retirement.

But real security is only possible if you're willing to defend your rights and protect your interests. That's why you owe it to yourself to stay involved.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), with 1.6 million working and retiree members, will help you stay involved. From our headquarters in Washington, DC, the AFSCME Retirees program is protecting Social Security and Medicare. And we're promoting new legislation on such issues as public-pension safeguards and coverage for long-term care.

AFSCME retiree members are a big part of this effort. Together, they form a nationwide grassroots network dedicated to fighting for improved public-sector pensions and retirement benefits.

Now's the time to join the fight and help build a strong and effective organization.

The working members also know that AFSCME retirees have a lifetime of experience in public service. Retirees are an asset to the union, and a valuable resource to their communities and the nation.

AFSCME retiree members come from a wide variety of public-sector occupations, ranging from nurse's aides to architects, sanitation workers to secretaries. Whether white collar or blue, they all want a better life for retired public employees.

Enjoying Retirement

The ability to enjoy retirement is an important part of achieving a "better life." AFSCME retiree members know how to have fun. They get together for holiday parties, plan excursions and vacation trips, and combine their meetings with luncheons or doughnuts and coffee.

For AFSCME retiree members, retiring from a job doesn't mean retiring from life. Many find they're more active now than ever before.



An Action Agenda

AFSCME retiree chapters lobby Congress, appeal to state legislatures, even fight city hall in the effort to protect and improve retirement benefits. Letters, calls and visits to lawmakers, as well as rallies and town hall meetings, are just some of the member activities that have expanded health care coverage and enhanced pensions.

With help from AFSCME's councils and locals, our retiree chapters have had many success stories. Here are some recent examples:

New York State: AFSCME's New York affiliates (CSEA/Local 1000 and Retiree Chapter 1000; Council 82 and Retiree Chapter 82; and District Council 37 and Retiree Chapter 37) worked together to establish a permanent, annual COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) on public pensions.

New Mexico: To protect the state retirement system from raids by the state government, AFSCME's New Mexico Retiree Chapter 18 helped win a constitutional amendment that prohibits the use of pension funds for non-pension purposes.

Ohio: Statewide Retiree Chapter 1184 — with help from the AFSCME Ohio councils and locals — successfully lobbied for a guaranteed 3 percent annual COLA for every Ohio public pensioner, every year.

Hawaii & New York City: With Medicare Part B premiums on the rise, Hawaii Retiree Chapters 152 and 646, as well as New York City Chapter 37, conducted winning campaigns for full Part B reimbursement to public retirees.

Illinois: The negotiating skill of AFSCME Council 31 helped Retiree Chapter 31 secure employer-paid dental coverage for state retirees.

Los Angeles: In addition to employer-paid health care coverage for retirees and spouses, AFSCME Retiree Chapter 36 (with Council 36) recently won paid health care coverage for surviving spouses of city retirees.

Rhode Island: Thanks to a lobbying campaign by Retiree Chapter 94, the state nearly doubled the retiree death benefit.

The AFSCME Advantage

While there are other national organizations that fight for retired Americans, the AFSCME Retirees has a distinction. We fight for the rights of public-sector retirees. On the national, state and local levels, we're the only retiree organization that's part of AFSCME, the leading public-sector union in the United States. That means we have the full support of thousands of AFSCME councils and local unions all across the country.



These local AFSCME affiliates provide the retiree chapters with a variety of services — everything from office and meeting space to skilled lobbying assistance. Their expertise in dealing with state legislators and local officials is a definite advantage for AFSCME retirees.

AFSCME is equally experienced in dealing with the U.S. Congress. As your watchdog in the nation's capital, the AFSCME Retirees program works to preserve your federal retirement benefits. That means making sure that seniors receive full Social Security COLAs and finding new ways to hold down soaring health care costs.

Clearly, this is the kind of protection public retirees need ... and only AFSCME clout can provide.

The Members

AFSCME's 1.4 million working members are firmly committed to the retirees, lending extra clout to their legislative efforts. The working members recognize they'll also be retired some day and will need the benefits won by today's retirees. Clearly, *our* strength is *their* security.

AFSCME Retiree Chapters: Our Strength, Your Security

Most of AFSCME's retiree members belong to one of our many retiree chapters around the country. The chapters hold regular meetings and social events, and sponsor a variety of education and service programs.

Membership in an AFSCME retiree chapter is a good way to maintain ties with former co-workers, stay up to date on current retirement issues and become more involved in the community.

AFSCME retiree chapters are independent affiliates of AFSCME. They elect their own officers, adopt their own constitutions, set their own policies, and establish and control their own budgets. Also, the chapters elect their own delegates to AFSCME's biennial national convention and are all represented on the governing AFSCME Retirees Council.

Most important, AFSCME retiree chapters give public-sector retirees a chance to work together on common goals, such as pension increases and new health care benefits. Whenever benefits are under attack, chapter members go into action, writing letters to lawmakers and staging public demonstrations.



How to Join

Membership in the AFSCME Retirees is open to all retired members of AFSCME or its affiliates, as well as other public-sector pensioners and spouses. Even if you were never an AFSCME member during your working years, you're eligible to join now, as a member of the AFSCME Retirees.

Membership brings a variety of benefits. In addition to those already mentioned, retiree members receive *AFSCME WORKS* magazine and *PrimeTIME* newsletter. Also, you'll be eligible for a variety of "AFSCME Advantage" benefits that serve your consumer needs, including a discount legal services plan, Health Savings Plan, car rental discounts, the AFSCME Advantage MasterCard (low interest rates, no annual fee) and many other services.

So, start enjoying one of the best retiree bargains around by joining the AFSCME Retirees. We need your help to ensure that public-sector retirees have a strong voice wherever decisions are made that affect your retirement. And you need us for the very same reason.

Don't wait. Join today!

American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

AFSCME Retirees
1625 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5687
(202) 429-1274
afscme.org