



**Report of the Retired
Members' Council to the
76th CWA Convention**

Pittsburgh, PA
August 7 - 9, 2017

The CWA Retired Members' Council (RMC) plays an important role in our Union, maintaining contact with retired members and giving them a voice in their union and in their nation. The RMC also tries to support local unions to enhance their power in bargaining, mobilizing, legislative and political action campaigns.

The Council continues to grow in size and influence

- The RMC has over 55,000 members, an increase of more than 2,000 since the last Convention.
- The Council now has 238 chapters, covering every CWA district and sector in nearly every state, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Six chapters have been added since the last Convention. Two chapters have closed. Chapters range in size from less than 5 to more than 2500. 60% of our members are directly affiliated with a local chapter.
- The Council's website, www.cwaretirees.org, includes timely features on issues affecting retirees, instructions on becoming a member of the RMC and how to locate a retiree chapter nearby. The website also provides links to affinity groups such as the Alliance for Retired Americans.
- The Council has an active presence on Facebook, sharing useful news and information and tapping retirees' growing interest in online activities. The page has garnered over 9,600 "Facebook likes", expressions of support from readers.
- In the fall of 2016 the Council debuted "Grey Matters" an electronic newsletter that went out to 13,300 email addresses. A new retiree column will be published in the News Guild Reporter beginning with the summer 2017 issue.

Activities of the Council and Chapters: Retirees support the union in every area of bargaining, mobilizing, legislative and political action.

- Telephone Town Hall meetings in March of the 2016 and 2017 with CenturyLink retirees as the company changed the structure of its retiree benefits.
- Organized retiree attendance at rallies, wrote letters, made phone calls in support of the Affordable Care Act as President Trump and Congress continue their efforts to destroy it.
- Educated and mobilized retirees in all CWA districts and sectors in support of candidates supportive of working families and retirees in 2016.
- Retirees attended rallies in support of CWA bargaining and for national issues such as climate change, voting rights and the Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal.
- Chapters registered new voters and phone-banked to get out the vote for local, regional and national candidates in the 2016 election
- Retirees called, visited and wrote to their Members of Congress and other elected officials on issues important to the union such as the health care, TPP, voting rights and collective bargaining rights.

In addition to organizing more local, regional and state chapters, increasing the membership in existing chapters, and strengthening the union, the RMC's seeks to:

- Engage retired CWA members in the ongoing fight for retirement security, economic justice and democracy.
- Grow retirees' participation in the CWA Political Action Fund.
- Work with the Alliance for Retired Americans and other retiree and community-based allies at the national, state and local level for social justice for seniors.