



**Report of the Retired  
Members' Council to the 78th  
CWA Convention**

October 18 -20, 2021

Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Judy Fries, I am President of District 7 retirees representing the Retired Members' Council. It is an honor to give the RMC Report for our convention.

Once upon a time we were all active working members fighting for the benefits you have now. In retirement we continue that fight alongside you.

I want to thank all the locals that support their chapters in so many different ways. Whether it is paying the one-time Life Time membership fee of \$25 so they can join the RMC or letting their chapter use the hall for their meetings, mailing out a letter or anything you do to support your chapters. Thank you.

When members retire, we need to encourage them to join the RMC and tell them why it is so important to continue to band together even during our retirement. We cannot put away our union card, sit back and reap the rewards and benefits of a long career. We are on the front lines of protecting our rights to retire in dignity, and fight back attempts to dismantle the many hard-earned benefits like healthcare, social security and retirement security we fought so hard for.

We want ALL CWA retirees to join as Life Time members – so we can reach out to them, so they are better informed and make sure they are aware of our benefits. Through the Council they will be joining forces with active CWA members in support of the union's goals, whether on the picket line, phone banking, or through other ways of support. **We want all retirees to get the facts directly from CWA.**

We work in tandem with the active Locals and will mobilize with them. We can help with organizing drives and by informing new members of the benefits of becoming a union member when they start with the company.

The Retired Members' Council represents approx. 58,000 lifetime members with 224 chapters. But we still have a long ways to go.

One important thing is we need better communication once we retire and more current information on our new retirees. I was doing a mail out earlier this year and the address I had for several of our retirees was from 1990. We also need updated emails, phone numbers and cells. We need better ways to reach our retirees. I held a Town Hall conference call and had over 500 retirees we did not have a phone number for. It makes it impossible to reach out to them without doing an expensive mailing. Then there are no guarantees that our addresses are correct. When they join the RMC we get that opportunity to update their information.

When we were active members of CWA we enjoyed the protection and benefits of a strong union committed to negotiating good contracts with safe working conditions, quality benefits and good compensation in exchange for our work. Each of us stood shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters, to get the best contracts we could bargain.

Chapters provide retirees with a vehicle to protect and fight for issues that affect us. Being part of a retiree chapter you can help fight to protect retiree benefits.

CWA retirees play an important role in winning our key political goals, healthcare and retirement security for all, and a stronger union movement.

This means increasing the ranks of our National Retired Members' Council and also building more and stronger Retiree Chapters

We want to extend and energize CWA Retiree Power throughout our communities.

Retirees are a powerful force in public opinion and voter polls where politicians and corporations understand the power we hold when we are an organized unit speaking with one voice.

Mobilization is the way we educate our members about the issues, the way we generate activism in our community, and the way we build power and support.

Mobilization is the way we have won every significant benefit when we were active members.

Retiree Chapters are a way to stay connected to the Union for social, political and mobilization purposes, thus giving retirees a voice in matters that affect them. We are also entitled to participate in the CWA Union Plus program. Along with that we receive a discount on AT&T Wireless services, Plus Lifelong learning program with CWA/NETT Academy, and discounted hearing aids as an ARA member.

### **Our membership determines our strength.**

Active Retiree Chapters increase our power as retirees. Chapters are our main venue for keeping our retirees informed.

Retirees have a wealth of knowledge and experience and we want to channel that for the betterment of all of us. We continue to gear up for bargaining with all our companies we support.

Unions today are literally fighting for their lives. CWA needs us more than ever. With our pensions, health care and the future of Social Security hanging in balance, we need CWA more than ever also.

Locals we need your help – as our chapter officer's age we try to mentor retirees to come in behind us. Several of our chapters are sitting out there with no one to be the team leader. We need you as local leaders to suggest your members that can help us when they retire. They do not have to have been past officers. The majority of my Chapter Presidents were too busy raising their families to be officers when they worked, but they have time now and a passion to help. So Please talk with your Retiree chapters and help us find someone to step up with those chapters.

If you don't have a Retiree Chapter talk with your District RMC officers to get one started and help us build a movement to protect all retired workers.

We have a new brochure CWA Retirees, [When We Fight, We Win](#). I'm hoping all the Locals will order them to talk about this in their union meetings and hand out when a member retires.

**I want to tell you why CWA Strong!!! is so important to our retirees**

To us it means increasing our retiree membership

Activating and energizing our retirees

Building more powerful chapters

We know how powerful we are when we are united.

We know when we stand together we will win together.

As retirees we need to remain CWA strong

Retirees have done this before and we'll do it again.

United we Stand,

In Solidarity,

Thank you,

Judy Fries, President, RMC District 7