

Heads up

- Getting a vaccine: <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>
- Questions about boosters and third doses? <https://tinyurl.com/u6tw34b8>
- Access the PERS database at <https://gov.oregonlive.com/pers/>
- Calculate your Part B premium estimate at: <https://tinyurl.com/3986dfhs>

Volume 2022, Issue 4

November 2022

Actively Retired in Oregon

AFT-OREGON RETIREES

How Chapter members fit into PERS scene

With the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) likely to rumble, as usual, at least around the edges of the upcoming Legislative session, the numbers tell the story where Chapter members land.

Of the membership, 88 percent are PERS recipients, with the rest retiring from private sector jobs represented by AFT-Oregon locals.

PERS recipients reflect a range of service, monthly and annual benefits and final salaries.

As reported in the May, 2022 newsletter, the Executive Board urged AFT-Oregon to pursue “an appropriate” one time adjustment to benefits, so those who gave their working lives to the public “do not find themselves seriously harmed by this post-Pandemic inflation.”

It called the July 2022 two percent increase “tiny” compared to the Social Security average annual 5.9 percent adjustment.

The PERS cost-of-living adjustment is based on the West Region CPI which for 2021 hit 4.52 percent.

	Average	Low	High	Median
Months of Service	289	85	435	305
Monthly Benefit	3,030	254	7,919	2,498
Annual Benefit	36,357	3,050	95,030	29,976
Final Salary	44,642	16,516	83,414	41,368
Percent of Final Salary	84	11	257	50

Source: Chapter calculations from PERS database as of July 2022.

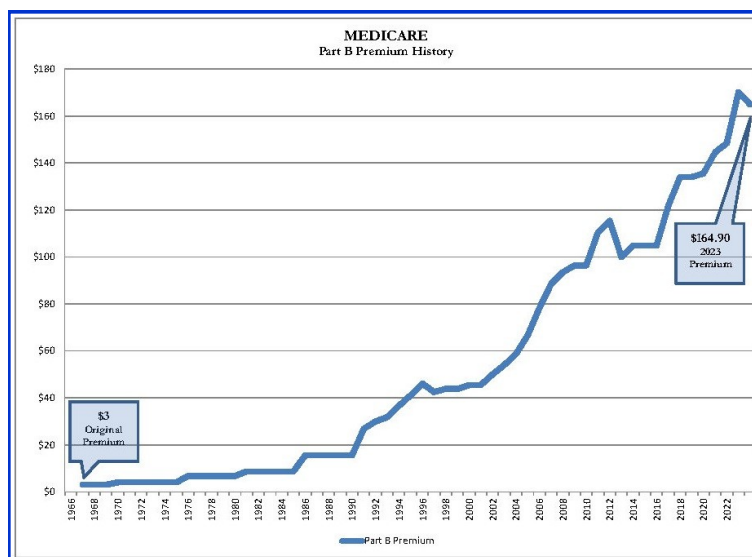
Medicare Part B premium down after up

Not since a decade ago recipients will see the monthly Medicare Part B premium drop to \$164.90.

That follows a controversial increase for 2022 when, last January 1, recipients saw a \$21.60 jump

o the 2022 monthly \$170.10. That increase — the largest in history — was attributed to inclusion of the Alzheimer medication Aduhelm, the first Alzheimer medication ap-

turn to **Part B** Page 3



Source: Social Security Administration historical data.

turn to **Chapter** Page 2

Dear Retiree Members . . .



Louise Currin
President

*Don't forget
Ask friends from
your AFT Local to
join the Retirees
Chapter*

Ballots, as I write this, are still being counted for the 2022 Mid-terms.

Elections are important for many reasons, but for retirees our elected officials on both the state and federal level have control over our earned benefits. It does look for now that Social Security and Medicare will remain safe for a while longer. Because benefits will remain tenuous, it is incumbent upon us to remain vigilant and waiting until election day can be too late.

As new legislators assume their positions, they will start having constituent events. Even Oregon's two Senators have committed to visit each county at least

once during the calendar year. Sign up to receive newsletters to receive notifications. For example U.S. Rep Earl Blumenauer (Dist. 3) reports and dates are available at: <https://blumenauerforms.house.gov/forms/form/?ID=1>. Make sure also to read our quarterly newsletters to keep to date with the status of your benefits.

We look forward to presenting some informative programs and activities in the coming year. Enjoy the upcoming holidays.

In solidarity,

Louise
President

Chapter members and PERS scene

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Chapter leadership has been advised the goal will be included in the State Federation's 2023 legislative agenda. A high success rate among candidates endorsed by AFT-Oregon in the mid-term elections may help in that pursuit. It re-

mains a guess what, if any, effect withholding endorsement from several incumbent and new Democratic candidates, including the Speaker of the House may influence legislative success.

Meanwhile, Social Secu-

rity recipients will see a largest-in-history 8.7 percent adjustment in 2023, boosting average monthly payments by "about \$146," according to the Social Security Administration.

The 2023 Oregon Legislature convenes January 17.

Actively Retired in Oregon

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Deanna Woods

Treasurer
(vacant)
(Acting: Richard Schwarz)

VP Membership Program
Richard Schwarz

VP Legislative Activities
Greg Monahan

Editor
Val Jack

Associate Editor
Dick Schwarz

How Social Security stacks up to PERS

Type of Social Security Beneficiary	Number of Social Security Beneficiaries (thousands)	Total monthly Social Security benefits (millions of dollars)	Average monthly Social Security benefit (dollars)
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance	56,966	91,149	1,600.07
Retirement benefits	51,108	83,353	1,630.93
Retired workers	48,385	81,119	1,676.53
Spouses of retired workers	2,045	1,701	831.54
Children of retired workers	677	533	787.29

Among the largest percentage increases are:

- 68% in 1975 from \$4 to \$6.70
- 78% in 1985 from \$8.70 to \$15.50
- 73% in 1990 from \$15.50 to \$26.80

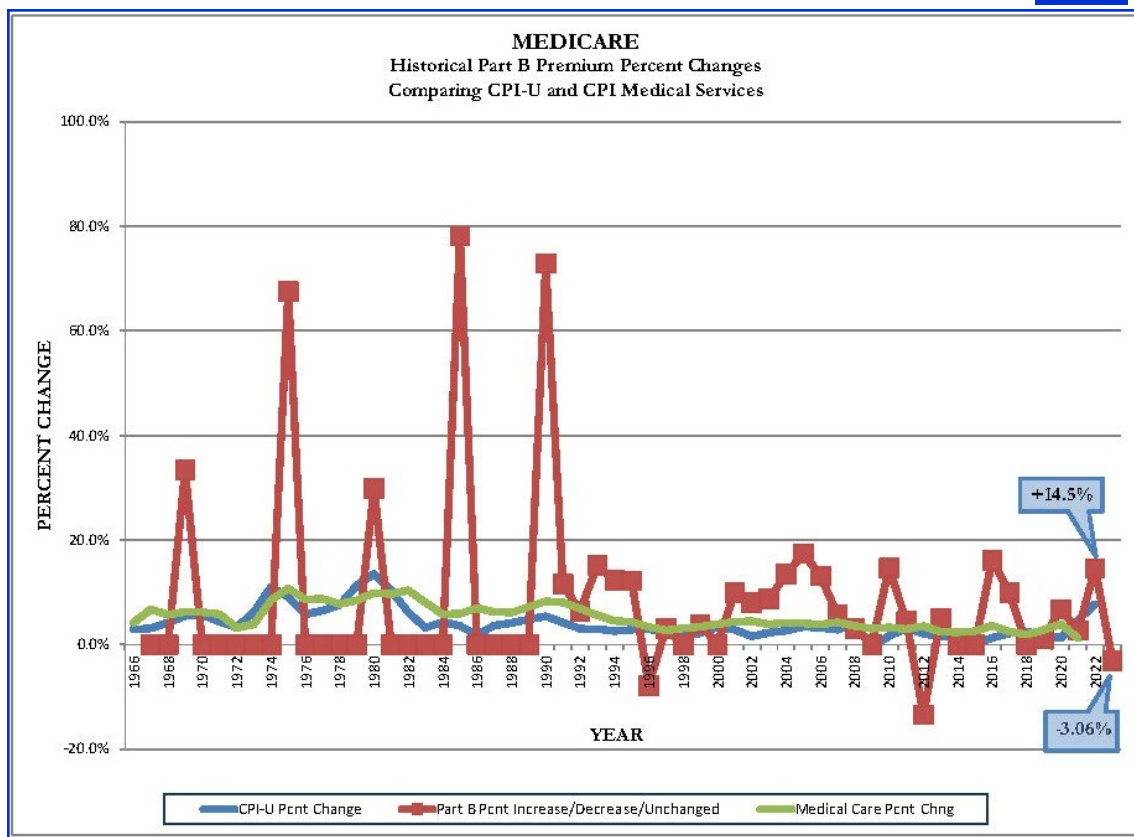
Other facts

- 8%

Average annual Part B premium percentage increase including decreases

- 5,570%

Part B premium percentage increase over the life of the program from \$3 in 1966 to \$170.10 in 2022



Source: DOL Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI and Medicare Part B premium historical data

Part B and inflation historical trends

continued from Page 1

approved by the FDA in 20 years.

For the uninitiated, Medicare Part B covers outpatient care and visits for medical, dental, eye and other professionals. Social Security recipients pay the premium, deducted from monthly benefit payments.

The Part B monthly premium has an up and down history since its inception in 1966 at a mere \$3 per month, \$27.59 in today's dollars.

Recent Social Security payments better reflect inflation in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U).

However, the Medical

Care Services part of the index is apportioned among professional services, 42 percent; hospital and related services, 30 percent; and health insurance, 9 percent.

The Part B deduction changes, for example, an \$1,800 monthly benefit, to \$1,635.10

Professional services includes those performed:

- by physicians in private practice, including osteopaths for house, office, clinic, and hospital visits.
- by opticians, optometrists, and ophthalmologists, including eye exams, dispensing of eyeglasses and contact lenses, office visits, and surgical proce-

dures in the office or hospital.

- by dentists, oral or maxillofacial surgeons, orthodontists, periodontists, or other dental specialists in group or individual practice, in either the office or hospital.

- by other professionals such as psychologists, chiropractors, physical therapists, podiatrists, social workers, and nurse practitioners in or out of the office, and independent lab work and imaging services.

The BLS provides a more detailed explanation of price changes and covered services at:

<https://tinyurl.com/3f57tkv5>



Greg Monahan
VP Legislative

Track Election

AFT-Oregon election endorsement withheld from (district and win percentage):

- Sen. Jeff Golden (SD3 52%)
- Senate (SD20) candidate Rep. Mark Meek (50.3%)
- Rep. Pam Marsh (HD5 64%)
- Rep. Nancy Nathanson (HD13 65%)
- Rep. Julie Fahey (HD14 60%)
- House Speaker Rep. Dan Rayfield (HD16 75%)
- Rep. Dacia Grayber (HD28) (82%)
- Thuy Tran (HD45 84%)
- Rep. Kanb Pham (HD46 84%)
- Emerson Levy (HD53 50.5%)

2022 Mid-term elections

How'd it go for preferred candidates and issues?

Now that mid-term elections 2022 are finally over, our TVs will no longer suffer endless political ads.

For union supporters, the theme this year was: “it could have been so much worse.” In a year when Republicans were expected to overwhelm Democrats both nationally and in Oregon, it did not happen. Nationally, Democrats held on to their control of the Senate, while they

barely lost control of the House to a very small Republican majority that is seriously divided between “Trumpers” and less right wing members.

Democrats in Oregon re-elected popular U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and secured four of six U.S. House seats. In the Fifth District Jamie McLeod-Skinner could not hold on to beat Republican Lori Chavez Deremer. But, Val Hoyle successfully succeeded re-

Office ¹	Endorsed Candidate	PAC Contribution ²	Oregon AFL-CIO Position	Result ³
Federal				
US Senate	Ron Wyden		✓	👍
US House CD-1	Suzanne Bonamici		✓	👍
US House CD-2	Earl Blumenauer		✓	👍
US House CD-4	Val Hoyle		✓	👍
US House CD-5	Jamie McLeod-Skinner		✓	👎
US House CD-6	Andrea Salinas		✓	👍
Statewide				
Governor	Tina Kotek	22,387	✓	👍
BOLI Commissioner	Christina Stephenson	24,078	✓	👍
Measure 111	Right to Health Care		✓	👍
Measure 112	Remove from Constitution Slavery as Punishment for Crime		✓	👍
Measure 113	Hold Politicians Accountable for Unexcused Legislative Absenteeism		✓	👍
Measure 114	Changes to Firearms Ownership, Purchase Requirements	1,700		👍

Note 1. For unlisted offices AFT-Oregon did not take a position on the candidate/issue.

Note 2. Contributions for Federal offices come from AFT voluntary political action funds. Contributions to state candidates/measures come from the AFT-Oregon Candidate or Issue Political Action Committees funded by voluntary contributions. Amount also may include in-kind.

Note 3. Secretary of State Elections Division.

retiring Peter DeFazio; while in the new Sixth District Andrea Salinas held on to defeat Mike Erickson in a very tight race.

Likewise, Tina Kotek managed to defeat both Christine Drazen and Betsy Johnson to keep the governorship in Democratic hands, and Democrats held on to their majorities in both the Oregon House and Senate. That said, they will no longer enjoy super-

majorities in both houses, but the passage of Measure 113 (which punishes legislators who walk out) will make it harder for Republicans to stall the work of the Legislature with that tactic.

Union members were instrumental in both supporting and get-out-the vote for union-supported candidates.

So, everyone give yourselves a pat on the back!

Of course, the fight is never over, but in Oregon, at least, we can breathe a small sigh of relief.

<i>State Senate Endorsed Candidates</i>		PAC contribution	Oregon AFL-CIO	Result
SD 8	Sara Gelser Blouin	1,000	✓	👍
SD 10	Deb Patterson	7,500	✓	👍
SD 11	Richard Walsh	1,000	✓	👎
SD 13	Aaron Woods	1,000	✓	👍
SD 16	Melissa Busch	750	✓	👎
SD 17	Elizabeth Steiner Hayward	1,000	✓	👍
SD 18	Wlnsvey Campos	7,700	✓	👍
SD 19	Rob Wagner	20,000	✓	👍
SD 24	Kayse Jama	1,000	✓	👍
SD 26	Raz Mason	750		👎
<i>State House Endorsed Candidates</i>				
HD 10	David Gomborg	250	✓	👍
HD 12	Michelle Emmons	250		👎
HD 19	Tom Anderson	750	✓	👍
HD 20	Paul Evans	5,000	✓	👍
HD 21	Ramiro Navaro Jr.	5,500	✓	👎
HD 22	Anthony Medina	1,000	✓	👎
HD 25	Ben Bowman	1,000	✓	👍
HD 26	Courtney Neron	1,000	✓	👍
HD 27	Ken Helm	1,000	✓	👍

<i>State House Endorsed Candidates (continued)</i>		PAC Contribution	Oregon AFL-CIO	Result
HD 29	Susan McLain	5,200	✓	👍
HD 30	Nathan Sosa	1,250	✓	👍
HD 31	Anthony Sorace			👎
HD 32	Logan Laity	250		👎
HD 33	Maxine Dexter	1,000	✓	👍
HD 34	Lisa Reynolds	1,000	✓	👍
HD 35	Farrah Chaici	1,250	✓	👍
HD 36	Hai Pham	1,000	✓	👍
HD 37	Jules Walters		✓	👍
HD 38	Daniel Nguyen	250	✓	👍
HD 40	Annessa Hartman	500	✓	👍
HD 41	Mark Gamba	2,500		👍
HD 42	Rob Nosse	700	✓	👍
HD 43	Tawna Sanchez	5,000	✓	👍
HD 44	Travis Nelson	1,000	✓	👍
HD 48	Hoa Nguyen	700	✓	👍
HD 49	Zach Hudson	250	✓	👍
HD 50	Ricki Ruiz	700	✓	👍
HD 52	Darcy Long	250	✓	👎
HD 54	Jason Kropf		✓	👍

Status of selected Initiative Petitions filed for 2024

Approved to circulate

- IP3- Criminalizing injuring or killing animals for food, hunting, fishing

Title pending Supreme Court appeal

- IP6- Amends constitution to provide state funds for private, religious, home school
- IP9-

Campaign contribution limits

Sponsorship signatures verified

- IP10-Senior Property Tax Freeze
- IP11 and IP12 -Creates STAR voting for elections

Visit Initiative Database at: <https://tiny-url.com/2p8zre8m>

Seeking convention changes

Six higher ed locals trigger state fed referendum

The six locals include:

- Local 3209
United Academics
University of Oregon
- Local 3544
Graduate Teaching
Fellows Federation
- Local 3571
Portland State
University Faculty
Association
- Local 6069
Coalition of
Graduate Employees
- Local 6666
Graduate Employees
Union of Portland
State University
- Local 9609
United Academics
Oregon State
University

Local good standing as of December 21, 2022, defined in [Bylaws](#) Article 1 is required for voting.

Updating membership records should be an immediate effort. It can take several weeks for AFT to upload. Send updated member lists to willm@aft-oregon.org or to the [AFT Help Desk](#) directly.

Seeking fundamental changes to production of the AFT-Oregon biennial convention, six locals from three higher education institutions, submitted a referendum requiring “hybrid” events with both on-site and remote access.

Referenda require a direct membership vote.

The Constitution Article XI allows referenda submission by at least five Locals representing at least 15 percent of the threshold.

Four rationale were listed for a hybrid event:

- Improved access and attendance

- Allowed immune-compromised delegates to attend who would otherwise have been barred by health and safety concerns related to COVID-19

- Lowered costs for Locals and for the state federation (e.g. food, accommodations, travel, childcare, venue rental)

- Reduced environmental impact

Supporting data was not included.

The proposed amendment to Article VII(1) inserts the command that:

“There will be remote and hybrid options provided for

members and delegates who, for any reason, are not able to attend in-person convention.”

It adds a new Section (3) (d) that convention notice include:

“Description of remote access and hybrid attendance options for both general membership and delegates, including any required software or hardware to participate virtually.”

If successful, the changes will be in time to apply to the 2023 convention.

At its November 16, meeting the Retirees Chapter Executive Board voted to oppose the referendum.

Highlights, dates related to referendum process

October 8, 2022. The referendum was received

November 8, 2022. Notice to all Locals from AFT-Oregon President Jaime Rodriguez, beginning six week period during which the proponents and opponents get the opportunity to debate the issue through AFT-Oregon regular communication channels. The full communication is posted on the AFT-Oregon website at <http://or.aft.org/>.

The [constitution](#) and an [Article XI Summary](#) describe the referendum process. The [Proposed Constitutional Amendment](#) states specific changes to the constitution. A [cover letter](#) submitted by the six locals explains their reasons for submission. The vote will be on the question:

“Shall the AFT-Oregon constitution be amended to require all conventions to be hybrid events with remote attendance and participation options for 1) delegates to fully participate, and 2) general members to observe?”

December 21, 2022. Debate period ends.

December 22, 2022. Date when ballots sent to members in Locals in good standing.

January 21, 2023. Date, 30 days after ballots sent, when referendum voting closes.

February 4, 2023. Date by which the president must notify locals of the results.

To participate in this debate, send an email to this Google Group, leaders@aft-oregon.org. Additional time live debate during the regular monthly All-State Leaders meeting at 4 p.m. Thursday, December 1; and an additional Zoom meeting for members on from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, December 3. Members also may submit comments by email to jaimer@aft-oregon.org, which be compiled on the website.

Ballots will only be sent **active** members as of December 21, listed in **AFT Connect**, the official member database.

AFT requirement for affiliates

Annual Audit Review FY2021-22

Audit Review
AFT-Oregon Retirees
Chapter 8035R
Fiscal Year Ending
June 30, 2022

We have examined the financial records of AFT-Oregon 8035R (Retirees Chapter) for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, and found them to be in good order. This examination was performed by a committee of members of the AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter 8035R and was not conducted in accordance with generally accepted account principles.

Based on our examination, we consider the attached financial statements for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, to be an accurate summary of transactions conducted during that period. (Footnotes accompany this report.)

October 5, 2022

NOTES TO AUDIT REPORT
PREPARED BY THE FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
of the AFT-OREGON RETIREES
CHAPTER 8035R

FOOTNOTES:

- Office. AFT-Oregon provides office space, furniture, computer and support with routine office materials, supplies and meeting

space consistent with policy . adopted by the AFT-Oregon Executive Council. It has no leases, loans of other encumbrances.

- Depreciation. Chapter policy is to depreciate on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of assets valued at \$500 or more at the time of purchase. The Chapter had no such assets at the time of the Audit Review.

- Bank Statements. Regular statements should be printed, reconciled and filed monthly in the Chapter office.

- The governing documents require two signatures on checks issued by the Chapter. Check No. 389 was issued with only one signature.

AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter Local 8035R
Balance Sheet
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

	General Fund (Undesignated)
Assets	
Current Assets:	
Cash	\$ 8,780
Cash Equivalents (stamps)	\$ 397
Undeposited funds received	-
Accounts Receivable	-
Prepaid expenses	-
Total Current Assets	\$ 9,177
Property, Furniture, equipment at cost:	
Furniture, equipment, software	-
Accumulated depreciation	-
Net Property, Furniture and Equipment	\$ -
Intangible Assets, at cost:	
Loan costs	-
Accumulated amortization	-
Net Intangible Assets	\$ -
Other Assets	
Total Other Assets	-
Total Assets	\$ 9,177
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts payable, payroll tax payable	107
Accrued expenses	-
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 107
Long-Term Liabilities	
None	-
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ -
Total Liabilities	\$ 107
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Net Assets	
Fund Balance, July 1, 2021	\$ 7,861
Changes in Net Assets	1,209
Total Net Assets	\$ 9,070
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 9,177

- A financial statement was not included with the minutes of the Executive Board for its November 11, 2021 meeting.

AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter Local 8035R
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

INCOME	
General	
Dues	\$ 1,740
AFT-Oregon Assistance	2,500
AFT Grant Assistance	-
Grants	-
Reimbursement	-
Miscellaneous	180
Subtotal General Income	\$ 4,420
Other	
Subtotal Other Income	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,420
EXPENSES	
Governance and Administration	
Board	\$ -
Committees	-
Membership Meetings	424
Elections	30
Conventions	-
Dues and Affiliations	-
Office of the President	-
Officer Expenses	106
Audit Expense	-
Professional Fees	-
Subtotal Governance and Administration	\$ 560
Operating Expenses	
Administration and Office Operations	
Office Rent	\$ -
Telephone and Digital Communications	-
Secretarial Service	-
Office Supplies	396
Equipment	180
Postage and Shipping	668
Printing and Copying	3
Interest Payments	-
Loan Retirement	-
Depreciation	-
Miscellaneous	55
Bank Charges	-
Subtotal Office Expenses	\$ 1,302
Organizing and Service	
Materials and Supplies	\$ -
Organizing Activities	728
Newsletter	97
Programs and Events	-
Leadership/Membership Development	875
Contributions	-
Political Action	-
Subtotal Program Expenses	\$ 1,700
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 3,562
Total Expenses	
Increase (decrease) in net assets from operations	
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES	858

The AFT By-laws require all affiliates to conduct and submit a financial review. The Retirees Chapter Annual Audit Review was conducted by a committee of members including Val Jack, Chair; Bill Beeson, and Vicki Blevins. The Committee was recommended by the Treasurer with the concurrence of the Executive Board. The Treasurer is not a member of the committee but is available to it as a resource while it conducts the review.

AFT-Oregon Retirees



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Visit us on the web

[AFT-Oregon Retirees](#)

and AFT-Oregon Retirees on Facebook

Upcoming Events:

Programs, Events and Meetings

- *Tentative:* December 14, 11 a.m.

Holiday tea, coffee and noshes (TBA)

[2023](#)

- May 2, Founder's Charter Day Celebration Brunch and Annual Meeting, Colwood Golf Center, Portland

Other events announced individually

Executive Board Meetings

(Unless announced otherwise, all convene at 10 a.m. at the AFT-Oregon office)

- January 11, 2023
- February 8, 2023
- March 8, 2023

AFT Exec Council revises Chapter's resolution

*Find all AFT
adopted resolutions
at:*

*[https://
www.aft.org/
about/resolutions](https://www.aft.org/about/resolutions)*

After the Chapter was advised in mid-August that the AFT Executive Council Resolutions Committee would act "sometime in the fall" on remaining resolutions from 2022 AFT Convention, the Chapter's resolution was finally addressed in late September

"*Lowering the Voice of Money in Politics*," submitted by the Chapter's Executive Board, was among a batch of resolutions forwarded by Convention delegates.

The resolution, shared earlier with Chapter members, called for amending the U.S. Constitution to undo the effects of the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, which dubbed money "political speech." The resolution's proposed amendment says money is not "political speech," exempting money from the first amendment's free speech protection.

The AFT Executive Council action re-

placed the "resolved" sections, deleting the proposed amendment, and replaced it with new "resolved" statements.

"RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers reiterates its support as outlined in a 2016 resolution for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to clarify that "free speech" as envisioned by the framers of the U.S. Constitution was limited to individuals and groups; and

"RESOLVED, that the AFT will support passage of measures like S.J. Res. 25 and H.J. Res 1, the Democracy for All Amendment, a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's disastrous *Citizens United v. FEC* decision by giving Congress and states the ability to set common sense rules on political spending by corporate PACs, wealthy special interests and others; and

"RESOLVED, that the AFT will urge political action activity among its affiliates to advance and support efforts among their own states and their congressional delegations to get big money out of politics."

The full and revised resolution are available on the Retirees Chapter website at:
<http://08035r.or.aft.org/key-documents>