

## START OF CWA RETIREE COMMITTEE FOR DISTRICT 7



September 10, 2007

**TO:** CWA District 7 Retirees  
**FROM:** Annie Hill CWA District 7 Vice-President  
**SUBJECT:** Retiree Local Chapters

At the beginning of the year, over 128,000 CWA retirees who were not CWA Local Retiree chapter members were sent a letter and brochure announcing the new Lifetime Council membership program and inviting them to sign up. It's easy for retirees to join –they can go to the Council's website [www.CWAretirees.com](http://www.CWAretirees.com) and join on-line. I would also like to echo this invitation.

I would also encourage you to join and participate in your Local's Retiree Chapter. The purpose of a CWA Retired Members' Chapter is to bring retirees into an organization for the betterment of themselves and their Union. Chapters provide retirees with a vehicle to protect and fight for the issues that affect them as retirees and family members. Through the CWA retiree chapters, our members are able to speak out with a united voice. The establishment of the chapter also provides advantages for the sponsoring Local. The chapter provides a wealth of experienced, knowledgeable and available members for picket lines, rallies, organizing and legislative activities.

***All retirees who were members in good standing of CWA or its merger-partner unions at the time of their retirement and who are Life Time Members of the CWA Retiree Members Council are eligible to join the chapter, regardless of their home local.***

Spouses of these retirees are eligible to join as "associate members" of the Retired Members' Chapter and enjoy all privileges except voting.

Some of the advantages of being a member and participating in your Local's retiree chapter include:

- A. To Unite CWA retired members in a cohesive organization that can, in conjunction with the CWA Retired Members Council, other unions, church, and community groups, develop effective support for programs on federal, state-wide, and community levels to bring a better life for older people.
- B. To foster fraternal ties of CWA members into the years of retirement.
- C. To assist retired members secure housing, medical care, drugs and other consumer goods and services at prices they can afford to pay.
- D. To inform retired members about useful, social and recreational opportunities.
- E. To keep CWA informed on any special problems of our retired members.
- F. To keep retired members informed of CWA programs, policies, and objectives.
- G. To promote active support of retired members for CWA objectives.
- H. To affiliate with the Alliance for Retired Americans.

In CWA District 7 we have established a District 7 Retiree Committee. This committee provides a direct link to CWA District 7 on issues and concerns of our CWA retirees. The District 7 Retiree Committee is responsible for developing plans and programs to establish Local Retiree Chapters in Locals and areas where there is an interest from retirees, as well as recruit volunteers to actively participate in Local chapters and other activities that may be determined as necessary to maintain the lifestyle each retiree expected when they retired.