

Constitution of the Council of Retired Members

Article 1. Name and Affiliations:

Section 1. Name. This organization shall be known as the Council of Retired Members (CRM) of the California Federation of Teachers-AFT, AFL-CIO (hereinafter referred to “the Council”).

Section 2. Affiliations. Each member chapter of the Council shall be affiliated with a local union of the California Federation of Teachers and shall be affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers.

Article II. Objectives:

1. To support and improve the retirement security of CFT retired members and all Californians.
2. To encourage activity of retirees in support of local, state, and national union initiatives and political endeavors.
3. To relate the concerns of affiliated retiree chapters and their members to the governing bodies of the CFT and AFT.
4. To propose and advocate appropriate legislation.
5. To support, as requested, the programs and activities of AFT local unions.
6. To facilitate concerted action among affiliated chapters.
7. To support public education and the equality of opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, partisan or political activities or affiliations, marital status, disability, or exercise of Constitutional rights.

Article III. Membership and Representation:

Section 1. Membership. The members of the Council shall consist of delegates from affiliated retiree chapters and the elected officers of the council.

Section 2. Voting Rights. Each Chapter in good standing shall be entitled to cast one vote at all CRM meetings. In addition, each elected officer of the Council shall hold one vote. The president of each retiree chapter, or whomever the chapter designates as communicated in writing to the Council president prior to the Council meeting, shall represent the chapter.

Section 3. Per Capita Payments. The Council may, by a 2/3 vote, determine and levy the amount of per capita payments of the Council by the affiliated chapters. The Council shall notify the chapters at least sixty (60) days in advance of any proposed change in per capita payments.

Article IV. Officers:

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Council of Retired Members shall consist of the President, a Northern Vice President, a Southern Vice President, an At-Large Representative, and a Secretary-Treasurer. These five officers shall constitute a CRM Executive Board empowered as the only authority to make leadership decisions which will be reached by a majority agreement of the five CRM Executive Board members.

Section 2. Election of Officers. Officers, except the At-Large Representative, shall be elected biennially in the same manner and at the same time as CFT officers. The At-Large Representative shall be elected biennially, odd numbered year, as the Chapter 8004-R (CFT Retired at-Large Member) delegate to the CFT convention.

Section 3. Vacancies. When an officer vacancy occurs, it shall be filled by the delegates at the next meeting of the Council.

Section 4. Removal from Office. An officer of the Council may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote at a Council meeting, provided at least one month's notice of a motion for removal has been given to all affiliated chapters.

Section 5. Compensation. Officers of the Council shall not receive compensation from the CFT.

Article V. Duties of Officers:

Section 1. President.

- a. The President shall ensure that the affairs of the Council are conducted in accordance with this Constitution, and with any by-laws, rules, regulations, policies, and practices of the Council.
- b. Shall preside at all Council meetings.
- c. Shall supervise distribution of information to local chapters.
- d. May call special meetings of the Council at his or her own discretion, or when so requested by a majority of chapters affiliated with the Council.
- e. Shall monitor and approve the dispersal of funds from the Council's accounts.
- f. Shall sign all official documents of the Council.
- g. Together with the Secretary-Treasurer, shall prepare an annual budget and present it to the Council for approval.
- h. Shall represent the Council, as appropriate, in meetings with the CFT, AFT, and other organizations.
- i. Shall participate, when requested, on any committees or task forces of the CFT or AFT.
- j. Shall communicate regularly with chapters of the Council and with CFT leadership.
- k. Shall work with the CFT and AFT to secure local chapter participation in recommended political action.

1. Shall encourage and help to coordinate local chapter participation, as requested, in CFT and AFT organizing campaigns.

Section 2. Vice Presidents. The Vice Presidents shall, in the absence of the President, perform the functions and duties of the President, and shall be responsible for the organization in their area.

Section 3. Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for publicizing meetings of the Council, maintaining all records of the Council, and providing a written report at each Council meeting of receipts and disbursements, if any, of all Council funds.

Section 4. At-Large Representative. The At-Large Representative shall be responsible for representing the interests of and encouraging the organization into chapters of those California AFT retirees who do not yet belong to affiliated chapters. The At-Large Representative shall be the delegate of 8004-R to the CFT Conventions.

Article VI. Council Meetings:

Section 1. Meeting Times. The Council shall hold regular meetings at least four times during the academic year.

Section 2. Quorum. The presence of at least 25% of affiliated chapters shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Parliamentary Procedure. Unless otherwise specified by this Constitution, Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall prevail at all Council meetings.

Article VII. Amendments.

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed and discussed at regular meetings of the Council and, upon majority vote of all delegates, shall be submitted to the affiliated chapters for discussion. Amendments shall be voted upon within 60 days of submission and shall take effect when approved by a majority of the affiliated chapters.

Adopted by State Council on September 28, 2014

Amended and adopted by CRM Retiree Chapters on December 8, 2022