Retired-Active Membership in Locals

Oregon State Fire Fighter Council

2026 Educational Seminar

Rocky Hanes, S/T OSFFC

Chris Hart, President, L1660

Alan Ferschweiler, LD, OSFFC

At our 57th IAFF Convention in Boston, IAFF delegates adopted Resolution 33 on Active-Retired Members. Resolution 33:

(1) Strongly encourages IAFF affiliates to consider the inclusion of active retired members;

(2) Recognizes and does not change that under the auspices of local autonomy, affiliates set the conditions of affiliating active retired members (*i.e.* dues structure, voting rights, restrictions on holding office, etc.); and

(3) Providing educational material from the IAFF to affiliates regarding active retirees.

Article 3 Section 3 of the IAFF Sample Constitution & By-Laws includes the following optional model language:

Members who have retired from this Local or have otherwise withdrawn as members in good standing may be allowed to return to this Local within _____ **[insert a specific time period]** as active-retired members.

If your local's Constitution & By-Laws already has this language and there are no other provisions in there regarding active retirees, then those active retired members at the local level have the same rights as active members, except that active-retiree members who are outside of the bargaining unit are prohibited from voting on the approval of collective agreements. If you wish for your active-retired members to continue having all of the rights of active members – voting on local business, voting in local officer and delegate elections, and running for local union office – you need do nothing further.

Rights can be limited by a Local CBL

Legal requirements do not require active-retired members to have all the membership rights of active members. There are modifications and distinctions that can be made within your Constitution & By-Laws that can be tailored to meet the particular needs of your local. For example, if your local union would like to include active-retired members but limit certain rights to only active members, such as voting rights or the right to run for local office, you can do so by explicitly incorporating any or all of those limitations on active-retired member rights into your Constitution & By-Laws by amendment.

Locals that wish to admit active-retired members into the local, but prohibit them from being able to exercise some or all of the rights that are afforded to active members can amend their Constitution & By-Laws to adopt some or all of these prohibitions:

Active-retiree members in good standing shall have the right to attend any meeting and to participate in such meeting in accordance with the recognized rules set forth in the manual of parliamentary procedure adopted by this Local. Active-retirees shall not have the right to vote for collective agreements; **[run for office or delegate/alternate positions of the Local]**; **[vote for officers or delegates/alternates of the Local]**; or **[vote on any matter except for those matters that affect only active-retirees]**.

Decisions about active-retirees and any prohibitions on active-retiree participation in the local's affairs are left up to the autonomy of the local.

If your local includes active-retiree members, you are required to pay the IAFF one-half of the active member monthly per capita for each active-retire member. These dues would come from each of your active-retired members and be included in your monthly per-capita payment to the IAFF.

L43 Case Study

- IAFF Local 1660 members, who have retired from their respective bargaining units or otherwise withdrawn as members in good standing, may be allowed to return to the local as an Active Retiree.

- Members who have been promoted out of their respective bargaining units may be allowed to return to the local as an Active Retiree, such members are not voting members of the local.