

To Brother Dimondstein,

I'm writing you this letter with frustration and deep concern for us as retired union "sisters and brothers" as you so eloquently put it. I love my union and have always stood up and supported both my active and retired sisters and brothers, whenever called upon. I am asking you as your union sister, to please speak up and stand up for us retirees as you speak up and stand up, in support of the active members, we constantly hear speeches from our leaders that we retirees are the "FOUNDATION & BACKBONE" of this union, but we are being treated as superfluous.

I feel that as our President your verbal acknowledgment and support, during general sessions would show the active members what your position is relating to retirees and retiree's issues. Although we appreciate what you say in support of retirees at retiree general sessions, it's practically meaningless, if you don't say the same things to active members during their general sessions. It's really sad and hurtful to hear active members say things like "we don't want you here" and "you can be seen but not heard" or "you're retired, why don't you just go home"and sadly that's just a few quotes, there's a lot more that are just as ugly and insulting.

It's truly hard to believe that this is solely due to the fact that retirees don't pay full dues, it appears to be a lack of knowledge and understanding of what retirees have done and continue to do for the active as well as retired union members. If our leaders don't speak up for retirees and convey to the active members what retirees mean to this union, then this will continue to be a shameful and hopeless situation. Why is it that other postal unions take pride in their retired union members and a great union like APWU ***does not***. In order to begin the process of rectifying this horrible situation, we need our top leaders to start speaking in favor of the retiree's plight, which would possibly begin to change the mind set of our union's active members.

In Union Solidarity,
Vickie Alicea
President State & Central FL Retirees Chapter