

Resolution #9

RETIRES AS A POLITICAL ACTION RESOURCE

PRESENTED BY: **CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF RETIRED AMERICANS**

WHEREAS, the challenges facing organized labor in the upcoming November 2016 General Election are serious and daunting; and

WHEREAS, the ranks of active union membership are at historic lows, and in the coming decade hundreds of thousands of our long-term members will be retiring from the workforce; and

WHEREAS, all working class retirees have a vital interest in maintaining a strong union movement, not only for the wages, working conditions and benefits of those currently active in the workforce, but also to protect Social Security, Medicare and negotiated retirement benefits and assure they remain available to future generations; and

WHEREAS, many of those union members who are and will be retiring have well-honed organizing skills and an understanding of the labor movement and the issues it champions; and

WHEREAS, retired union members, having time and energy to volunteer, are a valuable resource for our unions in organizing and political action; and

WHEREAS, our unions need to activate current and retired members to maximize our political strength to defeat anti-union candidates and ballot measures, and elect a President and Congress, as well as state and local representatives who honor labor and our institutions; and

WHEREAS, the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), an organization comprising retired union members and senior activists throughout California, will be holding a series of regional conferences in coming months to focus on issues confronting California voters in the General Election;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 35th Biennial Convention encourages all Federation affiliates to activate their retired members and utilize them in essential political activities this fall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Federation encourages all affiliates to notify their retired members of the CARA regional conferences and urge them to attend; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Federation encourage affiliates to work with and support CARA to activate retired union members and other seniors to assist in creating a more just and equitable society in our state and nation.

Adopted by Delegates