

# the COUNCIL CONNECTION

February 2018

Official Publication of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters  
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## House Bill 1655 Passes with Bipartisan Support and Heads to the Senate



Senate

House

The WSCFF is closely following HB 1655, which has claimed its first victory with a wide bipartisan margin 85 to 11. This bill will allow first responders to file an occupational disease claim for PTSD and has received a fair amount of press coverage. Second WSCFF District Representative Jeff Wainwright told Fox News, *"We deal with fatality car accidents. We see bodies mangled. We deal with very injured people. All of those things invariably start to weigh down on our folks. It's something we need to deal with and take care of our people who are dealing with PTSD."* WSCFF Legislative Liaisons Michael White and Geoff Simpson are fine-tuning the bill and are hoping it will be voted out of the Senate (SB6214) Labor and Commerce Committee with bipartisan support.

The WSCFF has added SB 6548, establishing a joint legislative task force on fire service administration to our legislative agenda. The bill is sponsored by Senators Guy Palumbo and Kevin Van De Wege. Palumbo also serves as a fire commissioner for Snohomish County Fire District 7, while Van De Wege is a member of Local 2933, Clallam County, and is serving his first term in the Senate after five terms in the House of Representatives. Geoff Simpson said, *"We think it's time to look at the fire service from top to bottom. We need a centrally-located fire service agency within the state, and we want to confer with one another, including legislators, so we can make the best plan for moving forward."*



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# WSCFF Burn Foundation

*Healing Yesterday's Wounds, Preventing Tomorrow's*

The Burn Foundation actively supports the burn community through a youth summer camp for burn survivors, emergency housing for burn survivor families, research grants for burn care, and multiple other burn-related projects and programs. The Burn Foundation's board members are elected positions representing each of the WSCFF districts. They are uncompensated, and either their local or the board members themselves cover any of their costs related to the foundation. The WSCFF passed Resolution 16-14 in 2016 to give \$12,500 annually from the WSCFF Benevolent Fund and to continue its support in developing and maintaining appropriate statewide fundraising programs. **Per Resolution 94-16, the WSCFF encourages its locals to renew their pledge to give \$1.00 per member, per year to the Burn Foundation to help pay operational costs.** The WSCFF Burn Foundation is the only charity which donates 100% of public donations to grants because their operating expenses are paid by fire fighters. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out. The WSCFF will be sending out a letter on behalf of the Burn Foundation later this month asking members for personal support. Thank you for your help!

Li'l Firehouse Coffee,  
Kennewick. Charles Sleater,  
Owner & Local I-24 member



**Last year, 2,000 phenomenal firefighters from over 330 different departments brought in a record \$2.4 million for blood cancer research and patient services**

Right now, WSCFF members all over Washington State are getting ready for the annual March Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle. Some of our Hanford members, Local I-24, were seen geared up at the Li'l Firehouse Coffee in Kennewick, getting their workout on stairclimbers. The coffee house, owned by Hanford firefighter Charles Sleater, said he was excited to have them as the cause hits close to home for him. "I have a sister who died of leukemia at four years old," Charles told NBC Right Now. "Research has come a long way since then."

If you'd like to donate to the cause, you can do so at [www.llswa.org](http://www.llswa.org).

If you live in the Tri-Cities,  
check out the Li'l Red Coffee  
House February  
specials!



**FIRE OPS 101**  
March 22 & 23, 2018  
Volpentest Hammer Training and  
Education Center



Contact Debbie Guillot, [Debbie@wscff.org](mailto:Debbie@wscff.org), asap to reserve your spot.

## Path to Power Training

The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO — in partnership with the national AFL-CIO — is hosting another Path to Power training.

March 28-30,  
2018  
Yakima, WA

Thinking about  
running for  
public office?



Path to Power training teaches union members and local activists how to run for public office to build power that will positively influence our communities. Topics covered include creating an effective message, creating a campaign plan, fundraising, how to talk to targeted voters, and building a campaign team. Whether you're considering running for school board or city/county government, this training is for you!

For more info and to request an application, contact: April Sims, WSLC Field Mobilization Director at [asims@wslc.org](mailto:asims@wslc.org) - 206-281-8901

### WSCFF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Washington State Council of Fire Fighters Benevolent Fund offers a scholarship program for dependents of current and past members of the WSCFF. Applicants must be a senior in high school for the 2017-2018 school year and planning to attend an accredited university, community college, or trade school.

For more information or for an application, please visit the Benevolent Fund page on our website, [www.wscff.org](http://www.wscff.org), or contact the Council office at (360) 943-3030.

**Please note:** The application period opened December 15, 2017, and closes March 15, 2018. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2018, and be complete to be considered.

**Deadline: March 15, 2018**

Harvard Trade  
Union Program



Est. 1942

### Harvard University Trade Union Program IAFF Scholarship

**Purpose:**

This scholarship is awarded to IAFF members in good standing with an IAFF Local Affiliate to attend the Harvard University Trade Union Program. Download the Scholarship Application Form.

**Application Deadline:** July 1

**Amount of Scholarship:** Cost of tuition plus \$1,000.

**Award Dates:** Scholarships are awarded annually for the upcoming six-week session. Winners will be notified by September 30.

**Selection Criteria:** Awards are given to members who have demonstrated active participation within their IAFF local affiliate as an officer, committee member, etc.

For more information, email to [scholarships@iaff.org](mailto:scholarships@iaff.org).

*The Harvard Trade Union Program is an intensive six-week executive training program designed for trade union leaders. It is comparable to the advanced education that Harvard University offers to executive level individuals in Business and Government.*

### Mad Hatter Blaze

### Local 31 Tacoma Firefighters Ball 2018



Join the Tacoma Firefighters Local 31 for their annual Winter Blaze. This fundraiser benefits The Goodtimes Project. Follow us down the rabbit hole for an evening of food, dancing and live entertainment in a nonsense-icle wonderland. It will truly be a party to remember...because just like the very best people, we're all mad here.

Saturday February 24 at 5:30 p.m. ·

Emerald Queen Casino · Tacoma

For more information on how you can participate in this year's event please contact Melinda Walter:

Phone: 253-472-7802

Email: [Melindaiafflocal31@gmail.com](mailto:Melindaiafflocal31@gmail.com)

## Governor Jay Inslee Rejects Vancouver Oil Terminal

At the 2014 WSCFF Convention, members passed Resolution 14-33, asking Governor Jay Inslee to halt the movement of crude by rail until completion of a study showing crude can be moved by rail safely through our cities and rural areas.

Since then, the WSCFF has helped Dan Leahy and the Solidarity Roundtable on Oil in the effort to ensure transportation to and from oil facilities is safe for workers, citizens who live along the routes or refineries, and our members and other first responders who ultimately deal with the consequences of a train derailment, spill, explosion, and/or fire.

On January 29, 2018, after of a lengthy evaluation process which included WSCFF input by Dennis Lawson, Kelly Fox, and Geoff Simpson, Governor Inslee rejected a permit to build the nation's largest oil -by-rail terminal in Vancouver, Washington, citing significant and unavoidable risks. "There were thousands and thousands of citizens who lent their voices and their insight into this process," said Inslee. "This was democracy in action and I believe it was consistent with our state's laws and what we expect for our communities."

## Retired Firefighters ~ The WSCFF is here to serve you!

On January 25, 2018, WSCFF President Dennis Lawson and Secretary-Treasurer Greg Markley met with representatives of the Retired Fire Fighters of Washington and the LEOFF-1 Coalition as well as past IAFF District Vice President Paul Harvey. This meeting was the first step your WSCFF is taking to find a way to better represent all of our retired members. Both the RFFOW and the LEOFF-1 Coalition have done a very good job as activists for those that they represent. Their primary focus has been to protect their pension and to make positive modifications when possible.

President Lawson and Secretary-Treasurer Markley will continue their work on this issue with the assistance of your WSCFF Executive Board and input and guidance from our retired groups. We hope we can create a retiree group that represents the interests of all retiree members and the issues you face.

## Retired Firefighters of Washington

If you are lucky enough to be in the Arizona area:

Annual Sun City Fire Fighter Reunion ~ February 9, 2018

Hosted by Bill and Mary Jane Donohoe and Sharon Herth  
11008 N. Balboa Drive  
Sun City AZ 85351  
Starts at 12 noon (Lunch at 1pm)  
All food and drink will be provided. (donations accepted)  
Please RSVP to Bill Donohoe at [donohoe.46@hotmail.com](mailto:donohoe.46@hotmail.com)



## LOCAL 1747 PRESENTS:

## THE 16TH ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

\*FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE\*

**BENEFITING THE KENT FF FOUNDATION**

\*TEAM PRIZES \*RANGE BALL \*RAFFLE  
\*CLOSEST TO PIN \*LIVE AUCTION  
\*LONGDRIVE \*GOLF CART \*LUNCH

FEATURING OUR FAMOUS **\$100 KP**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018 7:00-Registration**

**RIVERBEND GOLF CLUB 8:00-SHOTGUN start**

**\*COST IS \$100/PLAYER**

**SEND CHECKS PAYABLE TO: KFF , c/o SHAWN DAILEY  
PO BOX 954 KENT, WA. 98035.**

**QUESTIONS? CALL 206-498-1529 or BAGS9R@ATT.NET**



Congratulations to Senator Kevin Van De Wege, Local 2933, who was named **2017 Legislator of the Year** by the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs (WACOPS) for his support of legislation that affects law enforcement agencies and officers.

