



# the COUNCIL CONNECTION

Official Publication of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters  
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## 2018 WSCFF Legislative Conference Now the Real Work Begins

The Kelly L. Fox Legislative Conference was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at the Hotel RL in Olympia. President Dennis Lawson, Vice President Mike Bacon and Secretary/Treasurer Greg Markley welcomed 215 representatives from 69 locals statewide as they joined together in Olympia to learn about and help forward the legislative agenda of the WSCFF.

Tuesday evening, the WSCFF hosted a legislative reception for members of the legislature, staff, and friends. This event, which was very well attended by elected officials, provides our members an opportunity to meet face to face with their legislators in a social setting and discuss issues in greater detail than the time allotted during their office visits earlier in the day.

This year we are proud to announce Firefighter/EMT AJ Johnson, from Local 1828 Snohomish, as the candidate selected for the newly created 2018 Legislative Liaison Intern position. AJ has the desire and willingness to learn the legislative process and brings a considerable amount of knowledge with him. Due to the ever-increasing need to find members who can assist with the critical work that takes place in Olympia, we are excited to have AJ developing the skillset to assist with our legislative agenda. Legislative Liaisons Michael White and Geoff Simpson are doing an outstanding job, and we are thrilled to have AJ learning from them.

There are three main priorities of the WSCFF this legislative session:

1. Establishing additional presumptive disease coverage that recognizes new, peer-reviewed evidence demonstrating firefighters are at greater risk of contracting nine different cancers.

For example, women in the fire service have a 5.24 times greater risk of cervical cancer compared to women who are not firefighters. (For the complete list, please see the WSCFF website.) Additionally, the WSCFF supports clarifying that both the cardiac-illness-related form of stroke and methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) are considered presumptive diseases.

2. Funding Local Public Safety Enhancement Account LEOFF Plan 2 as proposed in the 2018-2019 budget by Governor Jay Inslee. Legislators recognized the shortcomings of the LEOFF 2 Pension Plan, including its inability to produce an adequate pension at a member's normal retirement age of 53 and today's legislature must honor their contract.

They created the fund to save for necessary improvements to LEOFF 2. They also recognized that a future legislature might be tempted NOT to make payments, so they made payments mandatory. The WSCFF is requesting \$25 million in funding towards the required deposit into the Local Public Safety Enhancement Account. The Governor has included a \$25 million appropriation in his 2018-2019 proposed budget.

3. Adding PTSD to the list of occupationally related diseases in first responders. The WSCFF supports worker compensation coverage for PTSD. Presumptive laws allow treatment for firefighters and EMS workers to return to work and helps raise awareness about the disease and destigmatize the condition for those seeking treatment for their illness. It is clear from research that firefighters are at an increased risk for PTSD. By removing barriers to care and acknowledging the link between firefighting and PTSD, these laws can save lives.



"The biggest takeaway from the event is that this is not the last time our members will talk to their elected officials. This is a call to action: the legislators want to hear from you and to retain your votes." (AJ Johnson, WSCFF Legislative Intern, Local 1828 Snohomish County).

In other words, we all need to be reminded more than we need to be instructed.

*December 2017*

**OFFICERS**  
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*President*

**GREG MARKLEY**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

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*Vice President*  
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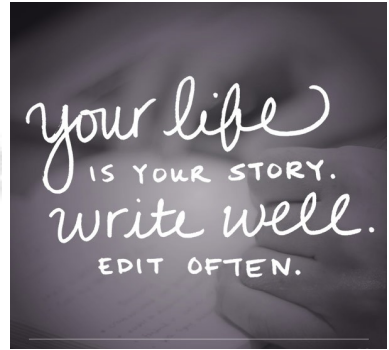
**DEBBIE GUILLOT**  
**LAURA HOLDER**  
**THERESE MURPHY**  
*Administrative Assistants*

# FIRE OPS 101

March 22 & 23, 2018

Volpentest Hammer Training and Education Center  
Contact Debbie Guillot asap to reserve your spot.

[Debbie@wscff.org](mailto:Debbie@wscff.org) or (360) 943-3030



Please look for your Council Connection in your email each month. Have something you'd like to see in the newsletter? Email [laura@wscff.org](mailto:laura@wscff.org). Found a mistake, typo, incorrect date? Let Laura know and she will send you her famous chocolate chip cookie.

## 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 a accredited university, community college, or trade school.

For more information or for an applications, 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**

## Scholarships to Support the Futures of the Sons and Daughters of First Responders

Electronic Security Association (ESA) posted the 2018 ESA Youth Scholarship Program for graduating high school seniors, who will receive a diploma from an accredited high school, located within the state where they apply. The ESA launched the "Youth Scholarship Program" to promote goodwill among the electronic systems industry and police and fire officers by providing college scholarship awards to their deserving sons or daughters. The first place national winner receives \$7,500, and the second place receives \$2,500 to put toward their college education.

### About The Organization:

The Electronic Security Association (ESA), a non-profit 501(c) 6 trade association, has evolved into the largest professional trade association in the United States with the purpose of representing, promoting and enhancing the growth and professional development of the electronic life safety, security, and integrated systems industry.

Visit: <http://esaweb.org/ysapplyWA> for the application and more information.

(This scholarship is just for your information and is not affiliated with the WSCFF)

# WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE:

The Puyallup Extrication Team (aka PXT) has set up a Fundraising Go-Fund-Me campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/jaws-of-life-purchase>. As many of you may already know, PXT, has been providing lifesaving Auto Extrication training since 2000 as a Non-Profit Educational company comprised of 14 professional Firefighters. We have instructed thousands of firefighters and rescue personnel in North America and in several foreign countries. We recently lost one of our main sponsors who had supplied the Jaws of Life to us for the past 18 years, thus the fundraising campaign.

Thank you for your time, donation and/or assistance in networking this message.

Jeff Pugh, member Local 726 Pierce County  
PXT President  
253.381.0213  
[www.ThePXTTeam.org](http://www.ThePXTTeam.org)

**Extrication:** *The art of making space*



## WSCFF Note:

The PXT supports the 7th District Fire Ops event every year. Please help them continue their great work.

## Calendar of Events

### March

22, 23 Fire Ops—Hammer, Richland, WA

### April

16, 20 WSCFF Board Meeting

17-19 IAFF/WSCFF Educational Seminar-The Davenport Hotel, Spokane, WA

### May

16-18 IAFF 7th District Young Fire Fighter Conference-Red Lion, Kennewick, WA

### June

24, 25, 29 WSCFF Board Meeting

26-28 WSCFF Annual Convention-Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA



## CORRECTION!

Please note that the December Council Connection printed an error for the dates of the WSCFF Annual Convention Dates. June 26-28, 2018 at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick is correct. Thank you! (Shout to Bud Sizemore, Local 1747 Kent, for spotting the misprint. Thank you Bud!)

Changes to your roster? New officers?  
Call Laura at (360) 943-3030 or email



Longview Union Firefighters, Local 828, delivered holiday meals and some other essentials to families at Lower Columbia College Head Start



Local 3728, Arlington member Nich Sacha shown here in appreciation for his hard work organizing the 2017 Santa Run. Nich spent many hours of his own time ensuring things went off without a hitch.

2017 TOTALS:

FOOD: 10,433lbs



## Quotes from real working people around the U.S.

Have you ever noticed that some people say workers are **"forced"** to pay union dues?

But those same people don't say a thing about being **"forced"** to take the pay, benefits, and protections that come with a union contract.



"Without the union it becomes "the right to work for less state". "

"You only choose to pay union dues if you choose to work union jobs. Don't want to pay dues? Don't work with the union. You'll be kicking yourself later ."

"Some people constantly strive to prove just how foolish they really are. I paid union dues to the Carpenter's union for many years, it was a very small amount when compared to my wage rate, now I am retired and I no longer pay union dues. Every month the union sends me a pay check and I am able to do what I want to do in retirement. How can anyone bad mouth that unless they are completely out of touch. "

"My late husband was a union lineman. He paid dues every month willingly for many years. The union made sure he was able to work in any state he chose. They made sure that the gear supplied by the companies he worked for were safe. When he passed away, the union paid death benefits to me as a survivor and I also receive a pension check every month and will continue to do so for the rest of my life. Had he been non-union there would be NO benefits for survivors to depend on. "

"There is a business axiom: " You have to spend money to make money"! With my union, Plumbers Local 130 UA, we spend our money wisely! Paying our union dues is a small responsibility for the great benefits we receive-good wages, pensions, welfare plans and other items that greatly help us and our families (that's what we are working for)! If any members would look at our benefits, they would realize those benefits greatly outweigh the small costs of our dues!"

"Think about it and pass it on... When you are non-union, you do what the employer says and take what pay they give you."

"If you don't like unions, then give up everything that union members fought & in some cases died for. Former F & O. Local 99 & IBEW local 131. "

"After working union for 31 years the plant closed, long story short I bounced from job to job! Give me union - I believe in them!"

"Went from a open shop to a closed shop, Loved the increased pay and medical. Now retired and loving my pensions. Working Union payed off."

## Your Union. Your Voice. Your WSCFF.

*Your future is bright*

Members from IAFF Local 3235 at WSCFF Legislative Conference



The WSCFF's vision to coordinate the statewide efforts of professional fire fighters by **providing creative leadership and dedicated service, resulting in a unified, progressive membership** that strives to improve social attitudes and promote legislation to benefit the fire and EMS communities and the citizens we serve, with a foundation anchored in the principles of honesty, integrity and commitment."

The WSCFF's mission is to provide the **best possible working conditions, the safest work environment, and the fairest wages and benefits** to fulfill the needs of the men and women in this profession. The council is active on local and national fronts with regard to issues that affect its members.

**GOOD**  
*things*  
**ARE GOING**  
*to* **HAPPEN**