

# the Council Connection

Official Publication of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

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## WSCFF 78th Annual Convention

WSCFF President Dennis Lawson called the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to order on Tuesday, June 20, at the Yakima Convention Center. The Yakima Police Patrolmen's Association Honor Guard posted the flags. Cathy Browning, Local 2088, honored us with a resounding performance of the National Anthem.

Host Local 469 President Jeremy Rodriguez welcomed the delegation. He introduced city of Yakima Assistant Mayor Carmen Mendez, who spoke of the great history of the Yakima Fire Department and the city of Yakima.

President Lawson called for a moment of silence for the WSCFF line-of-duty deaths since Convention 2016: Captain Craig Aman, and Scott Deal Steed, Local 27 Seattle; James "Jimmy" Hendryx, Local 437 Bremerton; William "Bill" Hutto, Local F-282 Puget Sound Federal Fire Fighters; and William Sawyer Whitney, Local I-24 Hanford.

Immediately following opening ceremonies, the seated delegation went to work, beginning with open nominations for WSCFF Secretary-Treasurer and reports of officers and convention interim committees. The last order of business on the first day was the announcement that Greg Markley was re-elected by acclamation to serve as WSCFF Secretary-Treasurer for another two-year term. Tuesday's work was followed by a family barbeque at the beautiful Cascade Gardens.

Wednesday, the delegation was honored to have IAFF General President Harold

Schaitberger and General Secretary-Treasurer Edward Kelly give an overview of the IAFF's activities and programs.

The annual Awards Banquet on Wednesday night was once again a memorable event. The 2017 Fully Involved Awards went to Melissa Beard, Layne Bladow, and Pat Hepler.

*Melissa Beard* started her career 15 years ago and got involved with her local union and the WSCFF Burn Foundation, helping expand the organization. Known within her own department as one who would give the shirt off her back, her dedication is an inspiration to all. She also represents our IAFF 7<sup>th</sup> District on the IAFF Burn Foundation and gives her time visiting burn victims at Harborview in Seattle.

*Layne Bladow* has dedicated more than 24 years as a local officer and is the current president of his local. His executive board said of him, "Layne has been a stalwart defender of union firefighter rights as demonstrated by his active involvement in the WSCFF and IAFF lobbying efforts and legislative events."

When *Pat Hepler* was hired, he quickly became involved with his local union as vice president, then found himself serving as president within 18 months on the job. He was appointed by the Governor to the LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board at its inception and served until 2015. He recently retired after 38 years on the job. As his local stated in the nomination, "Since day one of his fire service career, this devoted public servant has provided endless hours of selfless service, protecting and improving on the groundwork laid by his predecessors in the labor leadership."

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Melissa Beard, Local 1828, accepting her Fully Involved Award from WSCFF President Dennis Lawson.

July 2017

OFFICERS  
DENNIS LAWSON  
President

GREG MARKLEY  
Secretary-Treasurer

MIKE BACON  
Vice President  
First District Rep.

DISTRICT  
REPRESENTATIVES  
JEFF WAINWRIGHT  
Second District

TIM HOOVER  
Third District

MIKE WESTLAND  
Fourth District

BRIAN HURLEY  
Fifth District

RYAN MUDIE  
Sixth District

CRAIG SOUCY  
Seventh District

BILL MACK  
Eighth District

KEVEN ROJECKI  
Ninth District

DEAN SHELTON  
Tenth District

THERESA PURTELL  
Eleventh District

TRUSTEES  
RICH KITTINGER  
TOM REICH  
JOHN GALLUP

COUNCIL STAFF  
GEOFF SIMPSON  
MIKE WHITE  
Legislative Liaisons

HELEN KRAMER  
Executive Assistant

DEBBIE GUILLOT  
LAURA HOLDER  
THERESE MURPHY  
Administrative Assistants



Washington State  
Council of Fire Fighters



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Entertainment for the evening began with a silent auction benefitting the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The evening ended with high energy music performed by the Blue Wave Band.

The delegates at the 78th Annual Convention set the agenda for the WSCFF for the next year with thought and consideration for the entire membership. They passed four resolutions increasing per capita a total of 56 cents. The Executive Board will work to implement the list of items. Highlights of the resolutions passed were honoree Kelly Fox for President Emeritus and the WSCFF Legislative Seminar named after him, and Ricky Walsh awarded the Position of Distinguished Service and the annual Fully Involved awards named in recognition of him. We would like to extend our gratitude and congratulations to Local 469 for hosting a great event and thank Convention Committee Chair Jeremy Rodriguez for doing an exceptional job.

Pictured in front of his plaque: Pat Ellis with Local 1747 delegates.

Pat Ellis is the 2017 recipient of the **Jack Waller Honorary Fire Fighter Award**. Pat is a career chaplain who has worked tirelessly to honor our fallen fire fighters. Pat leads the Peer Support Team for the Kent Police Department, is the co-author of the Washington State Fire Association Line-of-Duty Death Procedures, and serves as the lead chaplain of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Team for Washington State.



Below from left: WSCFF Secretary/Treasurer Greg Markley, Mark Johnson, Local 452 Vancouver, WSCFF President Dennis Lawson and WSCFF Vice President Mike Bacon.



The WSCFF presented the **2017 Walt Lambert Labor Leader** award to Mark Johnston of Local 452 for his countless contributions to the labor movement. Mark's vision and determination were key to the creation and passage of I-790. This initiative created the **LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board**, on which Mark has served since its inception.

Kris Hampton, Local 31 Tacoma, and Tony Savelli, Local 27 Seattle.



Patti Mann, Local 27 Seattle; Melissa Beard, Local 1828; Janell Murry, Local 31 Tacoma; Nikki Smith, Local, 1747 Kent; Jenny Page, Local 3062 Maple Valley; Jennet Nielson, Local 726 Pierce County; Cathy Browning, Local 2088 Tukwila; Beth Gallup, Local 1747 Kent; Theresa Purtell, Local 27 Seattle; and Krista Longspagh, Local 3219 Marysville.





## **FIREPAC Century Club**

honors

### **WASHINGTON**

*Best In Class - Top Dollars Raised  
for outstanding contributions to the IAFF's  
2016 legislative and political programs*

*Harold A. Schaefer*  
Harold A. Schaefer, General President

*Edward A. Kelly*  
Edward A. Kelly, General Secretary-Treasurer

### **WSCFF Awarded Best In Class FIREPAC Century Club**

**Once again, thank you to our members for making  
Washington top of its class for supporting  
the IAFF in its political action efforts.**

The FIREPAC Century Club recognizes IAFF district, state and local affiliates for outstanding fundraising for FIREPAC – meeting or exceeding their FIREPAC goal. The “FIREPAC-Best In Class” certificate, bestowed upon the WSCFF for outstanding contributions to the IAFF’s 2016 legislative and political programs, is awarded to the affiliate that exceeds its dollar target by the largest percentage in each of the memberships size groups, as well as at the district association level. “I could not be more proud of what our state has accomplished,” said WSCFF President Dennis Lawson, “we are truly leading the way as a state organization.”

For more information about how you can participate in FIREPAC or if you are interested in learning about the WSCFF FASTPAC program to support political action in our state, contact your local leadership.

#### **Statistics:**

Locals represented: 70  
Delegates in attendance: 234  
Alternates in attendance: 38  
Resolutions submitted: 20  
Resolutions adopted: 18  
Resolutions Rejected: 1  
Resolutions Out of Order: 1

#### **Awards:**

##### **Walt Lambert Trade Union Leadership Award**

Mark Johnston, Local 452 Vancouver

##### **Jack Waller Honorary Fire Fighter Award**

Pat Ellis, Chaplain, Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority

#### **Per Capita Rate:**

\$20.74 effective September 1, 2018

#### **Election Results:**

##### **WSCFF Executive Board & Trustees**

Secretary-Treasurer: Greg Markley, Local 1747

Trustee Rich Kittinger, Local 106

2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative: Jeff Wainwright, Local 3711

4<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Mike Westland, Local 3520

6<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Ryan Mudie, Local 31

8<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Bill Mack, Local 1352

10<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Dean Shelton, Local 3219

##### **WSCFF Employee Benefit Trust (MERP) Trustees**

**Position 1:** Craig Soucy, Local 864

**Position 4:** Jeff Wainwright, Local 3711

##### **WSCFF Burn Foundation Election Results:**

2<sup>nd</sup> District Trustee: James Stovall, Local 1052

4<sup>th</sup> District Trustee: Evan Stanley, Local 726

6<sup>th</sup> District Trustee: Janell Murry, Local 31

8<sup>th</sup> District Trustee: Kristin Burt, Local 2595

10<sup>th</sup> District Trustee: Brian Duthie, Local 46



## **Per Capita Change**

Due to Convention action, the 2017-18 per capita rate per member beginning September 1, 2017, will be \$20.74. Packets of new per capita forms will be mailed to each local in July. If you have questions regarding the per capita increase, please contact your district representative.



## Kelly Fox Accepts Position at CalPERS, Resigns as IAFF 7<sup>th</sup> District Vice President



On Friday, June 23, 2017, Kelly Fox announced that he had accepted a position with the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and would resign his position as International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) 7<sup>th</sup> District Vice President effective upon the election of his successor. "After working with the IAFF on multiple levels over many years. . . I am ready to pursue new challenges that remain consistent with the values and objectives of our IAFF and the greater labor movement," he said. Fox will serve as Chief of Stakeholder Relations for the \$300 billion CalPERS fund, the largest defined benefit public pension fund in the United States.

Fox, an Olympia fire fighter since 1990, led the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF) as president for nearly 20 years and was recognized last week at the organization's 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. Members conferred upon him the title "President Emeritus" and named the WSCFF Legislative Conference in his honor.

Fox led the WSCFF membership to present and pass Initiative 790 in 2002, creating the Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters (LEOFF) Plan 2 Retirement Board, and served as its chair from 2003 – 2017.

WSCFF President Dennis Lawson said, "Under Kelly's leadership, the WSCFF became a political force in Washington and beyond. Under his guidance we were able to pass legislation that expanded our presumptive coverage, provides disability coverage for those who suffer career-ending injuries, and gives peace of mind to surviving spouses. I know he will bring the same drive and commitment to serve the public employees of California."

The IAFF will hold a special election for 7<sup>th</sup> District Vice President, representing IAFF members in Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska, in the next 45 days. The IAFF will communicate directly with local leaders about the details of this election.

**Per resolution 17-12, WSCFF local contracts  
can be found on the [www.wscff.org](http://www.wscff.org) website.**



### Calendar of Events

#### July

- 7 IAFF Local 31 Tacoma Fire Fighters 20th Annual Jimmy W. Cason Memorial Golf Tournament –9:00 shotgun start, 18 holes, Practice, Carts, Lunch included. Contact Alex Wilsie (253) 221-3131.
- 16 Camp Eyabsut Chili Cook-Off 2017 to support burn survivors between the ages of 7 and 17, North Bend. Contact: Chris Torrey Chili Cook-Off Coordinator at [Chris.torrey@comcast.net](mailto:Chris.torrey@comcast.net).
- 17 2017 Fire Fighters Charity Golf Tourney 2nd Annual 11am shotgun start. Contact: [www.FirefightersForGood.org/golf2017](http://www.FirefightersForGood.org/golf2017), Benefiting Children's Country Home.
- 23 Firefighter Appreciation Day, Join the Seattle Mariners and WSCFF at Safeco Field. Contact: Elizabeth McCloskey (206) 346-4519.

#### August

- 12 Pacific NW Firefighters 2017 Golf Tournament. Contact Dean McAuley (253) 318-2807 [deanmcauley@gmail.com](mailto:deanmcauley@gmail.com) or Brian Smith, Seattle Fire Department (206) 941-1373 [bsmith1834@msn.com](mailto:bsmith1834@msn.com).

**Visit the events page at [www.wscff.org](http://www.wscff.org) for these events and more.  
If you have upcoming events, email [laura@wscff.org](mailto:laura@wscff.org) or call (360) 943-3030.**



**Washington State  
Council of Fire Fighters**

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Affiliated with AFL-CIO, IAFF, WSLC



UNION MADE



**WSCFF STAFF  
OPEIU23/AFL-CIO**





## *Washington State Council of Fire Fighters*

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July 5, 2017

To: WSCFF Locals  
From: Dennis J. Lawson, President  
Subject: WSCFF Standing Health and Safety Committee

Brothers and Sisters:

The delegates assembled at our 78<sup>th</sup> WSCFF Convention adopted *Resolution 17-11 – WSCFF Standing Health and Safety Committee*. This committee will be tasked to do the following:

*“...develop and disseminate knowledge within the WSCFF so that fire fighters, paramedics, and EMT’s can recognize and control safety and health hazards and occupational medicine issues associated with our profession.”*

The process to select the committee members will be as follows:

- Interested members must submit a letter explaining why they should be appointed to this committee. Applicants should emphasize any pertinent experience, situations or skills that would make them an effective committee member.
- Each interested member must also submit a letter of support from his/her local president confirming the member is in good standing and that he or she understands the importance of the labor prospective.
- The WSCFF will accept letters between Monday, July 10, and Friday, August 11. To be considered, letters must be emailed or postmarked on or before August 11, 2017. Email submissions will be sent to [Dennis@wscff.org](mailto:Dennis@wscff.org). For USPS mail send to the WSCFF office, ATTN: Committee Selection Process, 1069 Adams Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

President Lawson has assigned WSCFF 9<sup>th</sup> District Representative Keven Rojecki as the chair of this committee. In addition to Keven, the committee will be comprised of six (6) other at-large members who will equally represent the west and east sides of our state. The committee will be further divided to ensure representation from locals of various sizes: 3-50 members, 51-150 members, and 151 + members.

We thank you for your time, consideration, and willingness to share this announcement.

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