

# the Council Connection

Official Publication of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

Published monthly by the WSCFF & provided to WSCFF Member Locals

## WSCFF 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

WSCFF President Dennis Lawson called the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to order on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, at the Vancouver Convention Center and Hilton Hotel in downtown Vancouver. This venue is the only union-operated, publicly-owned convention center and four-star hotel in the Pacific Northwest. The Vancouver Honor Guard and Pipes and Drums posted the flags. Cathy Browning, Local 2088 Tukwila, honored us with a beautiful performance of the National Anthem.

Local 452 Vancouver President Mark Johnston welcomed the delegation on behalf of the five host locals. He introduced Anne McEnergy-Ogle, Mayor Pro-Tem of the city of Vancouver who welcomed the membership and spoke eloquently of her efforts to better understand and support the members of the fire service. Vancouver Fire Chief Joe Molina wished us a productive convention and reviewed Vancouver's labor-management relationship.

The delegation was honored to have IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger in attendance. Mr. Schaitberger reviewed the IAFF's activities and aggressive agenda and commended the delegation for their work supporting all members.

President Lawson called for a moment of silence for the WSCFF Line-of-Duty deaths since Convention 2015: Tristan Smith, Local 27 Seattle; Donovan Eckhardt, Local 864 Renton; Conrad Clementson, Local 1828 Snohomish County 1; Jeffrey Neal Sarchin, Local 1828 Snohomish County 1; Jim Swift, Local 2829 Redmond; Michael Raymond VanDenBergh, Local 2878 Eastside Fire and Rescue; Brent Strong, Local 3825 Thurston Professional Fire Fighters; and Michael C. Stewart, Local F-282 Puget Sound Federal Fire Fighters. He also

acknowledged the active member deaths of Andrew Miller, Local 452 Vancouver, and Dave Goff, Local 1352 Valley Regional Fire Authority.

President Tim Stromsnes of IAFF Local 2117 Reedy Creek, Florida, paid a visit to request the endorsement of the WSCFF in support of its bid to host the 2020 IAFF convention. The delegation passed Resolution 16-30 to meet President Stromsnes' request for the endorsement.

Immediately following opening ceremonies, the delegation went to work, beginning with nominations for WSCFF President and reports of officers and interim committees. The last order of business on the first day was the announcement that Dennis Lawson was elected by acclamation to serve as WSCFF President for a two-year term. Tuesday's work was followed by a night of bowling and arcade adventures for members and their families at Big Al's family fun center.

The annual WSCFF Awards Banquet on Wednesday night was a very special event. The delegation presented the 2016 Walt Lambert Labor Leader award to 5th District Representative Brian Hurley. Brian has been a career fire fighter-paramedic since 1995 and currently serves as a Captain with the Tumwater Fire Department. He was elected to the WSCFF Board in 1997 and has worked in many capacities, including as an IAFF 7th District Field Service Representative since 2001. Brian's contributions to the members of the WSCFF and all of organized labor are vast. He has devoted almost 20 years to serving, supporting and teaching so that our members are well served. The WSCFF

July 2016

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  
LISA THOMPSON  
THERESE MURPHY  
*Administrative Assistants*



Washington State  
Council of Fire Fighters

Continued on next page



## WSCFF 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention ~ Continued

is proud to honor Brian and thanks him for being a stalwart leader in our Council.

WSCFF staff members Helen Kramer and Debbie Guillot both received the Jack Waller Honorary Fire Fighter Award for 2016. Helen was hired as the WSCFF Executive Assistant in November of 1996. She leads the WSCFF staff with respect, structure and integrity. The WSCFF Executive Board confidently relies on her to manage the operation of the council in many capacities. Helen's dedication, experience, and competency as the Executive Assistant allows the executive board freedom to focus solely on serving the WSCFF members.

Debbie Guillot was hired as the WSCFF Legislative Secretary in May of 1996. Her work ethics and dedication to the council are remarkable. Her vast knowledge in legislative operations and political action procedures keep the council in absolute compliance. Her optimistic, caring personality combined with her stable manner provide the backbone for the staff operations.

This year, a new award was presented. The "WSCFF Fully Involved" award was created to annually recognize up to three WSCFF members who have proven over time their commitment to their work as a union member. An individual may be nominated for work done for a specific project, or achievement over the course of a career. The first three recipients of the WSCFF Fully Involved Award are: Beth Gallup, Local 1747 Kent, and Bill Hoover, Local 2545 Kirkland, for their contributions to the *Healthy In, Healthy Out* – Best Practices for Reducing Fire Fighter Risk of Exposures to Carcinogens; and Eric Monroe, Local 1760 Shoreline, for his steadfast dedication to the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. We are very fortunate to have members among us with such passion and dedication to the betterment of first responders' health and welfare.

The council recognized and thanked 7th District Representative John Stockman for his eighteen years of service on the WSCFF Executive Board.

John retired in June 2015, after 34 years with the Redmond Fire Department. He has been active in the union, serving as an Executive Board Member or local Vice President for more than 25 years. John demonstrated true authenticity and sincerity in his leadership, and his perspective and insight were instrumental to the success of the WSCFF.

Lisa Thompson, WSCFF staff, was also recognized and honored with a plaque for her service to the WSCFF. She will be leaving in September 2016 after 13 years in our office to follow her new career path in counseling. Lisa has been a great friend and a steady fixture in our office, helping members and visitors alike, and her welcoming demeanor and helpfulness will be truly missed.

We were honored to have past Walt Lambert Leadership Award Winners former IAFF 7<sup>th</sup> District Vice President Ricky Walsh, current IAFF 7<sup>th</sup> District Vice President Kelly Fox, WSCFF Legislative Liaison Geoff Simpson, Mike Watson, Dan Leahy, as well as past Jack Waller Honorary Fire Fighter Award Winners Alex Skalbania, Greg DiMartino, and Steve Nelsen present at the dinner. Pam Cason was also able to join us again this year.

The delegates at the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention set the agenda for the WSCFF for the next year with thought and consideration for the entire membership. The adopted per capita rate for 2016-17 is \$20.18, a \$.03 decrease from this year. The Executive Board will work to implement the resolutions.

We would like to extend our gratitude and congratulations to our host locals 452 Vancouver, 1805 Clark County District 6, 2444 East Clark County, 3674 Clark County, and 4156 Vancouver Fire Command Officers for hosting a great event and thank Convention Chair Dave Sturbelle for doing an exceptional job.

*Continued on next page*

### Magnificent 7<sup>th</sup> District Gala!

Held in conjunction with the IAFF Annual Convention.



Monday, August 15, 2016  
6:30 p.m. ~ 10:30 p.m.  
Harley Davidson Café  
3725 South Las Vegas Blvd.



Contact IAFF 7<sup>th</sup> District VP Kelly Fox for information ~ 360-791-6201

## WSCFF 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention ~ Continued



### Statistics:

Locals represented: 84  
Delegates in attendance: 260  
Alternates in attendance: 34  
Honorary Delegates: 6  
Resolutions submitted: 36  
Resolutions adopted: 31  
Resolutions Rejected: 2  
Resolutions Withdrawn: 1  
Resolutions Disposed: 2

### Per Capita Rate:

\$20.18 effective September 1, 2016

### Awards:

**Walt Lambert Trade Union Leadership Award**

5<sup>th</sup> District Representative Brian Hurley

**Jack Waller Honorary Fire Fighter Award**

WSCFF staff members:

Helen Kramer and Debbie Guillot

### Election Results:

**WSCFF Executive Board & Trustees**

President: Dennis Lawson, Local 726

Vice President: Mike Bacon, Local 29

Trustee Position #1: Rich Kittinger, Local 106

1<sup>st</sup> District Representative: Mike Bacon, Local 29

3<sup>rd</sup> District Representative: Tim Hoover, Local 1828

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

5<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Brian Hurley, Local 2409

7<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Craig Soucy, Local 864

9<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Keven Rojecki, Local 1747

11<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Theresa Purtell, Local 27

**WSCFF Employee Benefit Trust (MERP) Trustee:**

Ricky Walsh

**WSCFF Burn Foundation Election Results:**

1<sup>st</sup> District Representative: Brandon Bacon, Local 29

3<sup>rd</sup> District Representative: Melissa Beard, Local 1828

5<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Aaron Black, Local 2444

7<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Brian Kane, Local 864

9<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Nikki Smith, Local 1747

11<sup>th</sup> District Representative: Patti Mann, Local 27



### **<sup>1</sup>cau-cus**

: a closed meeting of a group of persons belonging to the same political party or faction usually to select candidates or to decide on policy ; *also* : a group of people united to promote an agreed-upon cause

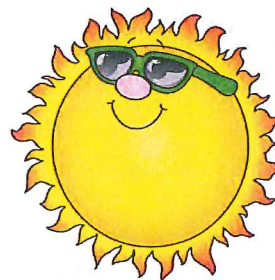
**Kelly Fox announces the IAFF 7<sup>th</sup> District Caucus**

**September 7-8, 2016**

**SeaTac Hilton**

**Contact VP Fox for details ~ 360-791-6201 or [kfox@iaff.org](mailto:kfox@iaff.org)**

## **Calendar of Events**



### **AUGUST**

**15-19  
21**

IAFF 53<sup>rd</sup> Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Fire Fighter Day at SAFECO Field

### **SEPTEMBER**

**7-8  
17  
17**

IAFF 7<sup>th</sup> District Caucus, Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center  
IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial, Colorado Springs, Colorado  
Seattle Sounders FC Firefighter Night, Quest Field



## State and Federal Endorsements

During this year's annual convention, the delegates adopted Resolution 16-9 and 16-10, endorsing the following candidates:

### Statewide:

Governor	Jay Inslee
Attorney General	Bob Ferguson
Insurance Comm.	Mike Kreidler
Public Lands Comm.	Dave Upthegrove
Sec of State	Tina Podlodowski
State Auditor	Mark Miloscia
State Treasurer	Marko Liias
Supt. Of Pub. Inst.	Chris Reykdal
State Supreme Court 1	Mary Yu
State Supreme Court 5	Barbara Madsen
State Supreme Court 6	Charles Wiggins

### Federal:

U.S. Senator	Patty Murray
1 <sup>st</sup> Congressional Dist.	Suzan DelBene
2 <sup>nd</sup> Congressional Dist.	Rick Larsen
3 <sup>rd</sup> Congressional Dist.	Jim Moeller
6 <sup>th</sup> Congressional Dist.	Derek Kilmer
8 <sup>th</sup> Congressional Dist.	Dave Reichert
9 <sup>th</sup> Congressional Dist.	Adam Smith
10 <sup>th</sup> Congressional Dist.	Denny Heck



AMERICAN INCOME LIFE  
NATIONAL INCOME LIFE  
insurance companies

## Are You Prepared?

**Unfortunately, life can change in an instant, affecting a family financially and emotionally.**

*What if I died expectantly? Could my family continue to live in our home? Would they have the funds for my children to go to college or to pay for my funeral and final expense?*

American Income Life (AIL) Insurance Company can address these "what if" questions by offering coverage to replace a portion of the income your family may lose if you are not there.

Recently, a Benefit Notification was sent to every WSCFF member. Please return the Reply Card or access it online at [www.aillife.com/benefits/4000](http://www.aillife.com/benefits/4000). This will allow you to designate a beneficiary for your no-cost \$4,000 AD&D benefit.

If you choose, an AIL representative will deliver your certificate of coverage and perform a no-cost, obligation-needs analysis to evaluate your insurance needs and discuss insurance programs for which you may qualify. If you have questions or concerns, please call the council office.



**Washington State**  
Council of Fire Fighters

Send letters & submissions to:  
Washington State Council of Fire Fighters  
1069 Adams Street Southeast  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Phone: 800-572-5762, 360-943-3030  
Fax: 360-943-2333  
Website: [www.wscff.org](http://www.wscff.org)  
E-mail: [wscff@wscff.org](mailto:wscff@wscff.org)  
Affiliated with AFL-CIO, IAFF, WSLC



UNION MADE



WSCFF STAFF  
OPEIU23/AFL-CIO



## Prepare For Advanced Positions

Continuing education is extremely important in the fire service profession. In fact, departments may require candidates to hold a bachelor's degree in fire science or a related field, in order to be considered for promotion to positions higher than battalion chief.\* Staying ahead of this trend could make the difference when it comes to your career advancement.†

## Strengthen Your Credentials at Kaplan University

Earn a degree that can help enhance your knowledge, while adding value to your career. Take the next step to find the degree that is right for you.

Explore Kaplan University's Fire Science degree programs including, the Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science, Bachelor of Science in Fire Science, and the Bachelor of Science in Fire and Emergency Management. Or look into our Master of Public Administration degree program. These comprehensive programs offer the flexibility of online learning ideal for individuals in the fire science and emergency management fields who may work inconsistent hours.

## Take Advantage of Your Benefits

IAFF members are eligible for a significantly reduced tuition rate for any undergraduate fire science degree program at Kaplan University, including textbooks and course materials.‡

A military-friendly school, Kaplan University offers reduced undergraduate tuition for servicemembers, including Guard and Reserve, and veterans.§ We also offer credit for military occupations and training, as well as scholarships for spouses and dependent children of veterans and servicemembers.¶

**Get started today. Visit [IAFF.Kaplan.edu](http://IAFF.Kaplan.edu) or call a dedicated Admissions Advisor at 866.583.6765 (Toll Free) to ensure you receive your benefits.**

---

For comprehensive consumer and gainful employment information, visit [www.kaplanuniversity.edu/student-consumer-information.aspx](http://www.kaplanuniversity.edu/student-consumer-information.aspx). Kaplan University has campuses and course locations only in the U.S. Its instructors are U.S. employees. Its online distance education programs are offered in the U.S. but open to Canadians who meet eligibility requirements. Kaplan University has the status of a university and can grant degrees in the U.S. by authority of the state of Iowa and the U.S. Department of Education. It is also accredited in the U.S. by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools ([hlcommission.org](http://hlcommission.org)). For details, go to [www.kaplanuniversity.edu/about/accreditation-licensing.aspx](http://www.kaplanuniversity.edu/about/accreditation-licensing.aspx).

\* Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-2015 Edition, Firefighters, on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/firefighters.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/firefighters.htm). National long-term projections may not reflect local and/or short-term economic or job conditions, and do not guarantee actual job growth.

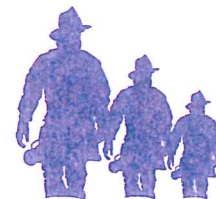
† Kaplan University's programs are designed to prepare graduates to pursue the stated positions, which have varying responsibilities. However, Kaplan University cannot guarantee employment or career advancement. Additional fire academy training and education may be required. In addition, job titles and responsibilities may vary from organization to organization. Prior experience may be necessary for leadership positions.

‡ Undergraduate courses only. Not all courses require textbooks; some use electronic instructional materials. Eligible family members include spouses, domestic partners, parents, siblings, and children.

§ Per-credit tuition reductions are based on standard tuition rate of \$371.00 multiplied by the number of credits required to complete the degree.

¶ Military spouses enrolled in Kaplan University Tuition Cap programs are not eligible for this reduction.





## CURRENT CONTRACTS

Per Resolution 03-22, the following is a list of WSCFF affiliate locals that do not have current contracts on file. If your local is on this list and you have a current contract, please send us your updated information. You may do this via email or regular mail [lisa@wscff.org](mailto:lisa@wscff.org) or 1069 Adams Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

This list will be updated in every Council Connection per the resolution. Please let us know if your records differ from ours.

Note: Please remember to send in your new contract if your last one we have on file is expired.

Local	Local Name	Exp	Local	Local Name	Exp
0027	SEATTLE	2014	2876	SOUTH KITSAP DIST 7	2010
0046	EVERETT	2014	2898	SEATTLE FIRE CHIEFS	2015
0404	WALLA WALLA	2015	2903	LACEY	2015
0437	BREMERTON	2015	3427	SKAGIT CO. PARAMEDICS	2015
0453	WENATCHEE	2013	3628	YELM FF'S	2015
0469	YAKIMA	2013	3674	CLARK CO. FIRE & RESCUE	2015
0656	PORT ANGELES	2010	3701	SPOKANE VALLEY CHIEFS	2015
0864	RENTON	2015	3711	SPOKANE CO. 8	2015
1352	VRFA	2015	3680	UNION GAP	2014
1604	BELLEVUE	2015	3728	ARLINGTON	2013
1758	ELLENSBURG	2014	3740	SKYWAY FF'S	2015
1892	PULLMAN	2015	3835	CHELAN CO. 1	2015
1919	CHENEY	2015	4075	GRAYS HARBOR	2012
2024	SO. KING CO. PRO FF'S	2015	4111	BURLINGTON	2015
2109	OCEAN SHORES	2014	4118	NORTH CO. PROF. FF'S	2015
2299	CLARKSTON	2014	4156	PROF FF'S OF CLARK CO 3	2014
2328	TOPPENISH	2013	4197	DOUGLAS COUNTY #2	2011
2545	KIRKLAND	2010	4203	COLLEGE PLACE	2012
2595	KING CO MEDICS	2014	4299	CENTRAL WHIDBEY ISLAND	2012
2597	SNOHOMISH CO. AIRPORT	2014	4440	MCNIEL ISLAND	
2639	ABERDEEN	2015	4447	COWLITZ CO. 5	
2694	SNOHOMISH CO. 4	2014	4459	ORTING	
2781	SNOHOMISH CO. UNION FF'S	2015	4965	TRI-COUNTY FF'S	
2776	RAYMOND	2013	F-283	FORT LEWIS FIRE FIGHTERS	2012
2819	PROF FF'S OF KITSAP CO.	2015	F-304	US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION	
2829	REDMOND	2015			



If you don't have your professional fire fighter license plate, now is the time to get one. Each purchase or renewal of a set of special plates generates a tax- deductible \$28 donation to the WSCFF Benevolent Fund. For more information, refer to the WSCFF website: [www.wscff.org](http://www.wscff.org).