

the Council Connection

Official Publication of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

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WSCFF Legislative Summary

Sine Die – Sort of

The 2017 Regular Session concluded on Sunday, April 23, with the Legislature adjourning – Sine Die. This term “sine die” is a Latin term meaning “without fixing a day for future action or appointing a day to reconvene.” With the legislature failing to approve an agreed-to operating budget, the Governor will call lawmakers back into “special session,” also referred to as an “extraordinary session,” which can last up to 30 days. Despite the name, it is neither extraordinary nor special for lawmakers to require additional time to complete the budget. The first extraordinary session came in 1890, a year after statehood. Since 2010, the Legislature has gone into special session every year except 2014. The legislature required two special sessions in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Three special sessions were needed in 2013 and 2015.

The Governor convened the special session March 29, and most lawmakers will return home while budget writers and caucus leaders stay to work on the budget. We anticipate little to no legislative activity until negotiators reach a budget compromise.



Governor Jay Inslee addressing WSCFF members in January.

Your WSCFF Legislative Liaisons Michael White from Local 1352 Valley Regional Fire and Geoff Simpson from Local 1747 Kent have been working overtime all session. Because of their tremendous work, the following five bills are now headed to the Governor's desk: WSCFF HB 1358 Treat & Refer; 1467 Removing Disincentives; 1863, Incident Reporting Funding; 2202, EMT's into LEOFF; and 5628, City Fire Districts.

With the exception of HB 1467 and SB 5628, these bills all require spending authorization in the operating budget. We believe we will be successful in making that happen, but we cannot be certain until the final gavel drops. Stay tuned!

May 2017

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Washington State
Council of Fire Fighters

2017 IAFF/WSCFF Educational Seminar

This year's Educational Seminar was held April 24-27, 2017, at The Davenport Hotel, a beautiful, historic hotel located in the heart of downtown Spokane. Over 300 WSCFF members from 90 locals attended this event, which provides practical training and allows members from all over Washington the opportunity to gain insight and support from each other and to get together on a social level.

We were honored to have keynote speaker Melissa Luck, Assistant News Director from KXLY News. She highlighted the power of using the current trend of social media. For example, just by sharing pictures and personal stories, locals can build loyalty and support for a levy that is cropping up. Classes were offered at three levels and included topics such as retirement checklists, PTSD and presumptive illness resources, duties and responsibilities in leadership for the fire service, how to run a union meeting, and an eye-opening seminar by Norm Golden. Norm is both a firefighter with Local 1352 and a criminal defense attorney in Seattle. "Smokin, Drinkin Fightin" was a fitting title, as he entertained while highlighting legal issues that can help or hurt WSCFF fire firefighters.

Your department's social media may be just the transparency you need in order to allow the public to see their tax dollars in action, building trust and ensuring the community that their money is not being wasted. By spending just a short amount of time, your local can make a profound impact on your relationship with the public, increasing visibility and quickly disseminating important information.

KING



Screening Save Young Lives: Fire Fighters Partner with Nick of Time Foundation

"Every three days, a kid in the United States dies of sudden cardiac arrest because of heart conditions that go undetected", says Valley Regional Fire Authority Battalion Chief Bill Mack. "Simple screenings can help identify risk factors and save lives."

[See More](#)



Photos like these posted on the WSCFF Facebook page can help to harness the growing powers of social media to help build support for the needs of our members.

SNOHOMISH



How Many Fire Fighters Does it Take to Save Your Life?

How many firefighters does it take to put out a fire, save a building, and rescue the people inside? Today's fires burn hotter and faster than ever before. Timing is critical. Fire departments use scientific research and evidence to determine how many firefighters need to be on duty to save you and your house. Adequately staffed fire stations are critical.

[See More](#)



Creating, selling and wearing pink t-shirts is one way union firefighters across the United States join together to raise funds and awareness about breast cancer. Here is a group of Lacey firefighters in last year's gear.



With 39,000 More Members, Washington State is Now 5th Most Unionized in U.S

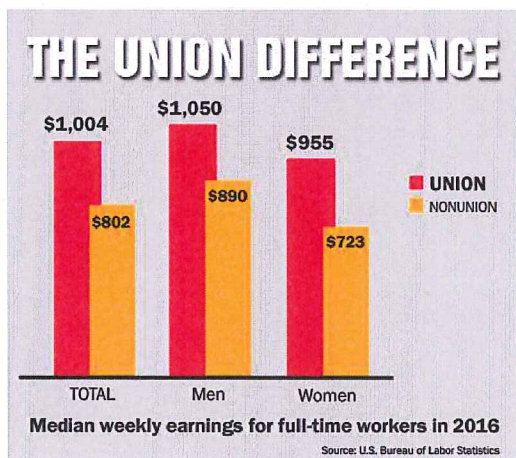
By David Groves, The Stand



An estimated 539,000 Washington State residents belonged to labor unions in 2016, a new report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows an increase of 39,000 from the previous year. Although union membership levels dropped nationally as Republican state lawmakers passed more union-busting “right-to-work” laws, union membership rose in many free-bargaining states like Washington, where the union membership level increased from 16.8 percent in 2015 to 17.4 percent last year.

“Union growth in Washington State is good for everyone,” said Jeff Johnson, President of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. “Union members earn more, spend more in their communities, and lift working standards for all of us. Polls and surveys show that people want to join unions. These numbers demonstrate that, unless they are hindered by outdated or hostile labor laws, people will stand together and form unions.”

Union members earn higher wages, with average weekly earnings of \$1,004 compared to \$802 for nonunion. With union wages averaging 25 percent higher than nonunion wages, full-time union members make more than \$52,000 per year on average, which is \$10,500 more than nonunion workers.



REMINDER, per capita must be paid through May in order for delegates to be seated at convention. If you have any questions, call or email therese@wscff.org.

The Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF) 78th Annual Convention is June 20 – 22, 2017, in Yakima, Washington. IAFF Local 469 Yakima will host the convention at the Yakima Convention Center. **Each local was mailed a packet with your delegate information** based on your annual per capita membership March 2016 through February 2017, per the WSCFF Constitution and Bylaws. Your local's per capita must be paid through May 2017 in order to have delegates seated at convention. **Convention registrations must be postmarked by May 20, for committee assignments and to avoid a \$50 late registration fee per attendee.**

Current Contracts

Per Resolution 0-3-22, 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 to Laura@wscff.org or regular mail to:

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.



Local	Local Name	Exp	Local	Local Name	Exp
0027	Seattle	2014	2898	Seattle Fire Chiefs Association	2014
0404	Walla Walla	2015	2903	Lacey	2016
0315	Hoquiam	2016	2933	Clallam Co.	2016
0469	Yakima	2013	3062	Maple Valley	2016
0828	Longview	2016	3152	Key Peninsula	2016
1296	Kennewick	2016	3186	Mountain View fire & Rescue	2016
1352	Valley Regional Fire	2015	3219	Marysville	2016
1604	Bellevue	2015	3235	Snohomish Co. 8	2016
1758	Ellensburg	2014	3375	Longview Chief Officers	2016
1828	Snohomish Co. 1	2014	3427	Skagit Co. Paramedics	2006
1862	Montesano	2016	3689	South Beach Fire & EMS	2016
2032	East Jefferson Fire & Rescue	2016	3728	Arlington	2016
2099	North Sound Fire Fighters	2016	3828	Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue	2016
2109	Ocean Shores	2014	3931	Enumclaw	2014
2299	Clarkston	2014	4075	Grays Harbor Fire Fighters	2012
2328	Toppenish	2013	4111	Burlington	2015
2409	Tumwater	2016	4118	North County Professional FF's	2015
2510	Chehalis	2016	4189	Vashon Island Fire Fighters	2016
2595	King Co. Medics	2014	4197	Douglas County #2	2012
2776	Raymond	2013	4258	Grays Harbor #2	2016
2781	Snohomish Co. Union FF's	2015	4378	Vancouver Fire Command Officers	2016
2876	South Kitsap Dist. 7	2011	4440	McNeil Island	2009
			4447	Cowlitz Co. 5	2001
			4816	Chelan Co. 7	2016
			4863	Lewis Co. FF's	2016
			F-283	Fort Lewis Fire Fighters	
			F-304	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	

Calendar of Events



- May**
- 16-18** 2017 Young Fire Fighters Conference
- 29** Memorial Day, WSCFF Office Closed
- June**
- 3** Pullman Firefighter's hosting 2nd annual Firefighter's Ball proceeds used for the Pullman Firefighter's Charitable Foundation Mark Johnson 208-301-0441 or Pat Fitzgerald 509-869-7454
- 10** Pasco Fire Fighters Fun Run, raise funds for Arc of Tri Cities and Children's Development Center contact: Rickymicheles@msn.com
- 18** WSCFF Board Meeting
- 19** WSCFF 77th Annual Convention Golf Tournament (hosted by Yakima Fire Fighters Local 469)
- 20-22** WSCFF Annual Convention
- July**
- 7** IAFF Local 31 Tacoma Fire Fighters 20th Annual Jimmy Cason Memorial Golf Tournament - 9:00 shotgun start, 18 holes, Practice, Carts, Lunch included.
- 17** 2017 Firefighters Charity Golf Tourney 2nd Annual 11am shotgun start - www.FirefightersForGood.org/golf2017, Benefiting Children's Country Home

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. www.wscff.org.



Washington State
Council of Fire Fighters

Send letters & submissions to:
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UNION MADE



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