

the Council Connection

Official Publication of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

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WSCFF Fire Crews Help Battle California Blazes

Washington firefighters are always there when we need them -- and there for our neighbors, too. Members of 35 IAFF locals are working on 10 strike teams deployed to help fight the unprecedented fires burning through communities in Northern California.

Wildland firefighters depend on their brothers and sisters, who stay behind to cover them in their absence. Captain Bert Thayer of Local 3628, Cowlitz 2, explained, "the important thing to emphasize is the folks back home...we wouldn't be going out if we didn't have those folks backing us up and working the extra shifts."



Spokane County Fire District 8, Local 3711, on the front lines in California.



Twenty-five firefighters from Southwest Washington were scheduled to head home on October 18 after helping fire crews combat blazes.



Everett Firefighters, Local 46, working to contain California wildfires.



Albert Torres, Local 453, Wenatchee. "Our job is to assist with the fire operations that are going on and check for hot spots."



We appreciate the smiles even in incredibly hard times
McLane Black Lake fire fighters!

November 2017

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Washington State
Council of Fire Fighters

****WSCFF 2018 Legislative Conference – January 9, 2018****

Please note date change.

In order to avoid conflicts with the IAFF's ALTS, we have moved our **Legislative Conference** to early January 2018 and are trying something we've talked about for a long time: having the whole conference in one day!

Registration, briefing, appointments, and the reception are all still on the agenda. The difference will be that the event will conclude at the end of the reception---no morning session the next day.

Registration packets will go out this week, so please take note of the deadlines outlined in the packets for rooms, etc., and make your plans accordingly.



Note to Self:

- 1. Find out what's all this stuff in the news about pensions.*

WORK 'TIL YOU DIE ? *The Washington Post reports: People are living longer, more expensive lives, often without much of a safety net. As a result, record numbers of Americans older than 65 are working, and millions of people are entering their golden years with fragile finances. Fundamental changes in the U.S. retirement system have shifted responsibility for saving from the employer to the worker, exacerbating the nation's rich-poor divide. Polls show that most older people are more worried about running out of money than dying.*

Have No Fear, LEOFF Plan 2 is Here! The WSCFF Plan Summary:

LEOFF Plan 2 is a defined-benefit plan. When you meet plan requirements and retire, you are guaranteed a monthly benefit for the rest of your life. You earn this right by being vested in the plan, meaning you have five years of service credit. A full benefit will then be awarded when you retire at age 53 or later, or at age 50 with 20 years of service credit. Your monthly benefit will be based on your years of service, using the following calculation: $2\% \times \text{service credit years} \times \text{Final Average Salary} = \text{monthly benefit}$. Final Average Salary (FAS) is the average of your 60 consecutive highest paid service credit months, including overtime.

1-2 years Before Retirement

Sign up to access your retirement account at www.drs.wa.gov. With online account access, you can view all of your retirement accounts administered by DRS.

- Review your plan handbook for retirement eligibility rules.
- Use online account access to verify the accuracy of your service credit. If you find information you think is incorrect, contact DRS.
- Use the Online Benefit Estimator to estimate your future monthly benefit.
- If interested, sign up for Deferred Compensation Program or another employer-sponsored voluntary retirement plan. You might also consider using a "catch-up" savings option, if your chosen plan offers one.
- If interested, contact DRS to find out whether you're eligible to purchase optional service credit.
- Plan for health care coverage during retirement. Note options that are available to you.
- Contact your employer to find out whether it participates in a health reimbursement arrangement with the Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association (VEBA).

Want more information? Visit wscff.org for the Retirement Checklist and Leoff 2 Plan Summary in detail.

NEWS FROM Ricky Walsh, IAFF 7th District Vice President

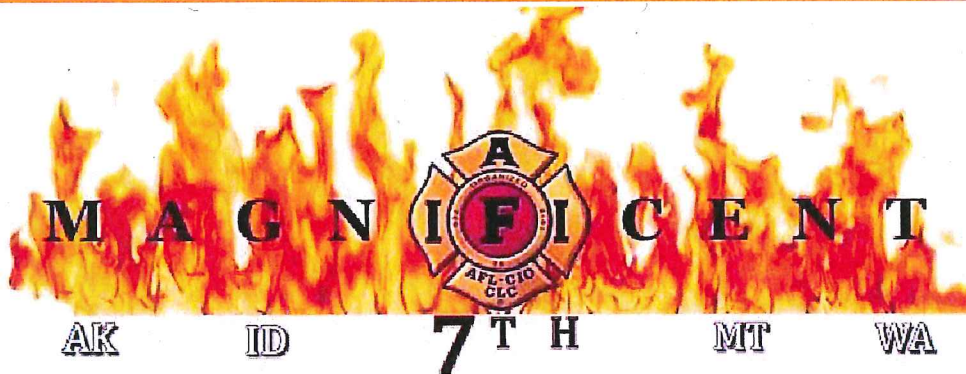


A public relations committee has been formed to provide information to members and citizens in the communities we serve on issues related to fire fighting, EMS, charitable projects, labor action and state and federal legislative issues. The committee includes representatives from Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

Reece Williams, Local 2427, is the chair, and Jasper Stenstrom, Local 726, will serve as Chief Editor.

All WSCFF members are encouraged to visit and like the Facebook page @IAFF7thDVP and to listen to the 7th District Quarterly Report Podcast.

**Questions? Contact: Reece Williams, iaff3427treas@gmail.com
or Jasper Stenstrom, jstenstrom@iaff726.org.**



Firefighters Ride 4 R.I.S.E

Rich Smith from Bellevue Fire and his crew have embarked on a 24-day bicycle ride from Seattle to Los Angeles. The firefighter cycling crew is out to help wounded and disabled vets, by fundraising for the Gary Sinise Foundation, an initiative started by firefighters from Washington State. One local hero, USMC Sgt and Ellensburg native Nick Kimmel, a triple amputee who was selected to receive one of 59 specially adapted smart homes, has been travelling alongside by car to tell his story and cheer this great crew on.

If you would like to donate, please visit: ffr4r.org



The crew on a stop in northern California.

Remember to Vote Tuesday, November 7.
There are more Union Members on your Ballot this Fall.

THE MORE YOU KNOW

What is Political Action?

Political Action is how our union works to improve benefits and working conditions for our members, locally and statewide. Elected officials make the laws, statutes and ordinances that control our working conditions, compensation, and pensions along with safety and health issues. We accomplish our goals by educating officials regarding matters important to us and working to elect those who support them.

Calendar of Events

November

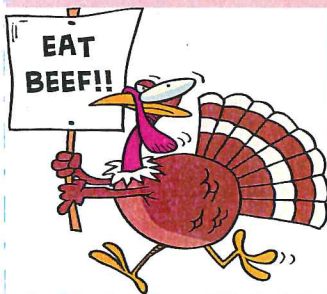
- 2 WSCFF Health & Safety Committee Meeting, WSCFF Office
- 7 Vote!
- 8-10 No Secrets: Labor Management Symposium, Hotel RL, Olympia
www.washingtonfirechiefs.com
- 18 Kitsap County Fire Fighter's Gala. Please join Local in their first annual Gala to benefit the Kitsap Fire Fighter's Benevolent Fund. 6:00 p.m. Saturday, Clearwater Resort. Suggested Attire: Class A's & Semi-Formal Wear
- 23, 24 Thanksgiving Holiday, WSCFF office closed
- 29 Wildland Fire & Mobilization Committee Meeting, WSCFF office

December

- 7 WSCFF Board Meeting
- 8 WSCFF Holiday Party, 5:00 p.m. Mercato Ristorante, Olympia



"Honestly Madam, do you expect this court to believe that *all* of your husbands mysteriously disappeared at this same time in November?"



Visit the events page at www.wscff.org for these events and more.
Have an event coming up?
Email laura@wscff.org or (360) 943-3030.

If you don't have your professional Firefighter 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.



Gobble till ya



Washington State
Council of Fire Fighters

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UNION MADE



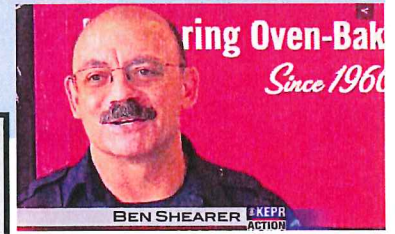
WSCFF STAFF
OPEIU23/AFL-CIO



Pasco Fire Department Delivers Pizzas

People hungry for Domino's Pizza got a special delivery during Fire Prevention Week. Local 1433's members delivered pizza and checked fire alarms. Many homeowners were not aware they had malfunctioning units.

Ben Shearer, Local 1433 Pasco, appeared on the Tri-Cities evening news to promote safety for Fire Prevention Week.



Fundraising with Fabulous Food

Members of Local 469, Yakima Fire, host the 23rd annual Spaghetti Feed to raise money for the WSCFF Burn Foundation.



Warning: Private companies going door-to-door claiming they work for King County fire departments!

Local 3520, East Pierce Fire, Local 3062 Maple Valley Fire, and Local F-282 Puget Sound Fire have notified their communities that there are private companies traveling door-to-door offering home safety inspections and claiming that they work with or for the local fire department.

Thank you to the King County fire departments for the swift dissemination of information.

In addition, they let citizens know that if someone from the fire department comes to the door in a non-emergency situation, they will be in uniform with a badge and name tag. Fire department personnel will also have department issued identification, and their communities safety and trust are the department's highest priorities.



Calling all Fire Fighters!

For only \$10, you can show your support for MDA by purchasing a raffle ticket to win a new Harley-Davidson Sportster Forty-Eight!

You can also show your support by selling tickets to your network of family and friends!

To purchase tickets, please contact Hayley Walters at Hwalters@mdausa.org.





Spokane Firefighters Credit Union, created by firefighters for firefighters, is excited to announce that our membership is now open to all firefighters. Our goal, as the only firefighter credit union in the state of Washington, is to better the lives of firefighters and their families by providing exceptional financial services that include offering higher savings rates and lower loan rates for the benefit of our members.

Founded in 1934, Spokane Firefighters Credit Union has been faithfully serving Spokane and Spokane Valley Fire Department and their immediate families for over 80 years. We welcome the opportunity to serve all the firefighters and invite you to visit our website firecu.net or stop by our office at 2002 N. Atlantic, Spokane, Wa.



Spokane Firefighters Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that is owned, operated and managed by members of the Spokane Firefighters community.



2018

WSCFF Legislative Conference – Hotel RL, Olympia

- Board Meeting: January 8, 10
- Conference & Reception: January 9

IAFF/WSCFF Educational Seminar – The Davenport Hotel, Spokane

- Board Meeting: April 16 & 20
- Seminar: April 17-19

WSCFF Annual Convention – Tri-Cities Convention Center, Kennewick

- Board Meeting: June 24, 25 & 29
- Convention: June 26-28



Trusted Financial Advisory Services to Labor Organizations.

Let Us Share the Load

Scott Wealth Management Group has over 30 years experience working with local labor organizations and their members. We specialize in advising leadership and executive boards through a sound fiduciary process to manage and invest operating funds.

In 2014, Scott Wealth Management Group created an investment program for IAFF locals. As of September 2017, we work for 22 locals and advise on approximately \$3.5 million in assets. We offer the following services:

- Investment portfolio management
- Implementing fiduciary best practices
- Cash flow planning
- Monthly executive board performance reporting
- Meetings and education

Labor Organization Consulting

Our investment philosophy is to help your local minimize risk, perform effective due diligence, monitor performance and meet with you regularly. Personal. Focused. And delivering a range of services designed to help you optimize investing success for your local.

**Proudly serving
Labor Organizations
and their members
for over 30 years**

Casey J. Scott, AIF®

*Managing Director – Investment Officer
Senior Institutional Consultant*

Jennifer R. Scott, MBA, CIMA®, AIF®

*Senior Vice President – Investment Officer
Senior Institutional Consultant*

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SCOTT
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CAR #1017-02527




The Washington State Council of Fire Fighters
Invites You to Join Us
for a

Celebration of the Season

December 7, 2017
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Mercato Ristorante

111 Market Street NE
Olympia, WA 98501

Open Bar ~ Hors d'oeuvres