

# the Council Connection

Official Publication of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

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## 2017 Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Service

The IAFF honored 190 members whose names were added to the Wall of Honor during the 31st annual Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial observance in Colorado Springs, Colorado, September 16.

Thousands of family members, friends and fellow fire fighters – as well as 1,000 honor guard and pipe and drum corps – attended the ceremony at Memorial Park in the shadow of Pikes Peak.

The names of the fallen etched on the Wall of Honor include those who have died on the fire ground, as well as scores who succumbed later to cancer, heart disease and other occupational illnesses linked to fire fighting, including the names of 14 fire fighters who died of toxic exposure from their work at Ground Zero after 9/11.

IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger vowed that the IAFF will continue to do all that is possible to reduce the dangers of the profession, limiting exposure to carcinogens, fighting for presumptive protections, improving training and striving to reduce the stigma associated with behavioral health issues, which too often have led to tragedy.

While 190 names were added to the IAFF Wall of Honor in Memorial Park, six families were unable to attend because of the devastating back-to-back hurricanes in Texas and Florida that made travel impossible. Those six fire fighters and their families will be honored next year.



*Bellingham Fire Fighters Pipes & Drums*



*Members of Local 27, Seattle Fire Department, make inscribed keepsakes during the observance.*



*The statue of a fire fighter saving an infant is surrounded by various IAFF Honor Guard members.*

October 2017

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Washington State  
Council of Fire Fighters



Remove October 3, 2017  
"NOTICE"  
POST ON UNION BULLETIN BOARD  
Sgt. Bob  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
LOCAL 27

# Local 27 Financial Wellness Seminar

Monday  
October 2, 2017

0900-1300  
(B-Shift following D-Shift)

@ Local 27 Union Hall

THIS SEMINAR IS DESIGNED FOR ALL MEMBERS, FROM THOSE ABOUT TO RETIRE AND THOSE JUST HIRED.  
IT WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO SUCCESSFULLY MANAGE AND PLAN YOUR FINANCES.  
THIS SEMINAR WILL HELP YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AND ENSURE A SECURE FINANCIAL FUTURE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.



### Topics Covered:

- Del Comp - Nationwide
- LEOFF 2 - Steve Nelsen
- Retirement Process - SFD HR
- Financial Planning - PSR Galloway

Breakfast  
&  
Beverages provided.

Please be sure to RSVP to Local 27 at 206.285.1271 or at [info@iaff27.org](mailto:info@iaff27.org).  
Space is limited.

Make the Rest of Your Life  
the Best of Your Life



## Retirement Planning Webinars

Members who are close to retirement might have questions about the online application process. DRS is now having webinar previews to show you the steps to take to formally request an estimate and apply for retirement online.

For more information:

[www.drs.wa.gov/education/webinar.html](http://www.drs.wa.gov/education/webinar.html)

WSCFF 7th District Representative Craig Soucy and the LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board have created a checklist that is an excellent resource, whether you are 5 years or 30 days from retirement.

For more information, visit [wscff.org](http://wscff.org)

RETIREMENT  
PLANS  
AHEAD

the Council  
Connection



## NO SECRETS Labor-Management Symposium

The Washington Fire Chiefs and the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters proudly announce the 2017 No Secrets Labor-Management Symposium. Join us at the Hotel RL Olympia for this jointly-sponsored seminar and explore ways to strengthen the relationship between management and labor in your department.

Come and learn about facing the issues we all face—together. For those who need or have yet to establish a solid working relationship, this is a place to take that first step.

### Registration Information:

Deadline: Monday, October 23, 2017

Fee: \$225 per participant

[www.washingtonfirechiefs.com](http://www.washingtonfirechiefs.com)



### Hotel Information:

Make reservations by October 27, 2017

Room Rate: \$89

Call Reservations: 1-800-RED-LION (800-733-5466)

Please ask to be in the "No Secrets" block.

Go to [www.redlion.com](http://www.redlion.com) and Use Code: WASH1108

### Questions?

Helen Kramer

[helen@wscff.org](mailto:helen@wscff.org)

800-572-5762



## MDA Update



Every boot drive helps families with muscular dystrophy in your community by:

### Funding Research for New Treatments

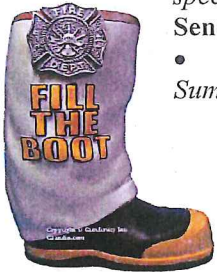
- *Fire fighters have played a major role in funding research for muscular dystrophy and in the last year, three promising new drugs received FDA approval.*

### Supporting MDA Care Centers

- *These centers are held at top hospitals and health care facilities, giving families access to best-in-class doctors and specialists without having to travel long distances.*

### Sending Kids to MDA summer camp

- *Each year, the money you raise through Fill the Boot helps give more than 3,800 kids a life-changing week at MDA Summer Camp, at no charge to their families.*



**TOTAL MONEY RAISED SO FAR IN 2017:  
\$400,000 and counting**



## Firefighter Cancer Registry Act Moves Forward in Congress

~Approved by House~



*A first step toward addressing the detrimental health effects of smoke inhalation and exposure to other harmful materials*

Legislation aimed to give the Centers for Disease Control the power, and \$2.5 million, to track cancer among fire fighters has the ultimate goal of making efforts to prevent, diagnose and treat such diseases.

On Tuesday, September 12, the House approved by voice vote H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act. The bipartisan legislation, introduced by Congressman Chris Collins (NY-27) and Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9), creates a specialized national registry to provide researchers and epidemiologists with the tools and resources they need to improve research collection activities related to the monitoring of cancer incidence among fire fighters.

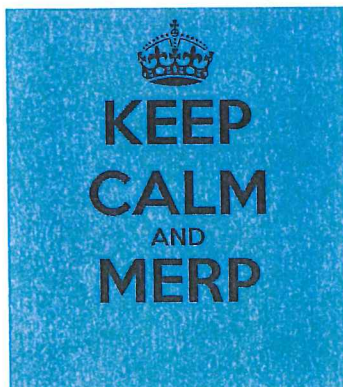
"This is an important piece of legislation that truly can save lives. Fire fighters put their lives on the line for their communities every day," said Congressman Collins "We must support these brave men and women by giving the CDC the tools its needs to fully understand the health impacts of this

dangerous job ... a greater understanding of the causes of cancer will increase the standards and improve the methods to prevent, diagnose and treat first responders," he said. The Congressmen said their actions came as the result of a study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health that found that in the U.S. fire fighters had a greater number of cancer diagnoses and cancer-related deaths.

Unfortunately, studies examining cancer risks among fire fighters have been limited by the availability of important data and relatively small sample sizes. As a result, public health researchers have been unable to fully examine and understand the broader epidemiological cancer trends among fire fighters. A specialized national cancer registry would expand access to vital epidemiological data and improve research outcomes.

The bill will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

*From Firefighter Nation 9/15/17*



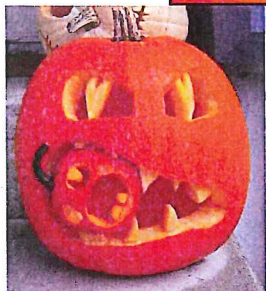
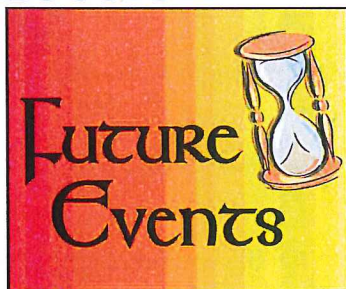
## MERP Members

The WSCFF Employee Benefit Trust Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (MERP) announce the opening of Trustee Position #3.

Per the Trusts' bylaws, the board will appoint a trustee to fill this position for the remainder of the term, which ends June 2019.

Those interested in serving must submit an email indicating their intent and pertinent experience to the WSCFF office, [wscff@wscff.org](mailto:wscff@wscff.org), by October 16, 2017. An appointment will be made by October 31, 2017.





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

**NOTE DATE  
CHANGE FOR LEG  
CONFERENCE**

2019

**WSCFF Legislative Conference** – Hotel RL, Olympia

· Board Meeting: January 28 & 30

· Conference: January 29-30

**IAFF/WSCFF Educational Seminar** – The Davenport Hotel, Spokane

· Board Meeting: April 15 & 19

· Seminar: April 16-18

**WSCFF Annual Convention** – Hyatt Regency Lake Washington, Renton

· Board Meeting: June 16, 17 & 20

· Convention: June 18-20

## Calendar of Events

### October

2 **Local 27 Financial Wellness Seminar**, 9:00-1:00, (206) 285-1271 or [info@iaff27.org](mailto:info@iaff27.org). Space is limited.

10, 11, 23,24 **The Washington State Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program training locations and dates:**

October 10 (Spokane Training Center)

October 11 (Yakima, Hilton Garden Inn)

October 23 (Courtyard By Marriott)

October 24 (Olympia, Hotel RL)

GEMT is fully approved and ready for implementation in the state of Washington. On April 29, Governor Inslee signed HB 2007 (GEMT). The State Chiefs and State Council worked collaboratively to get this bill passed. It is not often that a bill will make it to the Governor for signature in one session – a huge success for the fire service in the State of Washington!

30 **WSCFF Executive Board Meeting**

### November

8-10 **No Secrets: Labor Management Symposium**, Hotel RL, Olympia, [www.washingtonfirechiefs.com](http://www.washingtonfirechiefs.com)

**Kitsap County Fire Fighter's Gala**. Please join them in their first annual Gala to benefit the Kitsap Fire Fighter's Benevolent Fund.

23,24 **Thanksgiving Holiday**, WSCFF office closed

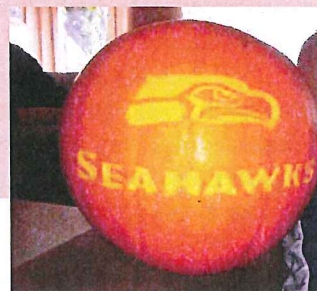


Visit the events page at [www.wscff.org](http://www.wscff.org) for these events and more.

Have an event coming up?

Email [laura@wscff.org](mailto: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](http://www.wscff.org).



**Washington State  
Council of Fire Fighters**

Send letters & submissions to:  
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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)  
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UNION MADE



**WSCFF STAFF  
OPEIU23/AFL-CIO**