



DISTRICT 751 AERO MECHANIC

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Town Halls focus on building a stronger union



District 751 President Jon Holden led Town Hall meetings throughout Puget Sound giving reports on things we have done to make our union stronger and leading open discussion about the state of our union.

Members attended Town Hall meetings at the Renton, Auburn and Everett halls in August. These meetings were scheduled at times for all three shifts making it as easy as possible for members to provide input and ideas on how to make our union stronger and listen to updates on the state of our union.

District 751 President Jon Holden led the candid discussions and highlighted many changes that have been implemented since the divisive contract extension was forced on us January 3, 2014. While there is still a lot of anger over that and how it occurred, members were encouraged about the steps we have taken to ensure the conditions that occurred never happen again.

President Holden discussed new tactics to be used by members to exert union power in the future. Soon the union will be scheduling classes teaching these tactics – all with the goal of making us stronger.



Members at the Auburn mid-day Town Hall brainstormed tactics going forward to make our union stronger and left feeling more excited about our future.

Town Hall meetings have been held at least twice a year since 2014 to provide a venue for members to air their concerns, vent their frustration, brainstorm new ideas, interact with union leaders, and highlight contractual issues. Each town hall has had a presentation on an important topic before opening it up for candid discussion.

Discussion at the August town hall meetings focused on what we as a union believe in, things we have done to effect change, new tactics to combat the company from harming our members in the future, and what our future holds.

“These Town Halls provide a great
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Business Rep Dena Bartman (far right) praised the solidarity of the 767 crew that brought about change in their management. L to R: Marcus Border, Nathan Richards, Centeno Irwin, Union Steward Charles McGrew, Joseph Ryba, Torey Martin, Donie Kathleen, Kyle Dreessen, Business Rep Dena Bartman.

Solidarity brings success

Strength in numbers brought change in the 767 program to correct an issue with a supervisor.

The supervisor had been singling out members simply to harass them. When Union Steward Charles McGrew learned of the situation, he organized the shop to fight back and eliminate this hostile work environment using our best weapon – solidarity. Sticking together, the crew succeeded in getting the manager transferred.

The harassment had been ongoing, but when the manager targeted 751-member Donie Kathleen to keep him from transferring to Renton, which was closer to his home, the crew united into action.

“Since it was not a contractual issue, we had to use other strategies. I told them to pull together with the individual stories of what this manager had done to each of them. When you put those stories together, it is a powerful story,” said McGrew. “Some of the members had grievances involving this manager, but had let him off the hook believing someone else would fight the battle.”

McGrew had documentation on some of the instances. The majority of the crew went individually to Boeing Human Resources and gave statements providing specific examples of how the manager had singled them out with harassment and intimidation.

Credit goes to the HR rep, who took each person’s

statement, then turned it over to EEO. After the investigation concluded, the manager was moved out of the area.

“My frustration grew as I watched others getting transferred,” said Donie Kathleen, who had tried for years to move to Renton. “One co-worker and I got all our lights turned green to transfer. The manager then tried to CAM us both for attendance and was basically messing with us over petty things.”

751-member Kyle Dreessen noted, “I was asked to fill in as team leader for a day. My steward advised me to follow up with HR to ensure I was properly compensated. My manager asked why I deserved to get paid team lead pay? I replied I had done the job and it is spelled out in the contract. Why did he think I shouldn’t get team lead pay? He was trying to intimidate me to not put in for the proper pay.”

As soon as the manager was reassigned, the work environment instantly changed for the better so members could focus on their jobs. Donie is finally moving to Renton starting in September. The new manager came from hourly and had done this work before, respects the crew, and productivity has improved.

It was solidarity in action and shows how standing together, you can get results.

Classes teach power to union members

Knowledge is power and our newer members have an avenue to harness that power by attending “new member introduction meetings” that will be held monthly.

The idea is to help new members learn what it means to be union. The 90-minute meetings are held beginning the week of the fourth Tuesday of every month. Next meetings are as follows:

- Sept. 27 - Auburn Hall 11 a.m. & 4 p.m.
- Sept. 28 - Seattle Hall, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
- Sept. 29 - Everett Hall, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

“This is another way to provide members with access to union

leaders and to educate members on the importance of solidarity, the power they have when they are united, and their rights and responsibilities,” said District 751 President Jon Holden.

The workshops help members learn more about our history, our union structure, their rights, contractual provisions and other useful information.

While they are targeted to newer members, any member is welcome to attend. Those attending also receive a free union t-shirt.

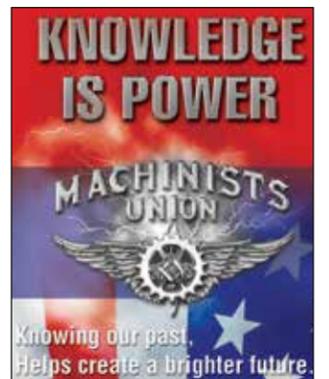
Union Classes Resume in September

In addition, District 751’s series of union education classes resume in September. Knowledge is power and that power grows as more members take advantage of the classes so sign up today.

The first round of classes will be offered Sept. 27 in Seattle, Sept. 29 in Auburn and Oct. 4 in Everett. Additional classes will be offered October through December.

The classes are taught by professionals from the Washington Labor Education and Research Center at South Seattle College. They cover a wide range of topics regarding the labor movement in general and our union in particular.

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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Making changes for a stronger future for all of us

By JON HOLDEN
District President

I want to thank everyone who came out to our Town Hall meetings last month.

In Auburn, Everett and Renton, we had open, honest conversations about where we are as a union, where we've been and where we're going.

We started the meetings with a recap of what we have accomplished since January 3rd, 2014, the dark day of the divisive contract vote. We still have a very long way to go, but we have made significant progress.

The Town Hall meetings themselves were one accomplishment. We instituted them shortly after I took office as District President in March 2014.

I plan to continue the Town Hall meetings, because I believe it's important for us to get together for meetings close to where you work, and to have open conversations about our union, and so you can learn more about what's going on.

Education has been another thing we've accomplished in the past two years. Our union staff, working with educators from the Washington Labor Education and Research Center at South Seattle College, have created a series of eight union education classes.

We've had union education classes in the past, but they were only for stewards. These new classes are mandatory for stewards, but we've opened them up to all members, and they've drawn a steady stream of students.

These union education classes are



goal for all of us. Our goal was to use them to return power to our members on the shop floor by teaching the power of solidarity. A better-educated membership is a stronger, more unified membership, and we'll need that strength and unity as we face the challenges ahead.

One of the big problems with the January 3rd contract vote was simply logistical. We had mailed out eligibility cards to everyone qualified to vote in that election, but for various reasons, most people did not bring them to the polls that day.

Those of you who voted in Everett that day remember what it was like, with a line of hundreds of people – at some points, as many as 1,000 – waiting to get good standing cards. Many people – late for work – simply walked away.

That won't happen again. With our elections in the future, we'll use a new system to scan either your company-issued identification badge or your driver's license to check for eligibility. The new process will take seconds. That will eliminate the long lines, making voting an easier process for more people.

This month, District 751 delegates will be out seeking votes for another one of the important accomplishments of the past two years – our proposed amendment to the IAM Constitution to create a Membership Bill of Rights.

The Membership Bill of Rights would return more power to local lodge and district lodge officers and members to negotiate their own contracts and set the times and dates for votes. If a company wants to enter into talks mid-contract, members would be notified and get to decide on whether or not to proceed.

We will ask our union's Grand Lodge – the representatives of local lodges from across North America – to adopt these proposals at the Grand Lodge Convention in September. We know it won't be easy – there will be more than a thousand delegates we'll have to talk to and convince, and we may need to make compromises so that the process works for everyone.

I'm hopeful we'll be able to enact meaningful change to return more power to where it belongs – with the members themselves in their local and district lodges.

We've also been fighting hard the past two years in Olympia, working with SPEEA on aerospace tax incentive accountability legislation.

You've no doubt heard me talk about this before, but I'll say it again: it makes absolutely no sense for our state to hand Boeing \$8.7 billion worth of tax breaks without getting some kind of minimum jobs guarantee in return. States like Missouri, Oklahoma and South Carolina got job guarantees from Boeing in exchange for tax breaks, and their employment numbers are growing; Washington did not, and Boeing employment here is down by 7,609 jobs since November 2013, when the tax breaks became law.

And it's not just Boeing. More than 7,000 Washington state residents work for aerospace suppliers in jobs that pay them starvation wages of less than \$15 an hour. They're hard workers, skilled workers, just like you and me. The difference is that they don't earn enough to put food on their table for their families, so they've got to rely on charity and taxpayer-funded public assistance to stay alive.

We need to raise the standard of liv-

Lopez appointed BR; Coty to lead Joint Programs

In August the retirement of IAM-Boeing Joint Programs Executive Director Ron Bradley (see story below) triggered movement in the union staff, with John Lopez Jr. being appointed to serve as Business Representative.

Effective Aug. 22, Brett Coty was appointed to serve as IAM-Boeing Joint Programs Executive Director. Brett has served the past eight years as a Business Representative – first at the Everett plant and the last four years covering buildings in Auburn, Spares Distribution Center, as well as members at AIM Aerospace-Sumner and Training Connections.

Brett has a long history with Joint Programs, serving as a Business Rep focal for the Site Safety Committee and many years on the Auburn Site Safety committee before that. He also served on the QTP Advisory Committee in the mid-2000's, as well as co-developed and co-taught an Enovia class with Joint Programs Career Advisor Rachel Jorren.

To fill the open Business Representative position in Auburn, District 751 President Jon Holden



Business Rep John Lopez Jr. reviews contract language with Stewards Jeffrey Wright (l) and Jonathon Tran (r).

appointed John Lopez. As a 39-year active member, Lopez has served as a long-time leader in Local C, serving on the District Council for many years and as Local C President for the past two years, as well as having served a four-year term as Local C President previously.

John has always been a strong advocate for the members, serving as steward for

more than two decades and working his way up through his local lodge serving as auditor, financial secretary and vice president. He has also been an active member of the HSI Site Safety Committee in Auburn, as well as part of the District Safety Committee.

As a Grade 9 General Machinist, John brings a wealth of knowledge of the jobs and work performed in Auburn and the issues facing members in those shops.

As a long time steward, he understands that a strong steward network is key to effectively serving the membership.

"I am excited to meet the members and stewards in my assigned area and consider it a privilege and honor to serve our members," said Lopez. "Since the destructive contract extension, management has felt empowered and stepped up their attacks on our members. I plan to work closely with stewards to challenge every violation so members know our union is still fighting daily on their behalf."

Ron Bradley retires after 37 years

Ron Bradley has spent decades serving the membership of District 751 before he retired in August.

For the past 17 months, Ron has served as Executive Director of the IAM-Boeing Joint Programs – working to deliver education and safety programs to the members of our union. Prior to that, Ron spent nearly a decade as a Business Rep with assignments in Seattle, Everett, and other contracts like Solid Ground and BAE Systems - working daily to serve the members.

Ron joined the Machinists Union 37

years ago and has devoted countless hours to our union long before he worked full time for our union – serving as a Union Steward, Local Lodge President and District Council delegate for many years, as well as holding a variety of other leadership positions.

In retirement, he is excited to spend more time with his grandchildren, hopes to do more fly fishing and finally have the time to tackle the projects he put off while working for the union and serving the membership.

We wish him well and thank him for his years of service to our Union.



Ron Bradley hopes to spend more time with grandkids Lorelei and Sasha in his retirement.

ing for those hard-working aerospace employees, either with legislation in Olympia – or by supporting things like Initiative 1433, which would raise our state's minimum wage.

We've also had success helping workers join our union. Workers at Hytek Finishes, AIM Aerospace-Sumner, Jorgensen Forge and just last winter, Cadence Aerospace-Giddens, have joined District 751, and negotiated union contracts that improved pay, benefits and working conditions. We will continue to do this vitally important work.

One of the frequent topics to emerge from our earliest Town Hall meetings

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District Lodge 751, International Assn. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

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POLITICAL ACTION

Lame ducks: Congress could try to push through TPP

It's known as the lame-duck session, the time between the November elections and January's Inauguration, when members of Congress feel the least accountable to their constituents.

This time around, the two-month period is shaping up to be an all-out brawl over the corporate coup known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP. Supporters of the job-killing deal are mobilizing now to hold a lame-duck vote on TPP.

They might have the money, but we have the people power. Tell your members of Congress to stand strong against TPP, which will pit American workers against workers in countries like Vietnam, who make less than 65 cents an hour.

Since Congress narrowly passed "Fast Track" authority for the 12-nation deal last summer, the full text of the deal has been released—and it's worse than we thought.

The International Trade Commission, which usually overestimates the benefits of such deals, put out a report projecting worsening trade balances in 16 of 25 U.S. economic sectors, including manufacturing, automotive and chemicals. The overall U.S. trade deficit would balloon by an estimated \$21.7 billion by 2032, the report says.

To make matters worse, a key provision of TPP would grant new rights to thousands of foreign corporations to sue the U.S. government before a panel of three corporate lawyers, putting American taxpayers on the hook for unlimited sums of expected future profits.

The bottom line: TPP will mean more jobs being sent overseas and lower wages at home.

Now is the time to buckle down: Go online at www.congressweb.com/goiam/115 to tell your U.S. Representatives and Senators to vote "No" on any lame-duck TPP vote.

Union backs Dunshee in Snohomish race

Progressive ex-legislator now on County Council

Hans Dunshee, a long-time supporter of working people, needs the support of Machinists Union members in his fight to maintain his seat on the Snohomish County Council.

"There was never any question from anyone on our Legislative Committee about making Hans Dunshee our endorsed candidate in this election," said IAM 751 Legislative Director Larry Brown. "He is one politician who has always been in our corner, whether he was serving in the Legislature or on the County Council."

The 62-year-old Dunshee, who lives in Snohomish, served 21 years in the Legislature, representing the 39th and 44th legislative districts in eastern Snohomish County. He stepped down from his post as House Appropriations Committee chairman earlier this year to accept an appointment to the Snohomish County Council.

Dunshee was appointed to fill the District 5 council seat vacated by Dave Somers, who was elected as Snohomish County executive last fall. Dunshee is running this fall for the right to serve out the rest of Somers' term, and if elected, would run again for a new four-year term in 2017.

His opponent is Republican Sam Low, who is backed by the state's GOP establishment, including Dino Rossi, who is helping Low raise money.

The winner will represent residents of Bothell, Lake Stevens, Monroe, Snohomish, the towns of the Sky Valley, and the unincorporated parts of Snohomish County east of Everett.

A big man with a bigger personality, Dunshee was easy to spot in the halls of power in Olympia — he was typically the one wearing Hawaiian shirts and shorts. His hobbies include wilderness kayaking and playing bagpipes, and when he's not riding his mountain bike, he drives a 10-year-old economy sedan.

Before getting involved in politics, Dunshee owned a company that



Hans Dunshee (center) had a lifetime 92-percent labor voting record in 21 years as a state legislator, and has long enjoyed support from a number of unions, including District 751. He's running this fall to retain his Snohomish County Council seat.

designed and built septic tank systems.

"I don't like to classify myself, but I suspect most people would think I was sort of more working-class and less upper class," he told *The News Tribune* in Tacoma last year.

For Dunshee "highfalutin, academically valid, peer-reviewed policies are theoretical and a bit uninteresting, compared to making sure that they make a difference for real people, living real lives," state Sen. Ruven Carlyle added.

Whenever Machinists took a day off from work to travel to Olympia, they always found Dunshee's door wide open, Brown said. Dunshee had a 100-percent labor voting record during the 2016 session in Olympia, and he has a 92-percent lifetime labor voting record, according to the Washington State Labor Council.

"He's been a long-time advocate for working people in Olympia, and he would be a particularly valuable ally on the Snohomish County Council," Brown said. "Hans is someone who believes that aerospace workers are just as important as aerospace companies, and he'll work to ensure Snohomish County prioritizes our people, not just our employers."

Since joining the County Council,

Dunshee has put his budgeting skills from Olympia to work on the county level, helping Executive Somers draft a proposal to renovate the County Courthouse — a move that would save at least half of the \$162 million that had previously been budgeted for constructing a new building.

Dunshee also drafted a resolution proclaiming the county's support for using tax incentives to attract businesses, but before introducing it, he called our union to ask for input.

"We had one suggestion," Brown said. "Make sure we're using incentives to grow jobs."

As a County Council member, Dunshee also serves as a representative on a number of regional and countywide boards, including the Snohomish County Health District, where he voted in favor of a plan to help fight opioid drug abuse by establishing a program to require pharmaceutical companies to provide options for consumers to drop off unused prescription drugs.

"Hans Dunshee has a lot of good, commonsense ideas, a long track record of achievement and he listens to working people," Brown said. "We need to make sure he gets to stay on the Snohomish County Council."

Right-wingers try to scare young voters away from I-1433

By DAVID GROVES

Washington State Labor Council

A recent edition of *The Seattle Times* featured an opinion column, "Raising minimum wage would drive out youngest workers," written by Preston Cooper of the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank based in New York. Ironically, it makes a pretty strong case for passage of Initiative 1433, which would raise the state minimum wage to \$13.50 by 2020 and allow all workers in Washington state to earn paid sick days:

"If it passes, and it likely will, many workers would get a raise... Proponents of minimum-wage increases argue that their effect on job availability is limited... there is some evidence to support this... Washingtonians understandably want to see higher wages for their fellow workers."

Selective excerpting aside, Cooper claims that young workers will get priced out of the job market by I-1433 and suggests that the state Department of Labor and Industries should exempt

young workers from the benefits of the higher minimum wage.

"Federal law permits workers under the age of 20 to earn no less than \$4.25 an hour for their first 90 consecutive calendar days of employment," writes Cooper. "But since more restrictive state laws supersede federal laws, young Washingtonians cannot take advantage of this exemption."

Before Washington state officials rush to help young people take advantage of jobs paying no less than \$4.25 an hour, perhaps we should consider whether

the dire predictions by Cooper and the Manhattan Institute are likely to come true. After all, sky-is-falling claims of job loss get tossed around any time anybody suggests doing anything to help working people.

And sure enough, this one defies our shared experience.

If higher minimum wages price younger workers out of the job market, then states with higher minimum wages would have higher youth unemployment, right?

The five states with the highest youth unemployment rates in 2015 were West Virginia (17.4 percent; \$8 minimum wage), South Carolina (16.2 percent; \$7.25), Georgia (14.6 percent; \$5.15), Mississippi (14.5 percent; \$7.25), and North Carolina (14.3 percent; 7.25).

In 2015, Washington still had the highest state minimum wage in the nation at \$9.47, though we no longer hold that distinction. The state's youth unemployment rate that year was 11.7 percent, ranking us 23rd in the nation.

Cooper would likely argue that other economic factors explain the clear lack of correlation between higher minimum wages and youth unemployment. Exactly! Whatever those factors are — and they seem to be abundant in the low-wage anti-union South — they must have a far greater impact on youth unemployment than the minimum wage.

Perhaps we should also consider the source here.

The Manhattan Institute that employs Cooper is part of the State Policy Network that, like the Olympia-based Freedom Foundation, pushes the right-wing conservative agenda of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). The Center for Media and Democracy explains how its funding is traced back to the billionaire Koch brothers.

In fact, young Mr. Cooper got hired at the Manhattan Institute last year on the strength of his stint as their "Koch Summer Fellow." It's not clear whether he got to take advantage of earning \$4.25 an hour.



Union enters talks with potential new Jorgensen owners

Union officers are ready to start negotiations with the potential new owners of Jorgensen Forge Corp.

The two sides have held their first meeting, which marked a very positive step in the Jorgensen Forge bankruptcy process, said Business Rep Joe Crockett.

"They made it clear that their intention is to negotiate a brand-new full-up agreement," he said. "If we can reach an agreement, their intent is to offer everybody a job."

Our union represents 63 hourly workers at Jorgensen Forge, whose futures have been unsettled since May, when Jorgensen's parent company, Constellation Enterprises, filed for bankruptcy.

The company was put up for auction on Aug. 9. Only one bidder emerged, a group calling itself CE Star Holdings, which is made up of companies that the former owners owed money to.

Under bankruptcy law, the new owners are not obligated to recognize the former owners union contract – unless they intend on hiring more than half of the



Business Rep Joe Crockett briefs Machinists Union members who work at Jorgensen Forge on the latest developments at their company, which could emerge from bankruptcy with new owners by the end of this month.

current workforce.

In August, lawyers for the new owners met with Crockett and other union officers to state that they want to do just that. They presented the union side with

a preliminary contract proposal.

Crockett presented the buyers with a written counter offer, and has asked them for dates they're available to meet for bargaining. The two sides aim to have a

deal ready for union members to vote on before the end of September.

"My goal is to bring something to our members that's as good as what they've got now, if not better," Crockett said.

District 751 Chief of Staff Richard Jackson, Business Rep Dan Swank and Union Steward Keith Felt will join Crockett on the union negotiating team. Crockett took nominations for members who would serve on a negotiations advisory committee during the talks.

"We will do our best to keep our members at Jorgensen informed as this process plays out," said IAM 751 President Jon Holden.

"I strongly believe the Machinists of Jorgensen Forge are the company's most valuable asset, and they deserve a collective bargaining agreement that reflects that fact," he said. "Without them, and their skills and dedication, all the new owners would have is an empty factory with some big equipment. It is the people -- our union's members -- who make it a profitable business."

Apprenticeships can change lives, AJAC graduates say

Apprenticeships have the power to change lives. That's the message graduates of the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee gave in June, as they collected their certificates.

"If you had told me in high school that this is where I was going to be, I would have laughed at you," said Ryan Booth, the class speaker. "What's a machinist?"

AJAC graduated its largest class ever on June 24: 40 men and women from 28 companies statewide, who had either completed a four-year course to become journeymen machinists or a two-year course to earn a precision metal fabrication certificate.

The apprenticeships trained entry-level workers to be masters of their craft, and "the next leaders, the next mentors and hopefully the next instructors in the aerospace and precision manufacturing industries," said AJAC Executive Director Lynn Strickland.

Their certificates will allow them to work in good-paying manufacturing jobs anywhere in the world, and they graduate without the heavy student-loan debt that many college graduates struggle with, said Jesse Cote, an IAM 751 staff member who is chairman of AJAC's governing board.

AJAC, which was started in 2009, now has 325 apprentices learning to be master craftsmen in aerospace and related manufacturing fields, Strickland said. She said the program's goal is to "keep Washington state's workforce one of the best in the world."

During the ceremony, Abram Potts was honored as the year's top apprentice.

He said he had spent "half my life running the streets." In-and-out of prison, he found himself in a halfway house where he realized that "I had to have a job."



District 751 Organizer Jesse Cote was among those congratulating this year's class of AJAC graduates.

An AJAC recruiter found him and got him enrolled in the program's Manufacturing Academy, a state-certified pre-apprenticeship program that creates a pool of applicants for employers to choose from. From there, he landed an apprenticeship.

"I never knew what CNC was – never heard about it," Potts said. But now he's training to be a CNC operator. "AJAC came and found me, and gave me everything."

Like Potts, Booth said he never considered working in manufacturing. "I grew up thinking 'I'm going to go into computers.' I was a computer science major in college."

But then he got married, and had a family to support. "I had to find the first job I could."

After years of poorly paying jobs, he took a chance on an AJAC apprenticeship, which taught him skills that are "giving me an opportunity to be something, in a career that has the opportunity to be something more."

AJAC is strongly supported by District 751. Cote is one of two union representatives.

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Machinists at BAE Systems ratify contract

District 751 members who test and install flight decks for a Boeing Co. contractor have unanimously ratified a three-year contract.

Under their contract with BAE Systems, the workers will maintain cost of living increases and pension benefits for the next three years, while also collecting \$1,000 lump sum payments in each year of the contract. The workers also agreed to an 85/15 percent cost share on health care benefits.

The Machinists at BAE are a small group of electronics specialists who install and test

flight decks on Boeing 737s, 747s, 767s and 777s. The business was part of Boeing before it was sold to BAE Systems in 2004.

"Our members at BAE were pretty happy with their pay and benefits under the last contract," said IAM 751 Chief of Staff Richard Jackson. "The company, on the other hand, was looking to cut costs wherever they could. So after additional input from members we ended up with a compromise that preserved the most important aspects of the collective bargaining agreement during this round of negotiations."

Labor Council celebrates wins at Triumph, Cadence



District President Jon Holden reports to the Martin Luther King County Labor Council on our union's recent successes at Triumph Composites in Spokane and Cadence Aerospace-Giddens in Everett. Holden is flanked by IAM 751 Business Rep Greg Campos, Cadence union stewards Mike Powell and Gary Naple, Chief of Staff Richard Jackson and MLK County Labor Council Executive Secretary Nicole Grant.

District 751 was among the unions recognized at a recent celebration of labor victories organized by the Martin Luther King County Labor Council.

Our union was recognized on Aug. 17 for two recent wins: the 43-day lockout at Triumph Composites in Spokane, which led to a better contract, and last year's vote by workers at Cadence Aerospace-Giddens to join District 751, which resulted in a first contract for them that raised pay, improved paid time off and restored a 401(k) match.

In both cases, union members stood in solidarity to win improvements from their employer, said IAM 751 President Jon Holden, who spoke on behalf of our union at the celebration.

"At Triumph, it would have been really easy for them to have fallen apart after the destructive contract of 2013," he said. "Instead, they worked together to rebuild their solidarity, and it was rewarded."

The new contract at Triumph reduced the gap in the company's two-tier wage system, improved retirement security for workers who don't have pensions, maintained caps on health care cost increases and allowed workers to develop alternatives to corporate

outsourcing efforts.

At Cadence-Giddens, as well, workers stood strong in February to reject the company's first contract offer by a 94-percent "no" vote. That led to further talks with the company and a better offer that was approved with a 72-percent "yes" vote in March.

"Our members at Cadence stood together and won themselves a contract they could be proud of," Holden said. "That strong show of solidarity was a good starting point, and something we can build on for the future."

The MLK County Labor Council also recognized Teamsters Local 117, which successfully lobbied the Seattle City Council to pass a law allowing drivers for Uber and other ride-sharing apps to form a union, and United Food and Commercial Workers Local 21, which was recognized for its success in negotiating contracts earlier this year for more than 30,000 union grocery workers across Puget Sound.

The M.L. King County Labor Council is the central body for labor in King County, with more than 150 member organizations representing more than 75,000 working men and women.

IAM-BOEING JOINT PROGRAMS

SHEAR resolves safety issue with Renton crane moves

When safety issues arise inside the Boeing factory, there is a preferred process in place to deal with these concerns that is spelled out in our union contract, Article 16.5.

A recent issue in Renton highlights why the Safety, Health and Environmental Action Request (SHEAR) form is the proper method to resolve safety issues.

For over a year, crane operators in Renton had been voicing concerns to management when they were unable to make moves safely according to both Boeing procedures and the Washington state law because there were only two members assigned to the crew.

Despite repeatedly pointing out the hazards, the crane operators were basically ignored. Our members were worried they would get corrective action if an incident occurred or worse yet that someone would be injured. Our members contacted the Renton Health & Safety Institute Site Committee for help.

"After hearing the situation and how long they had tried to get action, I wrote the SHEAR to document what happened and get resolution," said David Wyatt, a Site Committee member. "As expected, the manager was upset, which is why our members hesitate to file a SHEAR even though it is the preferred process and should be used for any and all safety concerns."

The SHEAR raised awareness and triggered action. Within two weeks, a third person was assigned for multi-level moves, eliminating the crane operators' concerns.

The issue centered on moves that required a transition from one floor to another (i.e. from a first floor to a third floor). Only two members were assigned to these moves making it impossible to keep the load secured throughout the process. With one person in the overhead crane, the

load would be suspended and then left unattended as the second person literally ran from one level to another to where the part would be moved. This meant the suspended load was often blind to those passing by. Management's answer (before the SHEAR) was to put a flashing light (that no longer blinked) above the exit sign, which was above the normal line of sight so it was basically ignored.

"The fact that our member on the ground was rushing up and down stairs to get to the other move location was another hazard in and of itself," said Clay Hood, who has been one of our crane operators for 30 years. "The higher production rates mean increased moves, making safety even more important. The SHEAR got the issue resolved quickly for us."

"One of the main areas impacted by these load moves was on a main thorough fare to the restrooms," said David. "In just a few minutes while observing the situation, over 15 people walked through that area demonstrating why someone should be there when a load is suspended."

"No member should feel intimidated or hesitant to file a SHEAR. This process has been in place since

Before the SHEAR, management believed this sign above normal eye sight was enough to ensure safety of those passing by the suspended load.



LtoR: HSI Renton Site Committee members Charles Cesmat and David Wyatt talk with crane operator Clay Hood about how filing a SHEAR helped resolve a safety issue on crane moves members had complained about for over a year. With only two operators for multi-level moves, the member near the load would have to run down flights to the next level leaving the load unattended.

the early 1990's," said HSI Site Committee member Charles Cesmat. "However, if you believe there could be retaliation or negative consequences might happen, rather than simply ignoring a safety concern, contact one of your IAM/Boeing Site Safety Committee members. We are knowledgeable individuals who are here to resolve and address any safety concerns – preferably before an injury or accident occurs."

Benefits pay schooling for Thomas

September is back-to-school time for children – and potentially for District 751 members who work at Boeing.

Union-negotiated benefits offer Machinists the opportunity to earn college degrees with Boeing picking up the majority of the costs.

Renton Union Steward Susanna Thomas used benefits through two programs -- Education Assistance and the Learning Together Program -- to pay for classes she needed to earn an associate's degree in manufacturing and machining from Green River College.

Thomas graduated from Green River in June, after four years of hard work.

"It's a great feeling," she said.

Thomas started college in 2010, but dropped out after she hired on at Boeing.

After learning about the tuition benefits available to her as a union member, she decided to go back to school, starting in 2012.

Her original plan was to take classes that would help her get into the Boeing Apprenticeship program, but a chance encounter with Green River's Machinists and Manufacturing Technology Program changed her direction.

"I did the machining-manufacturing and loved it," Thomas said. "I got to run the CNC machines in the college's shop, run my own programs. It was a good challenge."

It wasn't easy juggling class time, homework and her job as a second-shift MPRF in Renton, she said.

"It was extremely hard," Thomas said. "The machining classes were the toughest because they were four-hour blocks."

On those days, she'd be at Green River from 8 a.m. to noon, then would be at work



751-Member Susanna Thomas has been using our contractual education benefits (Education Assistance and LTP) to check off her bucket list of educational goals.

from 2:30 to 11 p.m. in Renton.

The hard work was worth it, Thomas said.

"I've got a great degree that I can go out and use anywhere," she said. "I'm bettering myself and doing it debt-free."

In fact, since she was enrolled in the Learning Together Program, Thomas received 50 shares of Boeing stock when she graduated with her associate's degree – worth more than \$6,500 at the time. "That was really nice," she said.

Thomas said she still wants to get into the Boeing Apprenticeship program, but she also plans to return to Green River to complete a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science.

And while she's at it, she said she's going to use her union benefits to pursue a commercial drivers license. She already used those benefits to pay the cost of getting a motorcycle endorsement on her driver's license.

Altogether Education Assistance and the Learning Together Program are among the most-valuable benefits that Machinists at Boeing have, Thomas said. "People need to get educated," she said. "It's an amazing benefit."

EA & LTP offer endless educational opportunities

District 751 members who work at Boeing have access to two separate programs that can pay for college tuition – or other educational endeavors.

Through Education Assistance, union members can receive up to \$3,000 a year to pursue an academic degree or vocational degree, certification or licensing programs at approved schools or institutions.

Education Assistance is administered through IAM/Boeing Joint Programs, and more information is available on the Joint Programs website, www.iam-boeing.com.

The Learning Together Program (or LTP) is spelled out in Letter of Understanding 25 in the IAM-Boeing contract; however, details for District 751 members' LTP are difficult to find because they are unique (on the internal Boeing web visit http://ltd.web.boeing.com/LTD_CEA/index.cfm)

LTP for 751 members includes:

- IAM members have no annual funding limits, making their LTP benefits virtually unlimited;

- IAM members do not have to discuss their educational plans with their manager prior to starting a course of study using LTP benefits – although it is a smart idea to do so if you work a lot of mandatory overtime and need to ensure work and school do not conflict;

- IAM members can use LTP benefits at any accredited school and are not limited to designated "strategic" fields of study;

- IAM members are eligible for LTP benefits from their first day of work, unlike workers on other Boeing

payrolls who are required to have one to three years of service, depending on their degree programs;

- IAM members can receive reimbursements of eligible expenses while on Educational Leave of Absence from Boeing – a benefit that was eliminated for others in 2010;

- IAM members who complete doctorate, master's, bachelor's or associate's degrees receive restricted stock awards – another benefit that Boeing cut for all other workers in 2010; and

- After graduation, IAM members are free to accept jobs outside Boeing – other Boeing workers must remain at Boeing for a number of years or else they are required to repay their tuition.

Participants in LTP must maintain at least C-minus grades or they have to repay the tuition benefit. Members getting benefits through either LTP or Education Assistance must pay taxes on tuition benefits exceeding \$5,250 in a year.

Information on both Education Assistance and LTP is available from Joint Programs career counselors. Union members can schedule appointments with them by calling (800) 235-3453.

Union Steward Susanna Thomas – who used both Education Assistance and LTP to pay for her associate's degree – praised the career counselors. "They were always there to help me. They had everything I needed."

Joint Programs staff members invite all District 751 members to learn more about the benefits by contacting an advisor or visiting the web site.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Whidbey Machinists raise \$8,800

Machinists Union members who work at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station raised more than \$8,800 at their recent charity golf tournament.

The tournament at Avalon Golf Links attracted 48 golfers and raised \$8,854, which was a fundraising record for the fourth-annual tournament.

The team of Rich Bach, Bill Herrmann, Robb Lindell and Stan Sawhill won the four-man best ball tournament.

The money will be split between two food banks: North Whidbey Help House and Helping Hands Food Bank in Sedro-Wooley.

“Our Machinists at NAS Whidbey – and really all of our members, across our whole union – are so generous,” said



IAM 751 Whidbey Golf Tournament winners (from left) Bill Herrmann, Robb Lindell, Rich Bach and Stan Sawhill pose with their trophies.

IAM 751 Chief of Staff Richard Jackson. “We had a lot of support from some great volunteers and sponsors, and, as a result, we had a lot of fun raising money for a great cause.”

District 751 represents more than 175 civilian workers at NAS Whidbey, employed by defense contractors Delaware Resources Group, Doss Aviation and URS Corp.

Shoes for Pups: Horseshoe throwers pitch in for charity



Local E's 13th annual Shoes for Pups horseshoes tournament drew nearly 20 teams to the Red Dog Saloon in Renton. The tournament is a fundraiser for Guide Dogs of America. (Left) Local E President Ira Carterman makes a throw as Lisa Wilkinson watches. Raffle winners were: Tony Curran (big screen TV); Spencer Burris (2-day trip to Polynesian); Paul Kight (2-day trip to Polynesian); and Cameron Griffin (binoculars). Third place went to Roy and Lisa Wilkinson and “We Tried” went to Ira Carterman and Linda Ramos.



Tournament winners Larry Austin and Jeff Austin collect their trophies from Carterman (far left) and Local E Recording Secretary Roy Wilkinson (far right).

Photo right: Carterman (far left) and Wilkinson (far right) present trophies to the second place team of Jon Holden and Allen Neph.



Christine Fullerton lines up her throw.



Guerdon Ellis looks for a ringer.



Ron McGaha throws for a ringer.

Thanks Shoes for Pups sponsors!

Ira Carterman
Al Gibson
Chris Olafson
Everett Business Reps
Ron & Colleen Bradley
Mark Clark & Howard Carlson
Jon Holden

Susan Palmer
Donovan McLeod &
Christine Fullerton
Polynesian Resort at
Ocean Shores
Red Dog Saloon

Union MVPs continue to build better communities

It's been a busy summer for IAM 751 MVPs who (from top) cleaned up Adopt-a-Road sites in Auburn and Everett, and handed out information about unions at Arlington River Days. In addition, volunteers refurbished donated toys at the Toy Rescue Mission and prepared and served breakfast for homeless people in Tacoma and Everett. For more information about how you can get involved in MVP events, call the Seattle Union Hall at (206) 764-0335.



Volunteers shop for a good cause

District 751 union stewards and staff members volunteered to help underprivileged children on Aug. 22 as part of a back-to-school shopping program sponsored by the Salvation Army of White Center, which paid for children in low-income families to buy their own clothes and school supplies at the JCPenney store at Southcenter Mall, with help from adult volunteers. (Above) Steward Amanda Pickard helps a girl sort through shirts. (Below) Steward Earl Gressett helps a boy pick out shirts he wants.



IRC lines up to help union brother



When 751-member Eldon Smith received unexpected triple bypass surgery in June, it put him on a long road to recovery. He is currently living in an assisted living facility. Union brothers and sisters working in the IRC organized a lunchtime barbecue fundraiser on Aug. 17. Members and managers lined the main aisle and donated more than \$3,082 to help Eldon in just one hour. Thanks to Wes Heard, Tracy Moore, John Barr, Jennifer Stein, Jeff Olson, Darren Daughenbaugh, Jerome Demoulin, Daria Lake and Brian Hughes who helped coordinate the event.



SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Karting Challenge coming Sept. 10



Racers during the 2014 Karting Challenge.

Local F will hold its fourth annual Guide Dogs Karting Challenge on Saturday, Sept. 10, at PGP Motorsports Park at Pacific Raceways.

The event will be from 2 to 6 p.m., and will feature teams of drivers racing for two hours around the PGP track, which is at 31001 144th Ave.

SE in Kent. Prizes will go to the teams that complete the most overall laps in the time allowed. Starting posts are determined by who raises the most money for Guide Dogs of America.

The cost is \$400 per team, and each team can have up to four drivers. Lunch is included in the registration fee. Reg-

istration forms are available at all IAM 751 union halls in Puget Sound.

Last year's Karting Challenge raised more than \$12,000, said Local F President Robley Evans. "We've had lots of success and a lot of fun with this event."

All funds go to Guide Dogs of America.

'Thank you very much' -- Elvis tribute benefits Guide Dogs

Local A member Tracy Alan Moore and his band, Rising Sun, played an Elvis tribute show at the Seattle Union Hall Aug. 13. The show was a benefit for Guide Dogs of America.

"Tracy and his band put on a high-energy show for more than two hours," said Local A President Les Mullen. "We had a lot of fun, and raised some money for a very worthy cause."



(Top) Moore leads the band through its second set. (Bottom left) The show attracted fans of all ages. (Bottom middle) Before the show, volunteers served a spaghetti dinner to concertgoers. (Bottom right) Local A stewards and officers count the cash at the end of the night.



SuperShow: Racing machines highlight annual event



Local A's annual Bill Baker Memorial Steel & Wheel SuperShow was a roaring success.

The annual show for classic cars, hot rods and custom motorcycles drew close to 50 entries to the Everett Union Hall on Aug. 20.

The crowd was bolstered this year by the appearance of drag racing legend Jim Green of Monroe, who brought three drag-racing vehicles to the show, which he and his team fired off for fans.

"We had a great turnout and thanks to our volunteers and sponsors, we raised a lot of money for Guide Dogs of America," Local A President Les Mullen said.



Photos: (Top left) Volunteers Rob Jones and Joel Hetland discuss one of Jim Green's drag racers. (Below left) Rod Watters of Marysville won the People's Choice and Best Truck awards with his '58 GMC pickup. (Below center) IAM 751 retiree David Sauvageau won the District President's Award with his custom '39 Ford. (Below right) SPEEA member Bruce Quinn won the Local A President's Award. (Top right) Nearly 50 entries filled the Everett Union Hall parking lot for the show.



Thanks Bill Baker Memorial Steel & Wheel SuperShow sponsors!

- Chevrolet of Everett**
- Car Toys**
- Marco Polo Bar & Grill**
- Local 751-A**
- Local 751-C**
- Local 751-E**
- Local 751-F**
- Local C Executive Board**

- Del Fox Custom Meats**
- Union Home Services**
- Joint Programs North Site**
- Lake Connor Park**
- Les Schwab**
- Motorcycle Goodies**
- Scuttlebutt Brewery**
- Wesco**

- Lasting Impressions Inc.**
- Atkinson Zornes Financial Planning**
- Brett & Kelly Coty**
- Cameron Griffin**
- Everett Business Reps**
- Jason & Rose Chan**
- Lester & Shelley Mullen**

- Richard Jackson**
- Jon Holden**
- Mark & Peggy Clark**
- Roy Wilkinson**
- Susan Palmer**
- Garth Luark**
- Stosh Tomala**
- Chris Schorr**

Town Halls focus on building a stronger union

Continued from Page 1

forum for two-way discussion between union members and union leaders. Members have brought ideas forward and issues have come to the forefront that have been addressed," said Holden. "It is encouraging to see the interest in our union and passion so many members have for our union. Ultimately, it is our members' strength and confidence in each shop that will give us the ability to challenge and confront our employers."

"We have to teach our members confidence so they understand the value they bring to the companies they work for. With this confidence, members will not be intimidated by the fear tactics and threats that companies use each time they want to open a contract," said Holden. "The wages and benefits we receive are a fair exchange. In return Boeing gets quality airplanes on time, which makes them considerable profit. It was not reasonable what Boeing took in the 2014 extension contract – eliminating pensions and other benefits we had worked years to obtain."

At the Auburn 11 a.m. meeting, one member noted, "I'm 30 and made a conscious choice to get involved. Some members are not involved, but that is not the majority. Many are passionate about this union, and they need you. Don't give up on them; instead mentor them and help bring us together."

"Many members are still torn over the previous contract, but all of them need to know we must work to unite," said Business Rep Rich McCabe. "If we wait until 2024 to unite, we might as well pack it up. You are the union, and everyone has skin in the game. We have to organize one shop at a time and it is up to all of us to start today."

"The key is for all of us to get young people in our shops involved. Tell them our history and why we walked the line," said 751-C member Greg Oden. "Teach them how solidarity works. This is about



A member in Renton speaks up at the Town Hall meeting.



Members in Everett discuss issues in their shop and listened to new tactics we will use going forward.

building our strong team and knowing we are together."

"I haven't been to a union meeting before, but I like what I'm hearing. This is the strength we need. The new tactics we discussed today will resonate in my shop," said Bernardo Espinoza.

Holden reviewed the final version of our Membership Bill of Rights that was passed by our seven local lodges and will be voted at the Grand Lodge Convention in September. It incorporated input from all locals and collaboration between the locals.

Our group of IAM 751 delegates is prepared to hold discussion and explain the merits of our proposal at the Grand Lodge Convention this month in order to

gain support for passage of this important change to our IAM Constitution. What is clear is that no one person should have the power to implement a contract or force a vote over the top of the local leadership.

Other changes implemented over the last few years include:

- Recognizing that

knowledge will empower our members, union education classes were offered to union stewards and regular members focusing on issues such as workers' rights, recent solidarity success and other topical issues.

- eNews with up-to-date information sent to home email.

- Updated iam751.org website, now is mobile friendly. Members register to get access to their contract, staff emails, and have the ability to post and purchase items from other members (similar to Craig's

list). In exchange for registering, members also receive a Union visibility t-shirt.

- Changed election process to eliminate long lines like we experienced on Jan. 3, 2014. Now you simply scan your badge or driver's license and know, in real time, if you are eligible or already voted.

- Created a form and a process to report ethics violations/harassment;

- Created a process to document job erosion for instances when Boeing is trying to downgrade work;

- Created a brochure to walk members step-by-step through the retirement process to make the best choices;

- Added a second health and benefits rep to better assist members in this area

- Monthly new member workshops to educate new hires on our history, power of solidarity and contract language. With 45 percent of our members hired after the 2008 negotiations, it is important members understand the power they have and how solidarity makes things happen.

- Pushing Aerospace Tax Incentive Accountability. Since the tax incentives were passed in Nov. 2013 over 7,000 jobs have been moved out of state. It is an intentional decision by Boeing to move our work to other states – collecting tax incentives here and at the new location. Legislation would protect not just our members, but citizens of the state.

Recently, in the newspaper, leaders implied we may be heading for a downturn and suggested our Union should back off pushing for tax incentive accountability because it would drive Boeing to leave. What they need to understand is that tax incentive accountability is even more important in a downturn so we protect our infrastructure here. The reality is we don't know what the future holds, but

if we don't put accountability on these incentives Boeing will continue to create infrastructure in other states to collect incentives there and when an upswing occurs, the other areas will experience the growth rather than having it in our state.

- Tax Incentive Accountability is also trying to ensure the jobs at aerospace vendors receiving the tax incentives are family-wage jobs with benefits. Many vendors collecting the tax incentives pay half to three-quarters of their workforce less than \$15 an hour.

- Unionizing aerospace vendors to raise wages and benefits for those working at suppliers and minimize the downward pressure on our wages at Boeing.

- Our relationship with new International President has changed where he has allowed us to restore our bylaws, which were in place for decades, with minor revisions that members voted to approve in August.

- New International President openly supports our District's efforts to pass the Aerospace Tax Incentive Accountability legislation.

- A new retirement savings plan was implemented for members at Triumph. This is something that we can build upon and implement in other bargaining units.

- New tactics that can be used and introduced to combat employers going forward.

Those attending the Town Hall meetings liked the format and the fact that they were held at locations closer to where they live and work. The two-way communication prompted good discussion and ideas – many of which will be implemented to continue to build a stronger union going forward.

Dreambuilders raises \$35,000 for charity



Above: Dave Lavalley poses with Jim Workman's Nova that he custom painted, which won best in show.

Below: Joel Hetland (l) and Mark Mason (r) congratulate 751-member Jim Workman for winning best of show with his Nova (car pictured left).



Machinists Union members were making a difference for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Snohomish County with the Third Annual Dream Builders Car Show. 751-member Steve Myers organized the event that raised \$35,000 to help the charity. District 751 was a sponsor of the

event. Many 751 members entered their vehicles in the show and 751 members took home the top 10 prizes. 751-member Jim Workman won best of show for cars and 751-member Jayzi Horton won best custom motorcycle. Thanks to all who helped.

Classes teach power to members

Continued from Page 1

The free classes are required for union stewards, and open to all members. They can be taken in any order.

To register, go online to the new union website: www.iam751.org. Click on the "resources" tab, then click on the "class registration" link. The class schedule is:

Seattle Union Hall (9135 15th Place S.)

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 3 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 27 – Unit 1: Role of the Steward.

Auburn Union Hall (201 A St. SW)

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Thurs, Sept. 29 – Unit 1: Role of the Steward.

Everett Union Hall (8729 Airport Road)

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4 – Unit 4: Communication & Mobilization.

Retirement planning workshops set

District 751 members who work at Boeing can learn how to maximize their retirement benefits at a series of free retirement-planning workshops scheduled for the fall. The workshops will cover a range of topics to help you calculate your real post-Boeing income, including:

- Options for your Boeing VIP, potential taxes and penalties;
- Maximizing your Boeing pension options;
- Tax-favored investing and proper asset allocation; and
- Creative budgeting techniques and dealing with debt.

The schedule is:

September

Thursday, Sept. 8 -- noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. at the Renton Union Hall, 233 Burnett Ave. N.

Thursday, Sept. 15 -- 11:30 a.m. to

1:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Everett Union Hall, 8729 Airport Road.

Wednesday, Sept. 21 -- 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Auburn Union Hall, 201 A St. SW.

October

Tuesday, Oct. 11 -- noon to 2 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. at the Seattle Union Hall, 9125 15th Place S.

Wednesday, Oct. 19 -- 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Auburn Union Hall.

Thursday, Oct. 20 -- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Everett Union Hall.

The workshops are offered by Money Management Educators and sponsored by District 751. To reserve a seat, call (888) 223-8311 or e-mail mmepuget-sound@mmeducators.org.

Apprenticeships change lives, AJAC grads say

Continued from Page 4

representatives to sit on AJAC's board of directors, and the union played a key role in the launch of the program.

"If it were not for IAM 751 and their efforts to secure our funding, none of us would be here," Strickland said.

Working with AJAC is "rewarding and important," Cote said.

"On an individual level, it's incredible

to see these workers develop skills that will give them and their families secure futures," he said. "And on a larger scale, the work AJAC does is essential if our state is to retain high-skill, high-wage manufacturing jobs. If the best workers in the world are here, then aerospace companies and other precision manufacturers will want to be here too."

RETIREMENT NEWS

Retirees and guests enjoy annual picnic/potluck

The Seattle Union Hall was filled with retirees and their guests on Monday, August 8 for the annual Retirement Club picnic.

Union officers and staff provided the fried chicken and drinks while retirees each brought a side dish or dessert to share – ensuring members had a wide variety of food to chose from.

District 751 President Jon Holden thanked the retirees for their contributions to our union and for continuing to support our union. The event included live music from a union band, raffle prizes and lots of fun for all attending!



Retirees catch up with old friends and made new friends at the annual Retirement Club Picnic



The potluck offered something for everyone.



Fred Smith and Joyce Kirby attended the picnic/potluck.



Retirement Club president Jackie Boschok shows the free t-shirt for registering at iam751.org website.



Cathy and Bob Fullerton enjoyed attending the annual event.



District President Jon Holden thanked our retirees for building this strong union.

Summer senior cruise



IAM 751 retirees and their guests had the Argosy boat to themselves for an early dinner cruise on Aug. 22 with a catered dinner and live band.

On Monday August 22nd some 40 of our retirement club members and friends enjoyed an Argosy cruise across Seattle's Lake Union and into and around Lake Washington. The weather was great, cruising smooth and company congenial, accompanied by live music. A tasty

Italian pasta buffet dinner was served on board courtesy of Renton Technical College culinary school.

The 751 Retirement Club chartered the boat after polling retirees on events they would like to attend. Thanks to Retirement Club President Jackie Boschok and to all who helped with the arrangements and the shuttle drive from the union hall.



Left: Mary and T.J. Seibert try the Italian pasta buffet.

Below: Retirees enjoyed some sun on the upper deck.



Talking senior issues with Sen. Cantwell's staff: L to R: Dayna Lurie from the Senator's staff, 751-retiree Jackie Boschok, Don Bennett-retired Letter Carriers Union, 751 retirees Carl Schwartz and Tom Lux, and Claude Burfekt (Retired Public Employees Council)

Conveying senior issues to Sen. Cantwell

On Tuesday August 2nd, three of our retirees met with Dayna Lurie, staff assistant to Senator Maria Cantwell, in her office, to re-affirm our concerns about senior issues. We asked that Senator Cantwell continue to support our efforts to gain legislation to permit Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices; amend Social Security's cost-of-living factor to include more senior expenses; and return Social Security offices and administration to full staffing. We noted TPP, as presently written, would permit international drug companies to challenge American price and safety standards. We thanked the senator for supporting our concerns. The group included Jackie Boschok, President of 751's Retirement Club, Tom Lux, and Carl Schwartz.

RETIRED CLUB OFFICERS

President	Jackie Boschok	206-890-1009
Vice President	Helen Lowe	206-523-9526
Secretary	Lucia Raum	206-772-5110
Treasurer	Tom Lux	206-551-1371
Srgnt-at-Arms	Vennie Murphy	253-985-0951
Trustees:	Michael Keller	206-723-4973
	John Guevarra	206-762-3848
	Jim Hutchins	206-369-2309

Union Office: (1-800-763-1301) or 206-763-1300

RETIREES

Congratulations to the following members who have retired from our union:

- Harvey K. Allain
- Bruce F. Anderson
- Robert E. Anderson
- Leslie D. Armstrong
- Janet A. Arroyo
- Walter E. Baker
- Irene K. Barnhart
- Tommy L. Bengen
- Dale K. Bennett
- Edwin Berger
- Sandra M. Brown
- Kent A. Brunzell
- Jose A. Cambronero
- Michael J. Carino
- Michelle E. Cobb
- Ronald R. Craig
- Connie E. Crawford
- Dorothy A. Curry
- Frank E. Daly
- Myra J. Delappe
- Douglas A. Denton
- Debbie L. Donham
- Scott K. Dschaak
- Richard A. Eary
- Cynthia L. Eilertson
- John W. English, Jr.
- Linda J. Enslow
- Bruce F. Farrell
- Charles N. Frakes
- Cindy K. Gray
- Terence Guarino
- Dale A. Halverson
- Lester R. Harpley
- Dale A. Hebert
- Steven J. Hicks
- Larry S. Holmes
- Ronald Humphrey
- Scott R. Irving
- Max A. Jackson
- Richard A. James
- Brian M. Johnson
- Herman Jones, Jr.
- Debra L. Joseph
- Rodney Karppinen, Jr.
- Deborah S. Kendall
- Rory L. Lane
- Thomas E. Larsh
- Warren H. Lew
- Larry S. Love
- Gary W. Loveless
- Magdalena Motta
- Stephen W. Ouderkirk
- Gregory A. Passey
- Stacy E. Pearson
- Mary L. Potier
- James J. Ronkar
- John M. Shields
- Randall J. Siko
- Joel S. Smiley
- Olivia Smolen
- Susan J. Spotanske
- Shaughn P. Spreen
- Calvin Strong
- John C. Sutich
- Philip J. Tarli
- Evelyn Thrash-Soimis
- Terry L. Turner
- Christine Vannoy
- Harry J. Vogel
- Holly D. Walden
- Jill D. Weiss
- Danford R. Wheeler
- David M. Wheeler
- Scott T. Williams
- Concepcion G. Yowell

Local 86

- Peter Couch, Triumph
- Edwin Dahmer, Kenworth
- Roger Kelso, Triumph
- Robert LaShaw, ASC

Local 1951

- Larry Hathaway, SCBID
- Robert Blackwell, MSA

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SET OF 4 - HANKOOK WINTER TIRES - I-Pike Studded snow tires. 205/65R15 - 94T \$100 OBO Like new! 360-707-2086 (Burlington, WA)

1965 FORD 427 FE BLOCK, std bore. Service 1970 NOS BOSS 302 block, oil pan, windage tray & oil pick-up tube, all in original boxes. Lots of 65 Comet parts, small block scatter shield. 360-563-2422

BOATS

8' PONTOON BOAT with fold up wheel \$150. Bushnell Voyager telescope 60mm \$35. 253-838-2108

JOIN SEABACS (Boeing employee's boat club) for fun cruises and get togethers. Over 60 reciprocals! Call Craig Waffle at 253-631-3020.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

HOME & RV MATTRESS CENTER - home, RV, special size mattresses. Aero Mechanic's discount. Call 425-640-7891 or hrvmc.com

BUY - SELL - CLOSE. Call your real estate professional Von Provo is available to help you buy or sell. Call or text at 425-359-0165 or email at von@skylineproperties.com

WANT A FUSSY HOUSE KEEPER? Call Barbara at Beefussy House Keeping in the late afternoon. Works mornings and early afternoon. 425-413-5354

You want the best NATURAL NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTATION you can get. No competitor has a more trusted name in the industry than Shaklee. Call Joe at 206-819-7924

ELECTRONICS & ENTERTAINMENT

DEAL: DELL PHOTO 926 PRINTER - must sell, does not work with new Apple PC. \$30 OBO call 206-523-9526

FURNITURE & APPLIANCES

CURIO CABINET 6' tall, 22" wide, 14" deep. Has 3 glass shelves, 2 wooden shelves, lights top & bottom. Excellent condition. \$65. Call 360-829-5230.

HOUSING

10 BEAUTIFUL VIEW ACRES with new 2,900 sq. ft. home and shop. 5 miles NE of Colville, WA 20 GPM well. Possible OWCC \$165,000. Call 425-327-2514

AD RULES

Each single ad must be 25 words or less. Use a separate piece of paper or ad blank for each ad, as they are pre-classified physically. Ads are free only to members - active, laid-off, or retired. For best response, include phone number. Members' "cottage industries" will be OK in ads, but no commercial ads. When using own paper for ads, include information required on regular ad blank.

Deadline For Next Issue Sept. 16

KONA, HAWAII OCEAN VIEW 2 bdrm, 2 bath condo plus loft. See www.konaalicoove.com Ready for that month long vacation in paradise? Sleeps 5. Minimum stay 30 days. 10% discount to Boeing employees. \$2850-\$3500/month. Amenities include designated parking. DSL for Wi-Fi, pool, Jacuzzi and much more. 206-459-3444

MISCELLANEOUS

25' GOOSENECK FLATBED TRAILER dovetail with ramp. 1400 lb. axel \$6,000. 360-907-7010 Goldendale, WA

TRAEGAR WOOD PELLET SMOKER & GRILL 2 ft. high x 3 ft. wide. Hardly used \$150. Call 360-829-5230

HONEY BEE THINGS various. 10 books, literature, all left over things. \$50 OBO 253-852-6809

BABY STROLLER \$20 call 253-852-6809.

RETIREES WHO WORKED AT KSC N/C MACHINE SHOP 18-62 Bldg. Join us for breakfast once a month at Emerald Downs Café. For more info: contact clintbonnie@hotmail.com

JARS - 24 oz. and various sizes of Prego jars, label free, good covers, use for jam and open kettle canning. Work great, have several dozen. \$1 a dozen. 253-852-6809

TABLE - GREEN MARBLED FORMICA 29 1/2" wide, 52" long - including leaf which is 10" wide. \$125. 253-852-6809

FOOSBALL TABLE in good shape. \$100. Record albums from the 50s - 70s. cheap. 1/3 cord of black oak \$120. Curio cabinet and china hutch. \$10 each. 253-350-9864

JAMES HARDIE FIBER CEMENT SIDING 1/4" x 8 1/4" x 12'. 40 pieces. Take all for \$140. Call Don (253) 941-6935 and leave your number

I WANT TO BUY YOUR OLD RECORD ALBUMS, 45's, LP's, whatever! I listen to and collect all genres of music. Let me know. 206-861-6557

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE IN MARYSVILLE Building Blocks Daycare and Preschool. Educating the next generation. I have 15 plus years' experience and love watching children learn and grow. 425-244-0230

BEAUTIFUL BOEING FRAMED 707 (25" x 21") Paid \$100 make offer 206-523-9526

DECORATIVE PLATES: Large collection of older decorative plates of American Rose Society, Rockwell and many others. Porcelain figurines, 425-353-0153

VINTAGE CABBAGE PATCH DOLLS - large collection, new in boxes. Also Ashton Drake dolls new in boxes. Call 425-353-0153

PROPERTY

NEED TO SELL, moved. 3 plots at Washington Memorial, side by side, garden area. \$2,500 each OBO. Contact 623-556-2662

FOUR SPACES at Cypress Lane Memorial Park (Everett) in the Rhododendron Garden valued at \$8,200 each. Will take \$22,000 360-435-8745

SPORTING GOODS

TWO 3 SPEED BICYCLES - one for man and one for woman. \$45 253-863-8372

"CURT" DELUX BIKE RACK for 2 bikes (fits 2004 to 2009) Toyota Prius (like new) Paid \$324 make offer. 206-523-9526

TOOLS

CRAFTSMAN TOOLS - 1/2 HP Craftsman Bench Commercial Grinder. Totally enclosed ball bearing capacitor start motor 8 inch with light. Model 397.1951. \$95. Craftsman table saw 10" 3/4 HP motor with parts and on table saw dust box large 34" long - good condition. \$225. 3/4 hp Craftsman electric motor model J-253 1157534 \$75. Call 253-852-6809

VEHICLES

1984 GRAND MARQUIS in mint shape, one owner, always in garage. \$5,000 firm. 253-863-8372

2000 HONDA PASSPORT LX, V6, 32L, 139K miles, white color. Transmission and timing belt have been changed. Well maintenance and taken good care of by its owner. Asking \$3099.00 OBO 206-898-5830.

2007 HD ELECTRAGLIDE FLHTC 96 cu. In., 6 speed. 10 K miles, one owner, perfect. All H.D. parts and labor. \$10 K 206-886-5875

2012 CIVIC LX HONDA 4 door - leather interior, heated seats, new tires, excellent condition. 69,000 miles - all freeway miles. 38 mpg, silver color. \$12,500 call 360-652-3650

- | | | | |
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Ad (25 word limit. Please print) _____

Phone (or Address) _____

The following information must be filled in for your ad to appear:

Name _____ Clock Number _____

Address _____ Shop Number _____

Mail Coupon to **AERO MECHANIC NEWSPAPER, 9125 15th Pl. S., Seattle, 98108** Deadline is Sept. 16th!

Everett Massacre tour event

Join in Solidarity to Commemorate the Everett Massacre's 100th Anniversary by sailing from Seattle to Everett on the Virginia V on Saturday November 12 with the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association and the Snohomish County Labor Council, AFL-CIO

- \$100 Boarding Fee • Entertainment
- Program and Refreshments at the Everett Yacht Club "Verona" at the Everett City Dock.

For more info contact Tom Lux, PNLHA President email pnaha2@gmail.com or 206.551.1371 or contact Ron MGaha, PNLHA Committee, email aboutjobs@comcast.net or call 206.409.8217



LABOR HISTORY HAPPENINGS

- Sept. 5** - First US Labor Day Parade, First Labor Day, 1882
 - Sept. 8** - UFW begins grape boycott, 1965
 - Sept. 9** - Police Strike, Boston, MA, 1919
 - Sept. 19** - Chinese coal miners driven out of Black Diamond, WA, 1885
 - Sept. 23** - IAM Local 751 Chartered, 1935
- Information taken from the PNLHA Labor History Calendar



Making changes for a stronger future for all of us

Continued from Page 2

was a desire for more and better communication with members. The AeroMechanic has always been a reliable tool, but members told us they wanted more.

Today, we do have more. We're active in social media with IAM 751 accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We launched in 2014 our new Machinists eNews - periodic email updates with timely and important information.

And this summer, we launched a revamped website at www.iam751.org, which brings us more into the 21st century, with a layout that is easier to read on smart phones and tablets.

We have created a second position for a Health and Benefits Rep at the Seattle Union Hall, to help more people prepare for retirement. We've also created a pre-retirement check list, and we've continued with our free retirement

planning seminars presented by Money Management Educators.

We are undergoing a significant demographic change in our union. More than 45 percent of our current union members have been hired since the end of the strike in 2008.

But the fact that we've had so many people join us since 2008 presents a unique challenge for us. Members joining after the strike of 2008 have not been through a traditional contract cycle with us. We, as a union, need to make sure everyone understands the solidarity that grows as we come closer to the end of a contract.

Our job as a union, then, is to unite all of our members to gain confidence and teach the power of solidarity. When workers are united, they can achieve great things. It is my goal - and it should be everyone's - to unite us so we can be a powerful and effective union for the future.

FINANCIAL \$ENSE: Health Care & Your Retirement

As you set aside money for retirement, you're probably thinking about planning for necessities, such as housing, food, and transportation. You may also be budgeting for some luxuries, such as travel, dinners out, and gifts for family members and favorite charities. But there's another big expense to plan for: health care.

Even though Medicare kicks in at age 65, retirees still face hefty health care costs, because Medicare covers only part of the cost of services for beneficiaries. Retirees often must dig into their own pockets to cover co-pays, deductibles, premiums for additional coverage, certain prescription drugs, and noncovered necessities, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, dental care, and long-term custodial care.

The cost of care

In fact, according to a 2015 report from the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicare beneficiaries pay an average of about \$4,745 per year out of their own pockets for health care spending, including premiums for Medicare and other types of supplemental insurance and costs incurred for medical and long-term care services.

Trying to figure out how much money you'll need to set aside for health care in retirement is complicated, though, and depends on many factors.

The Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) estimates in order to be 90 percent certain they'll have enough to pay for retirement health care, a 65-year-old couple would need to have \$264,000 set aside just for health expenses.² This doesn't even include any long-term care expenses.

People with high prescription drug costs need even more, according to EBRI. For a married couple with high medication expenses throughout retirement, savings of as much as \$392,000 would be needed for health care.

Geographic location affects your needs, too, because the price of health care can vary dramatically from state to state. For example, the average cost of assisted living in New York is 70 percent higher than in Missouri, government data shows.³

Six tips to be prepared

No matter how you look at it, retirement health care costs are significant. But with good planning, you can be prepared. Here are six steps to make sure you have the coverage you need for retirement health care costs.

1. Maximize your savings. The earlier you begin planning and saving for retirement, the better off you'll be. Make maximum contributions to 401(k), IRA, health savings accounts, and any other tax-deferred savings plans for which you qualify.

2. Don't count on employer benefits. If you happen to be one of the few lucky people whose employers offer retiree health coverage, that's great. But don't count on it, because employers may modify or stop giving benefits. Save as if you don't have retiree health coverage.

3. Consider long-term care insurance. Medicare covers medical care in a skilled nursing facility for a limited amount of time. But if you need long-term custodial care — help with eating, bathing, dressing, and other daily living activities in addition to medical care — you'll have to pay for

SCOTT

WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP

of Wells Fargo Advisors

it yourself. Care like this can cost as much as \$84,000 per year or more, depending on the kind of care you need.

Long-term care insurance can be expensive. Try to buy it early, when you're younger and healthier, because premiums are linked to age and health status. "It's best to start looking at it in your 50s," says Donna Peterson, Senior Vice President at Wells Fargo Advisors. "The longer you wait, the more expensive it is." Premiums can range from about \$900 per year when purchased at age 50 to \$6,000 per year when purchased at age 75.

4. Look at "hybrid" insurance options. A typical long-term care policy is pure insurance — you basically use it or lose it. But hybrid products, such as life insurance policies that combine both a death benefit and a potential long-term care benefit, allow greater flexibility, because benefits can be used for long-term care or life insurance payouts.

5. Learn about the ABCs (and D) of Medicare. Medicare covers just about everyone starting at age 65. But there's a lot it doesn't pay for, and there are many choices to make and fees to pay for supplemental coverage and optional insurance to cover Medicare gaps. And don't forget you'll need to add the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Part D) to help cover prescription

drugs. "People think Medicare covers more than it does," Peterson says. "But, one thing everyone should know is it doesn't cover any custodial care." (Learn more at www.medicare.gov.)

6. Get expert help. Planning for health care costs during retirement is complicated. "The most important thing is to sit down with a professional Financial Advisor and go through all of these issues," Peterson says. "Few people approaching this time in their lives have all the answers. Your Financial Advisors can help you make more informed and realistic decisions by providing a better understanding how health care costs can affect your retirement."

This information is provided for educational and illustrative purposes only.

¹Source: <http://kff.org/report-section/a-primer-on-medicare-how-much-do-beneficiaries-pay-for-medicare-benefits/>

²Source: <https://www.ebri.org/pdf/PR1145.Hlth-Svgs.22Oct15.pdf>

³Source: <http://longtermcare.gov/costs-how-to-pay/costs-of-care-in-your-state/>

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0216-01383 (93595-v1) 04/16

Custom Choices enrollment for IAM members thru Sept. 16

If suddenly you weren't around, how would your family handle mortgage, daycare, and bills? No one likes to think about an unexpected death in the family. Custom Choices life insurance can help you and/or your loved ones be more prepared for the ongoing expenses.

Special Offers! This enrollment only, NEW Universal Life, Accidental & Critical Illness insurance are available to ALL employees on a Guaranteed Issue basis. This means all IAM members can apply for any of these three benefits, regardless of health status* this enrollment only. Speak with a Benefit Coach for details.

*Subject to plan limits. Pre-existing condition limitations & exclusions may apply.

ENROLL BY PHONE

You can enroll with the convenience of a phone call with a Benefit Coach. You can even pre-schedule a phone appointment to review these benefits. If you are an existing policyholder and have questions or would like to make changes in your coverage, the Benefit Coach can help you with that also. Open enrollment is now through September 16 so call today and learn about your options.

Pre-schedule now either by calling 1-866-264-3691 or visit www.Boeing.AppointmentNavigator.com

Your Benefit Coach will explain the benefits, answer your questions and help you design a plan that is right for you and your budget.

SIX GREAT WORKSITE BENEFITS

Following is a brief overview of the supplemental insurance products available through the Custom Choices Worksite Benefits program.

NEW UNIVERSAL LIFE INSURANCE - help your family with ongoing expenses

- Flexible coverage amounts for the entire family

- **Member - up to \$150,000 benefit, guarantee issue this enrollment only, subject to plan limits**

- Spouse - from \$10,000 to \$50,000 benefit

- Child or grandchild – \$10,000 level term rider or \$25,000 universal life benefit

- **Living Benefit Rider** - allows you to take an advance against the death benefit to help pay for chronic condition expenses (severe memory or reasoning problems or if you cannot perform at least two activities of daily living for yourself like dressing, bathing, eating, toileting, continence or moving from one activity to another)

- Pays in addition to the \$32,000 basic term life you receive, which ends when you leave employment at Boeing

- Policies are individually owned and portable if you change jobs or retire

TransElite® Universal Life Policy Series CPGUL300, CCGUL300, CRLT1100, CRLWL100, CRLLT100, and CRLEX100

DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE

-benefits for disability from an off-the-job accident/illness

- Available to all actively at work members on a guaranteed issue basis during your first year of eligibility

- Provides replacement income when you are disabled because of an off the job accident or illness

- Members choose a benefit amount of up to 60 percent of monthly compensation (from \$300 to a maximum of \$2,500 per month)

- Tax-free benefits begin after six months of disability and are payable for up to five years

Policy Form EDO/CG 108/BML (11/05)

CANCER INSURANCE-BENEFITS for cancer and over 30 other specified diseases

Open Enrollment Through Sept. 16
Enroll by phone. It's easy!

Speak with a Benefit Coach about the Custom Choices Program who can explain the benefits, answer your questions and help you design a plan that is right for your budget. Either:

- **Preschedule now by calling 1-866-264-3691 or visit www.Boeing.AppointmentNavigator.com**

- **Call 1-866-264-3691 before Sept 16. Benefit coaches are available during this time, Monday-Friday 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. PT**

- Available to all actively at work members on a guarantee issue basis during your first year of eligibility (pre-existing condition limitations & exclusions apply)

- Pays a variety of benefits including first diagnosis benefit, second and third surgical options, surgery benefits, donor benefits, drugs and medicines, radiation, chemotherapy benefits, and more

- Provides up to a \$50 wellness benefit each calendar year for cancer screening tests including mammogram, pap smear, prostate screen and more

- Also provides benefits for over 30 other covered specified diseases like Cystic Fibrosis, Lupus, Lyme Disease, Meningitis, Tetanus, etc.

Policy Form HIC-GP-CAN-SB-TX

CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE-cash to help with expenses not covered by health insurance

- Entire benefit amount paid directly to the insured upon diagnosis of heart attack, stroke, cancer, organ transplant, end stage renal failure, and/or coronary artery bypass

- Member benefit amounts up to \$50,000 (\$15,000 guarantee issue this enrollment only, pre-existing condition limitations apply)

- Dependent children covered at 25 percent of employee amount for no

additional cost

- Spouse coverage also available
- Health screening benefit - \$50 per year to pay for covered screening tests
- Policies are portable, if you change jobs or retire

Policy Series: BML 2003 WA

ACCIDENT INSURANCE-cash to help with expenses from covered injuries on or off the job

- 24-hour benefits for covered accidents on or off the job
- \$350 Emergency Room benefit
- \$1,000 hospital admission benefit plus \$250 per day

- Up to \$100,000 accidental death benefit (common carrier)

- Benefits for transportation, lodging, dismemberment, common accidental injuries, and follow-up care

- Benefits pay in addition to any other coverage to help with expenses not covered by health insurance

- Individually owned policy which is portable if you change jobs or retire

Policy Series: WS-ACC 8/08

NEW IDENTITY THEFT PROGRAM - if your identify were stolen, who would you call?

- Complete hands off recovery
- Million dollar reimbursement insurance policy
- No premiums and no deductibles
- Back to pre-theft status
- Lost wallet feature

SafeID Trust plan

Act now so you don't miss out on these benefits & special offers!

Insurance underwritten through Transamerica Life Ins. Co; Boston Mutual Life Ins. Co, Canton, MA and Humana Ins. Co.

EASTERN WASHINGTON

Lawsuit seeks more safety for union workers at Hanford

57 workers treated for possible chemical exposure

A legal fight is brewing over worker protection at Hanford as a coalition that includes a labor union, a watchdog group and the Washington Attorney General's Office seeks a federal court order that would require enhanced safety measures at the nuclear clean-up site.

"Our Eastern Washington staff is monitoring this very closely," said District 751 President Jon Holden. "As a union, worker health and safety is one of our core values."

District 751 represents about 80 workers at the Hanford site – all of them members of Local 1951. They include staff members at the HAMMER Center, which provides hazardous waste response training for Hanford workers and for fire departments and military personnel nationwide, and millwrights who maintain equipment across the site.

In August, a federal district court judge ordered the U.S. Department of Energy and the contractor managing nuclear waste clean-up at Hanford to take interim measures to better protect workers from poisonous gases.

The ruling came after Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson filed an emergency motion with the court, asking the judge to intervene directly and order the Energy Department and its contractor to better-protect Hanford workers over the long term.

Lawyers will start arguing whether to make the interim steps permanent on Oct. 12 in Spokane.

Ferguson filed the motion – with support of Pipefitters and Steamfitters Local Union 598 and a Hanford watchdog group – after nearly 60 Hanford workers were taken to the hospital for possible chemical exposure after a series of incidents this spring and summer.

Almost all of the workers who have reported chemical exposure are members of one of the 15 unions who represent workers at the site, said Brian Hudson, a Local 1951 union steward.

He said he thinks that's because workers who have the backing of a union aren't afraid to speak out or seek help. "The people who aren't in unions are afraid," he said. "They don't want to say anything. People don't want to lose their jobs."

The list of exposed workers includes

Hanford workers wearing protective suits and oxygen masks. A lawsuit filed by the Washington Attorney General's Office seeks more protective gear like this for workers at the site. (Department of Energy photo.)



at least one Machinists Union member, who has been diagnosed with chemical scarring of the lungs, Hudson said.

56 million-gallon cocktail

Workers at Hanford are attempting to clean up some 56 millions gallons of toxic waste left over from the days when the site was a center for extracting plutonium used to make nuclear bombs. The waste was stored on a "temporary" basis in a tank farm – a series of underground tanks.

After several decades underground, some of the temporary tanks now are deteriorating and starting to leak.

There are extremely toxic chemicals in the tanks, said Hudson. One of them – nitrosodimethylamine – is a carcinogen that has actually formed in the tanks from the chemicals stored there. "It's a by-product of the reactions in the tank."

Scientists have identified some 1,800 chemicals within the tanks, Hudson said, but really "what's in these tanks is unknown."

Each tank has a different mix of chemicals, and each has received different levels of ventilation over the decades, causing different chemical reactions. The radioactive material in each tank varies, and that has affected the chemicals in different ways. In addition, the tanks have mixes of liquid waste, solid waste and sludge – and the mix of that varies from tank-to-tank.

Scientists may say that they know what's in the tanks, so they can determine what safe exposure levels are, Hudson said. "But what is the safe level of this cocktail that exists nowhere else on Earth?"

Given that, any time the vapors vent into the atmosphere, it can be a risk.

There's been more venting recently.

In March, Hanford managers ordered

the pumping of one of the leaking tanks. That stirred up the waste stored inside, and the tanks began venting vapors.

The workers who are directly involved with the pumping operation wear protective gear, Hudson said – radiation suits and self-contained breathing apparatus. Anyone working within a designated area was required to wear the gear.

But the problem is that "so many people are housed in offices close to the tank farms," Hudson said. "These exposures are happening outside the fence where there's no recommendation to wear suits."

As a result, Hudson said, "we've got people coming up sick."

According to court documents cited by KING-TV, on April 13, the CEO of the lead Hanford contractor – Washington River Protection Solutions – announced that air tanks were no longer mandatory and he was shrinking the size of the zone where workers had to wear protective suits.

Members of the Pipefitters union found documents that showed managers had been complaining that the protective gear slowed workers down, radio station KFLD-AM reported. Managers may have seen that as a problem, the station reported, because Hanford sub-contractors get bonuses for getting work done ahead of schedule.

Whatever the reason, once the requirements for protective gear were scaled back, it only took about two weeks for serious problems to occur, according to documents filed by the state's Attorney General. More than 40 tank farm workers required medical treatment for chemical exposure over a five-day period starting April 28, KING-TV said, quoting the documents.

Unions step in for workers

Unions for Hanford workers demanded more safety equipment, and on July 10, the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council – the umbrella group for all unionized Hanford workers, including Machinists and members of 14 other unions – issued a stop-work order. Union members would not do any work until their employers resumed providing it.

Contractors began supplying the equipment and work resumed, although there were delays in getting enough of the right size oxygen tanks, which meant some workers were sent home temporarily.

In July, Hudson was picked to take part in a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health investigation into the chemical exposures. The institute – commonly called NIOSH – is part of the federal Centers for Diseases Control.

The investigation started off well, Hudson said. "They asked some good questions."

But in the end, it seemed to him like little was going to be done.

"I felt they were there on DOE's behalf, to see where the workforce stood on these safety issues," Hudson said. "There was a lot of talk about technology and monitoring. There's a lot of wanting to monitor the situation, but people keep getting sick. There's not a lot of talk about protection for tomorrow."

"They talked about the need for more fact-finding," he continued. "That's what's been going on here for decades – fact finding."

He's right. Attorney General Ferguson told KING-TV that there have been a series of studies since 1992 showing that there is a serious problem with vapor releases at Hanford.

"I don't say it lightly when I say there's a culture of indifference toward worker safety there," he told the TV station. "But what other conclusion can one reach? Their own experts tell them what to do, they refuse to do it and workers still get sick."

On the other hand, the Machinists and other unions at Hanford are committed to doing all they can to make Hanford as safe a workplace as possible, Holden said.

"We've got to clean up Hanford to protect the health of our region for the future," he said. "But we've got to do it in a way that protects the clean-up workers themselves."

Trap shoot: Local 86 has a blast for Guide Dogs of America

A record number of shooters -- 83 -- took part in Local 86's fourth annual Guide Dogs Trap Shoot on Aug. 20 at the Spokane Gun Club at Greenacres.

The winning team was comprised of Daniel Broeckel, Cooper Kennett, Diane Koppel, Mike Koppel and Chris Melhus from Kenworth Sales. It's the second year in a row that the Kenworth Sales team has finished with high overall team honors.

IAM 751 President Jon Holden led a delegation of Western Washington Machinists at the shoot.



The winning team was comprised of Daniel Broeckel, Cooper Kennett, Diane Koppel, Mike Koppel and Chris Melhus from Kenworth Sales for the second year in a row.

Thanks Local 86 Trap Shoot sponsors!

Jon Holden

Sue Palmer

Paul Veltkamp

Local 86

Local 1123

UFCW Local 1439

IBEW Local 73

Steve Warren

Ken Howard

Scott Wealth Management

Employee Benefit Systems

White Elephant

Amalgamated Transit

Union Local 1015

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AFSCME 1135

