



Upcoming Union Events in "The Month Ahead"

PAGE 4



Pick up some swag at the union hall and support the Benevolent Fund!



PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE L29 BENEVOLENT FUND.

# THE WORKER

## President's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As your union president, it is my duty to keep you informed about issues that directly affect us and our community. One such pressing matter is the ongoing discussion surrounding the Public Safety Levy. This levy, which is crucial for the funding of our police and fire departments, as well as municipal courts, is currently under debate and requires our immediate attention.

In the conceptual phase, the Public Safety Levy is a proposed initiative by Spokane's Mayor and the CFO to address critical capital expenses over the next five years. The City Council ultimately decides what will go on the ballot, when, and how the funds are shared. While discussions are underway regarding the allocation between the police and fire departments, the specifics of the levy are still being refined.

However, even in these early stages, it's crucial for us to highlight the challenges our fire department faces. Over the past decade, our firefighters have been working tirelessly with limited resources. Our fire department has faced budget cuts, with funds often redirected elsewhere. It's crucial to rectify this imbalance and ensure our firefighters have the resources to safeguard our community. The critical need to build multiple fire stations, each with substantial costs, coupled with the increasing prices of heavy fire apparatus, has left us facing significant hurdles. To catch up with our replacement schedule, we require multiple ladder trucks and fire engines, each with substantial costs much greater than the e-bikes the police need.

As your representative, I have actively advocated for our firefighters' needs in discussions with city council members, the Mayor, and the CFO. However, it's important to note that the specifics of the levy are still being shaped, and we are working diligently to ensure that our needs are addressed before the levy is finalized.

In the coming weeks, I will keep you updated on any developments related to the Public Safety Levy. Your support is not just important, it is crucial. Without the firefighters' support, the success of the levy may be at risk, potentially leaving us without the much-needed improvements. I am committed to making this a cause you can stand behind, and I will continue to fight for a larger share of the resources.

Thank you for your dedication and support; it's a privilege to fight for you.

In solidarity,  
Randy Marler  
IAFF, Local 29 President



PRESIDENT  
RANDY MARLER



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
LEE MCNAMEE

## From The VP's Desk

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all is well with you and your family. This month myself and several members of your executive board had the opportunity to travel to Vancouver Washington for the annual WSCFF Educational Seminar. There were some outstanding speakers and classes that covered a multitude of subjects. The educational topics presented at the seminar are designed to benefit all levels of union leaders whether they are just starting out or have been involved for many years. This style of training allows for our members to find classes and educational topics that can benefit everyone in our organization.

I was able to participate in some excellent classes covering everything from navigating self-insured injury/illness claims, grievance and unfair labor practices to politics and what's at stake in 2024. One of the classes I found most interesting was a labor management panel comprised of 4 different union presidents and the chief from each of their respective departments. The panelists were presented with a series of questions representing common issues and or situations commonly faced by our organizations. These questions covered everything from discipline to contract negotiations and everything in between. It was a great exercise that showed while each set of panelists had a slightly different approach to how they addressed the situation, they showed a mutual respect and were at least willing to keep an open line of communication and work through the issues.

I think we are currently in a great place within our department and union to foster and build similar relationships with management based on trust and mutual respect. We are obviously not going to agree on a lot of things, and we need to protect everything that those that came before us have fought for, but having a healthier relationship between labor and management will go a long way in doing that. Our current administrative leadership has demonstrated a desire and willingness to openly discuss difficult decisions and situations, where previous leadership would just pass the buck and hide behind a lawyer. We have some upcoming challenges that we will need to collaborate on, and I feel like we can work together better than we ever have before, at least in my career.

In Solidarity,

Lee McNamee (509)280-7489 [vicepresiaffl29@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresiaffl29@gmail.com)



**TREASURER**  
KIRK GRIFFITH

## Treasurer's Report

It's been another busy month at Local 29 so it's another lightning round.

- We have been helping our striking brothers and sisters through financial contributions and man hours on the picket line. It's actually a pretty good time and other labor groups are always very appreciative of our support. If you find yourself wanting to do more to help these workers (who are going unpaid to stand up for their rights to collectively bargain) consider making a donation or showing up to the picket line.
- The Benevolent Fund currently only has 53 contributors out of our 344 members. It takes in approximately \$420/month, but most of the checks we write to members in need are in excess of \$1,000. I could make a flowchart, but I think you can all clearly see that we can do better. I have included the Benevolent Fund donation form in this newsletter. If you can spare a couple dollars a month please fill it out and submit it to Spokane Firefighter's Credit Union.
- Bloomsday- Please come to the water station and help sling some water. It's a good time!
- Seven of your Executive Board members and one station rep made the long trip to Vancouver, WA last week for the WSCFF Educational Seminar. There was really good information throughout that we will put to good use in the future, particularly as we approach contract negotiations. Thank you for your investment in us attending these events. Please see the attached picture and take the time to thank these guys that took the time to make us all stronger.

Get involved, stay involved, and help us thrive.

Kirk





## From The Editor:

**SECRETARY**  
BILL GRUMMONS

Hello Everyone - Back in 2022, L29 and Administration agreed to update certain portions of our promotional process based on the work done by L29’s Promotional Committee. The items agreed to were supposed to be codified into a new “Promotional Workbook.” Chief Strickland was the lead on this for the Admin side, and unfortunately, the work wasn’t completed prior to his departure. During our April Labor/Management meeting, we confirmed that Admin still has access to Chief Strickland’s old files, and we will continue working through this process once the department hires a new Training Chief.

Secondly, we are continuing to work on the new website. Stay tuned.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this role.

Bill  
509-939-5275

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## THE MONTH AHEAD

<b>Bloomsday Water Table</b>	05/05
<b>Union Meeting</b>	05/14
<b>IAFF 7th District New FF Conference</b>	05/14 - 05/16
<b>Labor Management</b>	05/23

## Local 29 Executive Board

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- Vice President: Lee McNamee - L4A - [VicePresIAFFL29@gmail.com](mailto:VicePresIAFFL29@gmail.com) (509)280-7489
- Treasurer: Kirk Griffith - E14C - [TreasurerIAFFL29@gmail.com](mailto:TreasurerIAFFL29@gmail.com) (509)869-1044
- Secretary: Bill Grummons - E18B - [SecretaryIAFFL29@gmail.com](mailto:SecretaryIAFFL29@gmail.com) (509)939-5275
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- E-Board: Ryan Davis - Q11C - (509)710-1793
- E-Board: Corey Newman - A5D - (509)808-1556
- E-Board: Kasey Austin - E6B - (509)499-0340
- WSCFF 9th District Rep.: Jeff Wainwright - [9thdist@wscff.org](mailto:9thdist@wscff.org)

# SPOKANE FIREFIGHTERS UNION

IAFF Local 29 - SERVING SPOKANE SINCE 1918



## SPOKANE FIREFIGHTERS BENEVOLENT FUND

By filling out and signing this form I am giving permission for funds to be transferred from my Spokane Firefighters Credit Union checking/savings account to the Local 29 Firefighters Benevolent Fund. The transfer will begin on the date that I specify, and I can stop this automatic transfer anytime that I wish by contacting Spokane Firefighters Credit Union.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency (Choose One):

\_\_\_\_\_ Bi-weekly via ACH payroll transfer

\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly via AFT (Automatic Funds Transfer)