



Upcoming Union
Events in "The
Month Ahead"

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2023 WSCFF
Convention



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THE WORKER



PRESIDENT
RANDY MARLER

President's Message

Sisters and Brothers,

In a world that often seems divided, it is essential to pause and reflect on the importance of solidarity. Solidarity is not just a word; it is a powerful force that brings people together, uniting them in a common purpose and creating positive change. It is an expression of empathy, compassion, and collective responsibility. Now, more than ever, solidarity is needed to tackle the challenges we face.

Solidarity is the cornerstone of social progress and justice. When we stand together, we amplify our voices and increase our impact. It is through solidarity that marginalized voices are heard, injustices are exposed, and the foundations for a more equitable society are built. By recognizing our shared humanity and joining forces, we can address systemic issues, challenge oppressive systems, and advocate for the rights of all.

Solidarity also plays a crucial role in effecting positive change on a global scale. The challenges we face today, such as climate change, poverty, and inequality, require collective action and collaboration. By pooling our resources, sharing knowledge, and working together, we can address these pressing issues and build a sustainable future for future generations.

In our increasingly interconnected world, we have the opportunity to demonstrate solidarity in countless ways. We can volunteer our time and skills to our union, or the many organizations we work with that are working towards positive changes.

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We can engage in dialogue and actively listen to those whose experiences differ from our own. We can support businesses and initiatives that prioritize organized labor and environmental responsibility. We can educate ourselves and others about the struggles faced by marginalized communities. No matter how small, each action contributes to a collective movement for a better world.

As we navigate the challenges and complexities of our time, let us remember the power of solidarity. It is important to remember that solidarity is not just an abstract concept; it requires action. It involves actively supporting and uplifting one another, advocating for justice, and standing up against injustice. Solidarity means recognizing and using our privileges to create a more inclusive society. It is about amplifying marginalized voices and fighting for their rights.

Together, we can build a future rooted in compassion, justice, and equality. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder, united in our resolve to create a world where everyone can thrive.

In solidarity,

Randy Marler

President, IAFF L29

THE MONTH AHEAD

Public Safety Committee Meeting	07/03
Union Meeting	07/11
Safety Committee Meeting	07/14
Labor Management	07/27

Local 29 Executive Board

- President: Randy Marler - L4D - PresidentIAFFL29@gmail.com (509)220-8926
- Vice President: Lee McNamee - L4A - VicePresIAFFL29@gmail.com (509)280-7489
- Treasurer: Kirk Griffith - E14C - TreasurerIAFFL29@gmail.com (509)869-1044
- Secretary: Bill Grummons - E3A - SecretaryIAFFL29@gmail.com (509)939-5275
- SAFO VP: Dan Renner - BC1D - SafoL29@gmail.com (509)389-0038
- SFFBU VP: Sean Golladay - L1D - BuvpIAFFL29@gmail.com (509)991-5909
- SIA VP: Matt Meeker
- E-Board: Eric Staggs - E15B - (503)559-9826
- E-Board: Mike Walker - E1B - (509)432-1497
- E-Board: Mike DeLaMatter - L4C - (509)844-8713
- E-Board: Ryan Davis - Q11C - (509)710-1793
- E-Board: Corey Newman - E1D - (509)808-1556
- WSCFF 9th District Rep.: Jeff Wainwright - 9thdist@wscff.org

From The VP's Desk:



VICE PRESIDENT
LEE MCNAMEE

Hello Brothers and sisters,

We have just returned from the WSCFF 84th annual convention! This year's convention was held in the beautiful Wenatchee valley and was hosted by Local 453. I would like to use my space this month to report on my experience in the newly formed Municipal Locals Committee. This is one of three new committees designed to give a platform for locals with unique interests and challenges to come together and help guide the business of the state council. The other two being the Federal and Industrial Locals committee and the Fire District and RFA Locals committee. While all of us have many similarities throughout the fire service and the state as a whole, each group has many challenges that are unique to their particular type of organization.

I had the honor of chairing the committee, which was a first for me in this format and a great learning experience. The committee was comprised of brothers and sisters from other municipalities around the state. Brother Renner was on the committee with me as well as representatives from Vancouver, Olympia, Seattle Fire Chiefs, Everett, Bremerton, Bellingham, and Richland. We discussed many of the issues we face as municipal fire departments. Items such a taxing structures and limits, competing with other city departments for general fund dollars, growth and infrastructure challenges and many others. It is very interesting to hear the stories from our counterparts and how similar they are to ours.

With this being the first meeting of the committee, we spent a fair amount of time discussing a basic framework around what we thought as group we should focus our efforts on this convention and moving forward. We invited our WSCFF legislative liaisons Bud Sizemore and AJ Johnson to come in and talk with us about what types of things might be realistically obtainable within the legislature. We discussed a myriad of topics anywhere from single city RFA's, self-insured cities with third party administrator's vs State L&I, Fire Benefits Charges and other fees as funding sources, per capita minimum staffing language based on NFPA 1710, earmarking a portion of state/federal funds that cities receive for homeless shelters to the fire department based on the drain on FD resources. They were able to provide some guidance and a little bit of reality check for some of the ideas that were discussed, but the conversations gave us some good information to bring back to our home locals for future efforts.

One of the issues that was identified as an emerging threat, is what we believe to be an increase in assaults and the threat of violence to firefighters and EMS providers. While not unique to just municipal fire departments, it seems that it may be more prevalent in the bigger cities with denser populations and other factors such as large, unhoused populations, mental health provider/treatment shortage, the opioid/fentanyl crisis and recent changes in use of force laws for police. An idea was formed to create a resolution to start tracking data on the number of assaults and threats of violence towards fire fighters and EMS personnel. The city of Seattle was able to make changes their municipal code to give the police some additional latitude in removing/arresting individuals that interfere with fire and EMS personnel. The thought was to direct the WSCFF legislative team to pursue funding to start tracking this data. The data could be very useful to shine a light on the problem and inform our elected officials and policy makers of these additional threats. We drafted a simple resolution that was kept purposefully broad to start this process statewide.

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The resolution was ruled to be outside the scope of our committee, and we ended up with more questions than answers. Mostly about how it would be collected, over what time period and what specifically would be done with it. While the committee decided to withdraw the resolution, we felt that this data could be useful and hope to find an alternate path to bring it forward in the future.

In Solidarity,

Lee McNamee (509)280-7489
vicepresiaffl29@gmail.com



SECRETARY
BILL GRUMMONS

From The Secretary:

Brothers and Sisters,

Members of your executive board traveled to the WSCFF Convention last week, and we had a very productive time working on our committees and developing relationships with fellow union leaders from across the state.

I was assigned to the Constitution and Bylaws committee, and we worked on 6 different resolutions. This committee was focused on using precise language so that the WSCFF Constitution and Bylaws would effectively communicate the intent of the words they contain. I truly enjoyed the work that we did on this committee, and I found that it fit my OCD nature quite well.

This was my first convention, and it was pretty amazing to witness so many locals come together to work collaboratively on behalf of union firefighters from every corner of our great state. I am very thankful for the opportunity, and I am excited for the work that our State Council is doing.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this role, and please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Bill Grummons
SecretaryIAFFL29@gmail.com
509-939-5275



TREASURER
KIRK GRIFFITH

From The Treasurer:

We are still under contract to sell the old union hall for \$630k. We are hoping to close by late summer if everything goes well. We have been under contract in the past only to have the buyer back out so we are cautiously optimistic on this one.

We had a successful time at WSCFF Convention. I was fortunate enough to work on the Legislative Committee. I learned a lot from the State Council's legislative team about what works and what doesn't when bringing issues to our state legislature. It was also interesting to learn how our desires can help labor groups across the state and also how sometimes our goals could inadvertently effect other labor groups in a negative way so we need to be collaborative. Convention was also a great opportunity for Local 29 to build relationships with other Locals and learn what challenges they are facing so that we can be prepared when they pop up here. WSCFF dues will be increasing from \$25.85 to \$27.46 this fall mainly due to a CPI increase.

Our Trustees Will Logan, Nick Ulowetz, and Spencer Stocking completed our annual internal audit in May. A huge thank you to these guys for stepping up to ensure our union dollars are spent wisely and recorded properly. We have been making the push to have our Trustees more involved throughout the year rather than just an annual audit, this stance mirrors how the IAFF has been increasing the roles of the trustees. I have attached their audit report for your review.

There are dozens of checks written to members over the past year that have still not been deposited. Many of them were issued in October of 2022 as retro dues reimbursement checks, so please deposit these before your bank no longer accepts them.

Enjoy your summer!

Kirk

2022 LOCAL 29 TRUSTEE AUDITOR'S REPORT**AUDIT DATE: 5/11/2023****PRESENT: WILL LOGAN (L29), NICK ULOWETZ (L29), SPENCER STOCKING (L29)****ABSENT: MIKE KULSRUD (SAFO), UNKNOWN (SIA L29)**

Kirk Griffith was present at the union hall while Logan, Ulowetz, and Stocking conducted the audit of 2022 financials and transactions. Below are what was found, along with several recommendations. Once again, the tax returns have not yet been completed by the accounting firm, which makes it impossible to complete an accurate Trustee Report for the IAAF International by the end of June.

Recommendations:

1. As we suggested in previous years, the CPA firm should be able to complete the annual tax returns in a timely manner. We recommend working with them to complete them by the filing deadline and not file extensions every year. The IAAF report is supposed to be turned in to the International within 180 days of the end of the fiscal year. If Anastassi Moore and Martin can't accommodate, another firm should be engaged.
2. Continue to resolve the issue of outstanding checks to certain members for payment for union trades.
3. Consider emailing minutes from E-board minutes to the Trustees so that votes for expenditures for donations and political contributions can be seen in a timely manner. It would be nice to compare budget-to-actual for such spending. We believe that Trustees have already been invited to attend E-board meetings, but we may not always be able to attend.
4. Continue to aggressively market the old union hall for sale. The commercial real estate market is weak at this time and decisions may have to be made with regard to a lower than expected sale price to move on and lower monthly expenses.

Overall, the 2022 audit revealed no major issues, with the exception of the lack of timely work by the accounting firm.

Please let us know if there are questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Will Logan

Nick Ulowetz

Spencer Stocking

Convention Report

By Justin Freeman

Local 29 members,

I recently enjoyed the opportunity to attend the 84th annual WSCFF Convention in Wenatchee as a delegate along with our local Union leadership, and I'd like to take a moment to report back.

I have immense pride in the fact we were the 29th local to join the IAFF. We have such a rich history of fighting for labor rights in our community, in the state of Washington, and in our country. It's important to remember our history and keep up a level of action and activation that honors the hard work and achievements of previous members.

Our membership in this local and the work we strive to accomplish within the Washington State Council of Fire Firefighters is truly democracy in action. Our voice as a municipal department in the state council has been strategically preserved by our leadership with multiple committee seats and a platform to stand up for our issues. I was seated on the EMS committee, and we were able to produce a resolution that went to the floor of the convention, was voted on, and passed. This resolution was related to private hospitals in the state restricting access to pre-hospital providers for training. Our resolution provides the WSCFF power through legislative or administrative action to ensure us access to train at Level 3 (or higher) trauma certified hospitals. This may not be a problem we are currently facing in Spokane, but others are experiencing road-blocks and fees from their local hospitals for training access and continuing certification. If it is a problem for someone else in the state, it's probably not long before we see it too.

But the most engaging, educational, and important moments during my time in Wenatchee didn't occur while sitting in committee. The incredible people we work with and our strong community bonds will always inspire us to push forward. I ask and encourage our newest members to step up and get involved. Phone-banking and door-belling for our political allies, attending union events, new member or educational conferences, working a union trade, or simply talking with a retired member or friends and family about labor issues. Everything helps, and the contributions we each make have impacts far beyond our walls.

Stay healthy and strong,

Justin