



Upcoming Union Events in "The Month Ahead"

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# THE WORKER



**PRESIDENT**  
RANDY MARLER

## President's Message

Sisters and Brothers:

Next week our Union will ask you to endorse the next Mayor of Spokane. This race is unique from our other political endorsements. In the Mayor's race, the Executive Board that you elect interviews each candidate for political office, but in this race, we only get to recommend an endorsement to the membership. Ultimately, we collectively decide on this race, as our membership has directed us at a past union meeting for how Local 29 endorses our Mayoral candidate. The Executive Board makes this decision in all other races, mainly because we do the interviews, interact with the candidates and incumbents, and are democratically elected by you to do the work to support the needs of the entire membership.

We recommend an endorsement of Lisa Brown for our next mayor and would appreciate you taking the time to vote to support the recommendation or choose something else.

Let me start with the general reasons why we engage in politics and why we should engage in this race.

**Worker Representation:** We aim to ensure that our local government addresses your needs, concerns, and working conditions. Endorsing candidates who support our interests can help ensure that we have a voice in the political process.

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**Policy and Legislation:** Our elected officials can influence policies and regulations directly affecting our working conditions, safety standards, and compensation. By endorsing a candidate who aligns with our views on issues such as equipment funding, staffing levels, training requirements, and workplace safety, we can help shape favorable policies.

**Collective Bargaining:** We engage in collective bargaining to negotiate contracts that determine our wages, hours, benefits, and working conditions. Endorsing sympathetic candidates can lead to more favorable bargaining outcomes. Candidates we support are more likely to support fair compensation and better working conditions.

**Job Security:** Job security can be affected by budget decisions made by local governments. Candidates who prioritize public safety and are willing to allocate resources to the fire department will help ensure stable employment and sufficient resources for firefighters.

**Community Safety:** We are essential to public safety. Candidates we endorse often demonstrate a commitment to community safety, emergency response, and disaster preparedness. We aim to promote policies that enhance overall public safety by supporting such candidates.

**Mutual Support:** Endorsements are a form of mutual support between us and the candidate. Candidates who receive endorsements from us often reciprocate by advocating for our interests in local government and policy discussions.

**Campaign Resources:** We can provide campaign resources such as volunteers, donations, and advocacy efforts to our endorsed candidates. This support boosts a candidate's chances of winning the election, and in turn, the candidate may be more inclined to support our unions' priorities once in office.

**Networking and Influence:** Endorsing candidates allows us to establish relationships and build influence within the local political landscape. This influence has been leveraged to advance our goals and protect all our members' interests.

It's important to note that while our Union endorses candidates, individual union members have varying political preferences. Local 29 endorsements reflect the collective decision of our union and members based on the candidates' alignment with the union's goals and priorities.

Lisa has a long history of supporting firefighter issues during her time in our Washington State Legislature. Highlights include:

- Sponsored and passed the law (SB 6418) that authorizes the formation of fire protection districts in any area of the state, including cities.
- Led the passage of SB 5326, which created the ability to establish regional fire authorities.
- Led the passage of SB 6470 that Authorized a city to impose a benefit charge for fire protection services if the city or town is annexing all or part of a fire protection district.
- Led the passage of ESHB 1295, which removed barriers to the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems.
- Led the passage of HB 1080, which allowed impact fees to be spent on all fire protection facilities.
- Led the Senate passage of a law increasing benefits to survivors of public safety employees who died in the line of duty EHB 2519

Thank you for taking the time to understand our political process. I hope we have your trust to support the candidate we recommend, Lisa Brown, and continue strengthening our Union and our careers.

In Solidarity,

Randy Marler



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**LEE MCNAMEE**

# From The VP's Desk:

Brothers and sisters,

I hope you all are getting some time with your families and enjoying these last few weeks of summer before everybody goes back to school. Although I am ready for the heatwave to be over, I am going to miss some of the summertime activities. It was nice to see the great turnout for the Local 29 night at the Indians game. It is important for the Local 29 family to be able to spend time together outside of the work environment.

We had a labor management meeting recently and were able to move forward on a few items and hopefully put some others to rest. I know it has been very frustrating for everyone with the uncertainty hanging over their heads regarding the paramedic redeployment plan, but we do not have any additional information at this point. I have heard all sorts of conjecture, rumors, and misinformation out there surrounding this situation. The department has been through several versions of ALS deployment models over the last 30 years. The biggest difference this time, is the amount of change happening simultaneously. I am not sure that anyone fully understands the amount of second and third order effects that could result from the proposed plan. This will not even be able to be calculated until they decide on what exactly the plan will entail and begin the process. If you have questions, please reach out to any of your Local 29 principal officers, executive board members or your station rep. We may not have all the answers, but we can work on getting them.

Myself, President Marler, Treasurer Griffith and BUVP Golladay are attending the IAFF John P Redmond Health and Safety Symposium/Dominick F. Barbera EMS Conference next week. This is an incredible conference dedicated to members health and safety in addition to advancements in emergency medical response in the US and Canada. This is a great educational opportunity and I look forward to reporting on the classes that I attend, and I hope to see you all at the September Union Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

In Solidarity,

Lee McNamee (509)280-7489

[vicepresiaffl29@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresiaffl29@gmail.com)

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## THE MONTH AHEAD

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**IAFF Redmond  
Symposium**

08/21-08/24

**Union Meeting**

09/12



## From The Treasurer:

**TREASURER**  
KIRK GRIFFITH

Local 29 had a great night at the Spokane Indians baseball game earlier this month. We had about 100 attendees and it was fulfilling to see not only our members but also our families come together. I believe that enhancing opportunities for us to come together will make us stronger. We have been through tumultuous times with COVID and now we are getting close to the end of a hiring blitz (we've hired over 100 new firefighters in the past 2 1/2 years). Any opportunity that we have to build and expand relationships across this job I believe to be very beneficial. Be on the lookout for more events in the future.

We are hoping to have the old union hall officially sold in September. The Executive Board is working towards long-term plans for financial sustainability and enhancements for our new union hall. When/If we officially close on the sale of the old hall we will work to finalize some of the plans and share with the membership what we are planning.

We are in need of some new merch in the Local 29 Swag Shop. If you have a design you'd like to see on a shirt or hat, please submit it.

When you log in to your Local 29 account please update your current address.

Marler, McNamee, Golladay, and myself will be attending the IAFF Redmond Symposium next week. The focus at Redmond is Health, Safety, and Fire/Rescue Tactics. Thank you for your continued support of these educational opportunities. We are looking forward to bringing back some great information to keep our job healthy, safe, and most importantly ass-kicking.

Kirk



## From The Secretary:

**SECRETARY**  
BILL GRUMMONS

Brothers and Sisters - In addition to the mayoral endorsement vote, you will be receiving a survey next week regarding a virtual option for our monthly union meetings. Your participation in the survey would be greatly appreciated so that your e-board can gauge the level of interest in this option. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in this role. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!

Bill

[SecretaryIAFFL29@gmail.com](mailto:SecretaryIAFFL29@gmail.com)

509-939-5275

# Legal Defense Fund

By Executive Board Member Mike DeLaMatter

Your executive board is considering the recommendation of a referendum vote of the body to change the contribution amounts for the legal defense fund. This fund pays for everything we use our lawyer for, which includes things as small as getting an opinion on language in an agreement with the city, or as big as defending a member from discipline or termination.

The political climate has a huge impact on how much your union spends on legal defense. With Mayor Mary Verner and Chief Williams we spent an average of \$483/month, however, with Mayor David Condon and the end of Chief Williams and beginning of Chief Schaeffer we spent \$9,377/month. In times of serious legal incidents, anywhere from 25-45k was spent in one month.

The reason we are considering this is twofold:

1. In early 2013 our legal defense fund was running low (152K) and a motion was made to increase our contribution to \$30/member/month, which would decrease to \$15/member when we reached \$300k, and to stop contributions at 350k. We have reached the threshold to decrease to \$15/member. The process to change everyone's contribution is a good time to evaluate if this is still a responsible funding amount.
2. Several things have changed in the 10 years since the motion was made. Inflation is about 30% over this period of time. We have more members that this account may be called upon to protect, although also more members paying into the account. We are also going into a new political unknown with possibly a new mayor and or chief in the next few years.

The proposal from the eboard is to change the contributions to \$20/member/month with no minimum or maximum. This would fund the account at about 7,000/month. The idea that we hit a threshold where we shut off contributions is impractical and irresponsible, this is our war chest and the only way we can protect ourselves and each other.

If you have any further questions please contact an eboard member

Mike DeLaMatter

## Local 29 Executive Board

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