



UNION SPOTLIGHT

AFT Washington, AFL-CIO

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Winter 2011



Newest local to join AFT
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Clover Park Technical College Professional Staff pictured in front row are Janet Holm, Bargaining Committee; Carol Orr, Negotiations Team; Valerie Sundry-Thorp, Bargaining Committee; and Sean O'Conner, Negotiations Team. Back row: David Stickland, Vice President; Brandon Rogers, President. *Photo by Merrilee Miron*

All board positions up for election

At our annual convention in May, elections will be held for candidates who are interested in serving on the **AFT Washington Executive Board**. So far, the following candidates have announced their intent to run for re-election:

President: **Sandra Schroeder**

Vice President for Higher Education Classified Personnel: **Mark Daniels**

Vice President for Community College Council: **Tom Gaskin**

Vice President for School Related Personnel Council: **Todd Hahn**

Vice President for Paraprofessional Classified Personnel: **Janet Morgan**

Vice President for 4-Year Council: **Bill Lyne**

Vice President At-Large Pos. 2: **Barbara Randall-Saleh** and **Janet Watson**

Vice President At-Large Position 3: **Lila Harper**

Vice President for Legislative Affairs: **Phil Jack**

Secretary: **Karen Patjens**

Treasurer: **Karen Toreson**

Vice President, Legal Defense: **Margaret West**

All positions are open for election. See banner on right for a complete list of positions. If you are interested in running for election, **please submit your notice of candidacy to Elizabeth Ferrell-Gray**. Elizabeth can be reached at eferrell-gray@aftwa.org or **206-432-8088**.

Important convention deadlines

It's that time of year again (how fast time flies!) that we gear up for our annual convention. This year the AFT Washington Annual Convention will be held **May 13-14** at The Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel in Wenatchee.

Each local will receive a "Convention Call" the week of March 14. The packet will include an agenda, delegate credentials, and reply forms which must be returned and post-marked no later than April 23.

Other important **deadlines** to note are:

4/11: Cut-off to reserve hotel rooms under block of rooms held by AFT Washington.

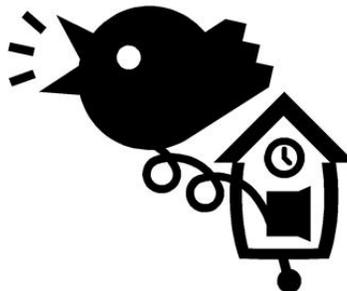
4/13: Changes to bylaws must be received.

4/23: Nominations for officers must be received if made by petition.

4/23: Resolutions due.

5/3: Per capita must be paid to AFT and AFT Washington if more than 60 days in arrears.

If you have any questions, please contact **Elizabeth Ferrell-Gray** at 206-432-8088 or eferrell-gray@aftwa.org or **Sylvia Watson** at 206-432-8084 or swatson@aftwa.org.



AFT Washington Executive Board

President

Sandra Schroeder

Vice President At-Large Pos. 1

Karen Strickland

Vice President At-Large Pos. 2

Barbara Randall-Saleh

Vice President At-Large Pos. 3

Lila Harper

Vice President for Community Colleges Council

Tom Gaskin

Vice President for School Related Personnel Council

Todd Hahn

Vice President for 4-Year Council

Bill Lyne

VP for Legislative Affairs

Phil Ray Jack

Vice President for Higher Ed Classified Personnel

Mark Daniels

Vice President for Paraprofessional Classified Personnel

Janet Morgan

Vice President for Legal Defense

Margaret West

Vice President for Technical Colleges

Gary Neill

Vice President for Human Rights

David Ortiz

Vice President for COPE

Vacant

Secretary

Karen Patjens

Treasurer

Karen Toreson

Vice President for Special Projects

Marci McLaughlin

Retiree Chapter President

Ross K. Rieder

Parliamentarian

K. Ann McCartney

Meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of the month except for summer months. Board members are elected to two-year terms.

AFT Washington represents over 6,000 members in early childhood education, K-12, and higher education in Washington State and is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, which represents 1.4 million members nationwide.

Union Spotlight Editor, Sylvia Watson
206-242-4777 ext. 8084 Toll free: 1-866-99-AFTWA
swatson@aftwa.org

President's Column



Wisconsin on my mind

This Spotlight issue shows the wide range of our members and their activities. AFT Washington has changed greatly in recent years, improving programs, increasing membership, and involving more people in our work. Like other public employee unions, ours is proactive, visible, and engaged. Our members, their locals, and this state federation do important work in our schools and in our communities.

That's why I have watched the events in Wisconsin with a mixture of fear, shock, and pride.

Governor Walker leveled the most fearful threat any union leader can imagine: the murder of the entire organization. It is important to realize Walker doesn't want just to abolish bargaining rights—one of the fuels of union work. He wants to disconnect the air—payroll deduction. If tomorrow your dues could no longer be easily transferred to AFT Washington, we would run out of money before we could set up a different system of collection—billing you directly—and would never receive the same amount as now. Some, if not all, of our staff would go; our political program would go; this publication would go. Nothing you have thought of as your union would remain except our spirit as we demonstrated.

It is hard to believe that that could happen here. We still have a Democratic majority in the legislature, we have a Democratic governor, and we have a large and active labor community.

Before you sigh in relief though, know that last year Democrats held the majority in the Wisconsin legislature with a Democratic governor. To add to that trickle of fear you just felt, remember that next year we will vote for a new governor with a strong Republican candidate already posed to run. All representatives and half of our senators will be running for office. If we do not work hard, after next November we could be in the same position as Wisconsin.

I was shocked when events erupted there. It came so fast, like an unexpected windstorm. It seemed nothing could stop that bill. During the first few nerve-wracking days, AFT deployed a dozen people to help in Madison, since we were seeing, essentially, an unnatural disaster. I expected to hear the worst every hour. But then the streets stayed full of our union brothers and sisters, and the Democratic senators left town.

No one who understands the forces at work in this country could help but be proud of the people in Wisconsin. They are standing up to one of the worst abuses of power we've seen since the illegitimate start of the Iraq War. Vilified, ordered to give up income, threatened with the loss of their rights, they kept marching, never knowing if the next

day the National Guard might arrive, raising a specter from a hundred years ago when the Guard was often used to break unions. As Stephanie Taylor wrote in *Salon*, "Gov. Walker's action is significant because it is an expanded interpretation of the power of the executive office. This would introduce once again the idea that a governor could use the military to impose his personal, political will on a state."

I do not know how things will end in Wisconsin. I do know this is a turning point for the American Labor Movement. If Walker backs down, we will win a victory that will shine through the country. Our union brothers and sisters and all who support them have already changed the dialogue about unions and about public employees. We must and will continue it.

Member workshops coming this Spring

On Saturday, April 2, the AFT Washington Retiree Chapter will present a workshop on retiree lifestyles, with the aim of helping prospective retirees think about what retirement might be like. The workshop will be conducted by **Robert Petersen** and **Roger Carlstrom**.

Then, on Wednesday, May 18, in conjunction with the chapter's annual meeting, **Ann McCartney**, **Norm Lindquist**, and **Don and Sandi**

cont'd on pg. 6

Community responds to immigration raids

During 15 years of running a food bank, AFT member Phil Garrison had never before seen an immigration sweep take place in the agricultural and college town of Ellensburg. It took him and everyone else in the community by surprise.

Last month, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, simultaneously raided several places around Ellensburg and eventually rounded up 30 people and took them away in handcuffs. Most of them were women who had children.

Most were living in one of two trailer courts just outside the town. Several were at their workplace when they were taken away.

The sweep separated many families, leaving young children from three weeks old through teen years to be cared for by other family members. An elderly couple was left to care for an infant and a six-year-old while their mother was gone. Children were whisked out of school by frightened parents.

Some of those taken away by federal officials are married to U.S. citizens, have green cards, or are parents of children born in the United States.

“All will have their day in court,” Phil said, “unless they agreed to be deported.”

As the director of APOYO, a foodbank that serves low-income families of whom 90 percent are from Mexico, Phil and the staff and board have been actively involved in helping these families.

Phil has attended several community meetings and met with aides for Senators Cantwell and Murray. He has helped provide bail for some of those incarcerated through contributions raised by the community. APOYO is distributing food and supplies to the families as well as financially helping the families who are left with rent, lights, and utilities since their family member lost their job as a result of the immigration raid.

Many families left the area. For those who remain, Phil says they have to
cont'd on next page.



Fire closes child care center

For 18 years, Loon Lake Childrens Center has been a fixture of the Loon Lake community, a small town 32 miles north of Spokane.

The center's owners, Leona and Russ Adams, are dedicated members of Washington Educators in Early Learning, an organizing project of AFT. All eight of their staff members belong to WEEL, and Leona is a regional representative on the WEEL executive board.

Late at night on January 8th, a fire started at the center. A passerby noticed the flames and called for help. Fortunately no one was at the center.

By the time the fire trucks arrived, the two infant rooms were engulfed in flames; water and smoke damage destroyed the rest of the center. As yet, no cause has been found.

WEEL members across the state want to lend a hand, both financially and spiritually, to their healing as they determine how to recover and again serve their community. A number of centers held bake sales to benefit the Adams and their staff.

If you want to help get them back on their feet, please contact WEEL at **206-432-8070** or **weel@aftwa.org**.

— *Connie McKenna, AFT*

Members design own solution for preschoolers' first school bus ride



Chet Munro, Linda Stevenson, and Bob Coleman with AFT Renton Classified Local 6367

Before the little ones even start kindergarten, AFT Renton Classified member **Linda Stevenson** visits the Hillcrest Early Childhood Center to get them ready for riding the big yellow buses.

Linda, a bus driver and trainer with the Renton School District, works with a number of students who have special needs including some who are autistic. At Hillcrest she helps the preschoolers learn how to put on a safety vest that will secure them to seatbelts. They often practice on a stuffed animal first and then themselves.

Normally there are no seat belts on school buses but federal law requires special need students to have them.

She knows how important it is for them to feel safe and comfortable after Hillcrest staff experienced the trauma of one preschool student with special needs who was

completely scared when he had to start riding a school bus. Linda wondered what else she could do to help the teachers and aides at Hillcrest work with the kids to make it easier for them.

That's when she had an idea: to build a simulated bus seat that teachers could use to teach them in their classrooms.

So she asked two mechanics who work on the district's school buses if they could help her. Seeing her sketchy drawing on a napkin, AFT Renton members **Chet Munro** and **Bob Coleman** went to work.

"Chet and I scrounged around the shop and found materials to make a mock bus seat," said Bob.

They used some discarded bench seats, made the flooring, and mounted it on wheels for easier transport between classes. They

installed seat belts and a mounting strap for extra safety. Because of the professionals they are, Chet and Bob braced the seat so it would be sturdy and tested it.

Bob and Chet dedicated their lunch and break times to work on the mock bus seat.

Speaking of dedication, Chet has worked for the Renton School District 28 years, Bob for 23 years, and Linda for 29 years.

Hillcrest preschoolers are now using the seat and, thanks to the caring, creativity, and work of Linda, Bob, and Chet, they won't be afraid to ride the bus when they start kindergarten.

Immigration raids (cont'd from pg. 4)

find someone they know to contact these families because they are scared to answer their doors.

Phil Garrison, an English professor at Central Washington University, founded APOYO – Allied People Offering Year-round Outreach – in 1999. APOYO means support, aid, or protection in Spanish.

CWU students volunteer at the organization and earn credit hours. He and Veronica Acevedo, Vice President of APOYO's board of directors, received AFT Washington's Human Rights Award in 2007 for their work in the community. For more information or to help with the response to the immigration raid, contact **Phil Garrison** at **509-929-4112** or **garrisop@yahoo.com**.

New Labor Research Center co-located with community college

By moving from The Evergreen College last summer, the Washington State Labor Education and Research Center took teaching principles beyond the campus



borders to a new working-class community. The Labor Center is now located at South Seattle Community College's Georgetown campus. More than 2,000 apprentices from over 25 different trades attend classes at that campus.

Sarah Laslett, the center's director, said, "The potential is much greater because the apprenticeship programs are here and we will be able to hook up with the coordinators, bring students in, and capture the flavor of the community college system."

The labor center will continue to offer statewide training and outreach to those who want to learn about labor history, worker rights, and union leadership.

"I think this is a good fit because of the close ties with apprenticeship and labor," said **Gary Oertli**, President of South Seattle Community College, at the

center's recent open house. "The labor center will expose young apprentices to unions," he said.

According to Oertli, when **Lynne Dodson** was the faculty union president, she planted a seed with him as she told him that he really needed to support the center's relocation. **Jeff Johnson**, President of the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), was also involved in making it happen.

While the space is bigger than what it was before, WSLC President Jeff Johnson announced that the State Labor Council has committed to a three-year funding campaign to support the center and encouraged others to get involved. AFT Washington made a \$1,000 donation.

"We are building a labor movement every single day," said Jeff. With this move, the staff at the labor center will be able to work with instructors of all kinds to integrate labor into curriculum.

Their new web site is at <http://georgetown.southseattle.edu>.

Photo above left: Lynne Dodson, Sarah Laslett, and Jeff Johnson. Below: Part of the center's library.



Education Scholarships

Three \$1,000 education scholarships are available to members and the family or dependents of AFT Washington members in good standing. Qualified applicants must plan to attend a higher education institution at the AA or BA level during the 2011-12 academic year for the purpose of obtaining a degree or certification.

The **AFT Washington/Schwerin Campbell Barnard Iglitzin Lavitt Scholarship** program began in 2006 when the principals of the Seattle-based labor law firm approached us to partner with them to improve access to higher education and awareness of labor rights among our members and their families. 2011 marks the fifth year that these scholarships have been awarded. So far 16 students have benefitted.

The **application deadline is April 4, 2011**. Eligibility requirements, application guidelines, and the **scholarship application can be downloaded from our website at wa.aft.org/scholarships**.

For more information, contact **Elizabeth Ferrell-Gray** at **206-432-8088** or eferrell-gray@aftwa.org.

Spring workshops (cont'd from pg. 3)

McVay will conduct a workshop on **Earthwatch Institute**, an environmental organization.

Both workshops will be held in the Puget Sound area. The chapter will send out information to local presidents as it becomes available for distribution to their members. Look for more details soon!

Local member tapped to attend national Good Jobs, Green Jobs conference

AFT National recently sponsored **Joe Gryniuk**, President of Lake Washington Technical College Federation of Teachers Local #3533, to attend the Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference in Washington D.C., February 7 – 10, 2011.

“The conference was a clearing-house of many of the luminaries of the Green movement,” said Gryniuk.

More than 2,500 people attended the conference from all over the country. Notable speakers included **David Foster**, Executive Director of the BlueGreen Alliance; **Leo W. Gerard**, International President of United Steelworks; **Lisa P. Jackson**, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; **Gene Sperling**, Director of the National Economic Council and Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, as well as many other distinguished speakers.

According to Gryniuk, “The passion that these people have toward developing a solid Green workforce is contagious!”

“The inspiration provided by the keynote addresses and the strategies presented in the workshops really hit home,” he said.

“This is non-partisan stuff. Anyone with a conscience has to be on board with these initiatives — initiatives that put people to work in good jobs and requires skill-sets that are based on environmental awareness and good stewardship of our natural world,” said Gryniuk.

In attending a pre-conference presented by AFT, many of the topics

*Joe Gryniuk,
President
of Lake
Washington
Technical
College
Local 3533.*



addressed were centered on trends in Green Technical Education. Gryniuk hopes to work collaboratively with his local administration to help promote many of the initiatives addressed.

“The Administration here at Lake Washington Technical has supported faculty professional development in this area 100 percent!”

Gryniuk hopes Lake Washington Technical College can be a model for other schools in the Pacific Northwest as it relates to developing relevant curriculum that supports these initiatives.

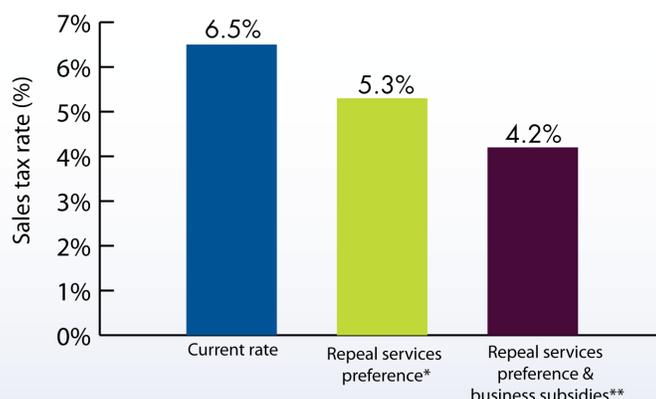
For more information, visit www.greenjobsconference.org.

— Submitted by Joe Gryniuk

Because of tax loopholes for some, the rest of us pay more in taxes.

Overall tax rates must be higher due to tax expenditures

Possible sales tax rate reductions; costs offset by repealing various tax preferences.



Source: Budget & Policy Center calculations of data from DOR.

*Sales tax exemption on personal and professional services. Assumes the B&O rate for services is reduced to the retailing rate.

**All business tax incentives and preferences.



A Union of Professionals

AFT Washington
AFL-CIO

625 Andover Park W.
Suite 111
Tukwila, WA 98188

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 17, at Noon

Rally for Closing Tax Loopholes
Steps of the Capitol Building
RSVP Richard Burton at rburton@aftwa.org or 206-225-0621

Saturday, March 19, 8 am to 2 pm

Professional Development Conference for Classified and Early Learning Members
Giaudrone Middle School, Tacoma
Inservice Pay for eligible TFP members. STARS Credit.
Registration: wa.aft.org/calendar (click on conference title)

Friday and Saturday, May 13-14

AFT Washington Annual Convention
The Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel
Information: Elizabeth Ferrell-Gray, 206-432-8090

front cover

Latest local to join AFT

On December 6, 2010, the Professional Staff of Clover Park Technical College were notified they were granted a charter as Local 6431 with the AFT, AFL-CIO. The official date of charter will go back to August 1, 2010.

The new local has been working hard to establish local governance, build membership and prepare for their first contract. They began negotiating on February 11 and are excited to get the last step accomplished in the unionizing efforts they began two years ago.

Congratulations and welcome to AFT, brothers and sisters!