

# WASHINGTON State Employee



From Wenatchee (including Transportation and Home and Community Service members) to Shoreline and the fight to save Fircrest School, we're in the fight of our lives for our contracts, public services and the safety net.



Toolkit for action on pages 3-5

We've got a fight on our hands. It's time to

# STAND UP FOR WASHINGTON

## Special report

### An era of scorn for our government workforce

First of a new feature with news reports and columns from our national union AFSCME

Special from AFSCME President Lee Saunders

Back in 1932, a group of Wisconsin state employees banded together to defend their rights as civil servants, pushing back against a corrupt spoils system that would reward friends of politicians with important public-service jobs that demanded nonpartisan professionalism.

That was the beginning of the formation of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. I am proud to serve as president of AFSCME, where we represent 1.6 million men and women -- everyone from bus drivers to sanitation workers to emergency medical technicians -- who never quit working to serve and strengthen their communities.

Over the decades, even as our union has grown, we have had to contend with adversaries trying not just to hold down our members' pay and benefits but who fundamentally denigrate and disrespect their work. That reflexive scapegoating of public workers has now reached a fever pitch. Around the country, right-wing politicians, underwritten by corporate inter-



“Public employees don't expect to get rich, but some basic respect for the important jobs they do isn't too much to ask. “When you attack public workers, entire communities suffer.”

-- AFSCME President Lee Saunders

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ests, are going after the rights and the economic security of those who work for the public good. They're not just trying to knock us down; they want to take us out.

#### Attacks at the state level

Nowhere has that been more true in Wisconsin, which since 2011 has been in the vanguard of the effort to take away public employees' hard-won employment rights. But what Wisconsin's legislature and governor did was just the beginning. Last month in Iowa, Republican Gov. Terry Branstad signed a bill gutting government employees' collective bargaining rights. The new law, which AFSCME's Iowa affiliate is challenging

in court, means that most of Iowa's state and local public workers now have the right to negotiate only their base wages -- and a limited one at that. They no longer can bargain over other benefits or terms of employment such as health insurance, transfers and layoffs, or evaluation and grievance procedures.

Illinois' Republican governor, private-equity billionaire Bruce Rauner, also has made it a top priority to kick public employees to the curb. Aiming to dictate rather than negotiate, Rauner has tried to force-feed our state members an unacceptable contract that includes a four-year wage freeze and a 100 percent increase in health-care

premiums.

Now the presidency of Donald Trump has ushered in a fresh wave of withering attacks on public employees at the federal level. Just days after taking the oath of office, Trump imposed a federal hiring freeze. And a new bill moving through Congress would eviscerate civil-service protections, making it easier to fire career government employees without due process. The president's proposed fiscal year 2018 budget is so austere that it would, according to the Washington Post, expedite "a historic contraction of the federal workforce."

See SPECIAL REPORT, page 5

# WFSE/AFSCME CONVENTION HONORS 2017

## Nominations now being accepted for three awards that recognize service of members above and beyond the call of duty

### Award nomination criteria

#### Medal Of Valor Awards

**Medal of Valor Awards recognize WFSE/AFSCME members who have demonstrated bravery and valor.**

Recognition may be given to a member where the evidence presented to the Medal of Valor Committee shows that he or she demonstrated bravery and/or heroism by knowingly performing conspicuous acts of courage under life-threatening circumstances so that others might live.

Use this form to submit nominations for all three awards: Medal of Valor, Meritorious Service and Lifesaving

In no case shall recognition be given where it appears that the action performed was merely in the performance of normal duties.

**Two Medal of Valor Awards may be conferred.** One award is earmarked for a **Public Safety Officer member** of Council 28 and one is open for a **non-Public Safety Officer member** of Council 28. Nominees must have demonstrated bravery and valor in a specific situation or situations between Aug. 3, 2015 and Aug. 15, 2017.

The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 15, 2017.

#### Meritorious Service Award

**Meritorious Service Award recognizes a member's significant or outstanding act of service of exceptional character.**

Recognition may be given to a member where the evidence presented to the Medal of Valor Committee shows that a significant or outstanding act of service of exceptional character was performed. The action taken need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self, but should exhibit behavior far above and beyond the expectations of their position in the service of others.

In no case shall recognition be given where it appears that the action performed was merely in the performance of normal duties.

Nominees must have demonstrated this meritorious service in a specific situation or situations between Aug. 3, 2015 and Aug. 15, 2017.

The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 15, 2017.

### WFSE/AFSCME Medal of Valor/Meritorious Service/Lifesaving Awards Combined nomination form STATEMENT OF FACTS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
Person submitting nomination Name of nominee

for the Medal of Valor, Meritorious Service and/or Lifesaving Award.

Nominee's address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Best phone#: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of local: \_\_\_\_\_ How long a member: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Current job class: \_\_\_\_\_

INDICATE WHICH AWARD YOU'RE SUBMITTING NOMINEE FOR:

Medal of Valor - Public Safety Officer  Medal of Valor - Non-Public Safety Officer

Meritorious Service Award  Lifesaving Award

Description of why nominee should be considered for the award(s). Include specific example(s) of valor, meritorious service or lifesaving between Aug. 3, 2015 and Aug. 15, 2017 (criteria on this page; attach additional sheets if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form as completely as possible.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominator's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Person submitting nomination

Nominator's best contact information: PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed nomination forms to: WFSE/AFSCME Medal of Valor Award Committee,  
1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.  
Nominations must be received by Aug. 15, 2017.

#### Lifesaving Award

**Lifesaving Award to recognize a member who took action during an emergency with the intent of saving a life or helping the injured.**

Recognition may be given to a member where the evidence presented to the Medal of Valor Committee shows that he or she took action during an emergency with the intent to save a life, or help the injured. The committee will give consideration to

**These awards are overseen by the WFSE/AFSCME Medal of Valor Committee.**

These awards may be conferred every two years at the union's biennial state convention. This year's awards will be handed out at the WFSE/AFSCME Convention Oct. 12-15 in Seatac.

The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 15, 2017.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Locals, individual members and staff may nominate union members.

**NOMINATION:** Submit written nomination (you may use the printed nomination form on this page) with the information listed on the nomination form printed on this page.

Send completed nomination forms to: The Medal of Valor Award Committee, 1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.

resourcefulness and to demonstrated skill in rescue methods.

In no case shall recognition be given where it appears that the action performed was merely in the performance of normal duties.

Nominees must have demonstrated this lifesaving service in a specific situation or situations between Aug. 3, 2015 and Aug. 15, 2017.

The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 15, 2017.

Nominations must be received by Aug. 15, 2017. All written nominations must include a statement of the required facts listed on the nomination form on this page.

**REVIEW:** The Medal of Valor Award Committee, made up of members appointed by the WFSE/AFSCME president, will review the nominations and select the recipients of the Medal of Valor, Meritorious Service and Lifesaving awards. Please fill out this form as completely as possible.

**AWARD:** The awards will be presented at the WFSE/AFSCME Convention Oct. 12-15 in Seatac.

**ONLINE:** Download this form or submit nominations online at: <http://wfse.org/medal-of-valor-award/> Online nominators will receive a confirmation email.



#### Washington State Employee

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# PUBLIC SERVICERS MARCH

opeiu8/afcio





# Stand Up for Washington

**#InvestInWA**

We rushed this issue to press early to try to get it to you to use on the April 19 Stand Up For Washington Statewide Day of Action and beyond.

**Too much is at stake.**

At press time, the Senate Republicans had shown no signs of backing off of their bad budget. They reject our contracts and raises, increase our health costs, close programs and institutions and shred the safety net.

**We've prepared a quick chart at right showing the stark differences** between the negative Senate Republicans' budget and the positive House Democrats' budget. ▶▶

**The Senate Republicans will use all the tools at their disposal** to force the House to move toward a compromise budget that is closer to the Senate GOP plan. If that happens, state employees, working families and public services will be thrown under the bus.

**It doesn't have to be this way.**

WFSE/AFSCME members continue to step up in a big way to move the dial toward the House Democrats' version of the budget:

• If you get this newspaper before Wednesday, April 19, find an event in your area. Go to [wfse.org](http://wfse.org) and click on:



• Use the cut-out poster signs we've included on pages 3 and 4 for April 19 or other events at your worksite.

• Tell your story and challenge legislators to "Walk a Day in My Shoes." Those videos from dozens of grassroots member actions around the state are tearing up social media. See these videos on a special Facebook page we set up: <https://www.facebook.com/PublicServiceMatters/>



**It's about moving the dial**

There's much to do. Because if we don't, the dial will move toward the negative Senate Republicans' budget that balances the budget on the backs of public services and state employees.

**SPECIAL REPORT, from page 1**

Trump's proposed cuts to non-defense discretionary spending make sequestration look generous. Low-income housing, environmental protection, scientific research and international diplomacy all would take major hits, affecting the livelihoods of both federal employees and the people they serve. The Labor Department, for example, would be cut by more than one-fifth, with huge implications for job training, wages, occupational safety and more.

**Privatization is the wrong way to go**

And then there is the issue of ill-advised privatization. The Obama administration, after careful study, announced last summer that the federal government would no longer contract with private prison companies. But the new attorney general, Jeff Sessions, reversed that decision last month, even though private corrections corporations are a cancer on the criminal-justice system, contributing to the mass-incarceration epidemic and operating prisons with deplorable safety

**A WFSE/AFSCME STAND UP FOR WA Fact Sheet**



**We have a fight on our hands**

**to fund our contracts, raises, health benefits and public services**



**We have a fight on our hands.** Which budget plan will be the final budget? The Senate Republican plan that rejects our raises, increases health costs, cuts services and employees? Or the House Democrats' plan that funds our contracts, holds the line on health costs, makes needed revenue changes and boosts many other areas?

**This fact sheet is a quick summary so you can see what's at stake in this fight.**

**A tale of two budgets**

**House Democrats**

(ESSB 5048, as passed House 3/31/17)

**Funding our contracts**



**Nahaci Torres-Moyer**  
(Local 443 Labor and Industries),  
3/27/17 hearing.

*"Please support the House proposed budget, which fully funds state employee contracts and addresses the recruitment and retention issues in state government. It will make Washington a safer state to work and to do business in."*

**Public services?**

- Funds our negotiated and ratified General Government, Higher Education and Interpreter contracts.
- In General Government and Higher Education, that means across-the-board raises of 6% over two years starting July 1, 2017. Approves negotiated improvements to annual leave (in SHB 1434 and SHB 1521).
- Targeted raises for more than 10,000 to address recruitment and retention and other issues for dozens of job classes. Funds the negotiated \$12 minimum wage
- Holds the line on our health costs, per our negotiated contracts
- Supports public services. Saves Fircrest School. No massive ward closures at Western State. Adds positions in Children's, Corrections, Ecology, elsewhere. Invests in Higher Education. Increases cash assistance grant levels for TANF. More support for preventative maintenance in state Parks. Funding in Commerce to reduce homelessness.

**Senate Republicans**

(The bad version of 5048 that passed Senate 3/24/17)

**State workers lose out in GOP budget**

Republicans would reject 6% pay hike

BY MELISSA SANI, [msani@thecorenews.com](mailto:msani@thecorenews.com)  
It's not the first time legislators have proposed a pay increase while offering flat wages. And just like before, TO DICTATE THE TERMS OF NEGOTIATIONS IS BLATANTLY ILLEGAL.  
Tim Welch, spokesman for the Washington Federation of State Employees  
The Olympian 3/26/17

- Rejects all our General Government, Higher Education and Interpreter contracts.
- Rejects all raises and leave improvements. In General Government and Higher Education, illegally dictates renegotiations on pay (no more than the equivalent of \$500/yr.)
- Rejects all targeted raises. Refuses to address recruitment and retention crisis. Rejects minimum wage.
- Cuts funding for our health benefits. Forces reductions in "actuarial value" of health plans: we'd pay more for premiums, co-pays, deductibles.
- Does not support the services we provide. Closes Fircrest School. Closes wards at Western. Cuts in Corrections, Ecology, elsewhere. Shreds the safety net by cutting help for the poor, the homeless, single mothers, public safety, housing, essential needs and much more.

Sources: WA LEAP Committee <http://fiscal.wa.gov/BudgetOBills.aspx>; WFSE; The Olympian

**Call 1-800-562-6000.** Tell legislators to support ESSB 5048 as it passed the House.

measures, sanitary conditions and rehabilitation records.

Meanwhile, Trump and his team have taken every opportunity to smear those who have devoted their careers to the common good and the public interest. We have seen this in his tweets attacking the intelligence community and judges and in his disparagement of data generated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. We have seen it in his campaign promise to "remove bureaucrats who only know how to kill jobs"; in Newt Gingrich's call for "straight-out war" on the civil service; and in top White House adviser Stephen K. Bannon's talk of "deconstruction of the administrative state."

Public employees don't expect to get rich, but some basic respect for the important jobs they do isn't too much to ask. Instead, in too many states and localities from coast to coast -- and now more than ever at the federal level -- their hard work is rewarded with pettiness and scorn. Not from their neighbors, but from politicians with an agenda.

When you attack public workers, entire communities suffer -- their schools, hospitals, roads and more. To undermine law enforcement, social workers and 911 dispatchers, and their counterparts at every level of government, is to hurt the citizens who depend every day on the services they provide.

# HOWARD JORGENSEN ORGANIZING AWARD

Nominations are now being accepted for the Howard Jorgenson Organizing Award to recognize a WFSE/AFSCME member who has demonstrated outstanding skills in the area of organizing.

The award is named after its first recipient, Howard Jorgenson, WFSE/AFSCME president from 1972 to 1997. Jorgenson passed away in 2016.

The Jorgenson Award is conferred every two years at the union's biennial state convention. This year's award will be handed out at the WFSE/AFSCME Convention Oct. 12-15 in Seatac.

The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 15, 2017. For more, see the details below and in the nomination form at right.

**ONLINE:** Download this form or submit nominations online at: <http://wfse.org/organizing-award/> Online nominators will receive a confirmation email.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Locals, individual members and staff may nominate union members, shop stewards, statewide and local officers, staff and other activists. Nominees must have demonstrated outstanding skills in the area of organizing.

**NOMINATION:** Submit written nomination (you may use the printed nomination form at right) with the information listed on the nomination form printed at right.

Send completed nomination forms to: The Howard Jorgenson Organizing Award Selection Committee, 1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.

Nominations must be received by **Aug. 15, 2017**. The award will be presented at the WFSE/AFSCME Convention Oct. 12-15 in Seatac. All written nominations must include a statement of the required facts listed on the nomination form at right.

**REVIEW:** A committee, appointed by the WFSE/AFSCME president, will review the nominations and select the recipient of the Howard Jorgenson Organizing Award. *Please fill out this form as completely as possible.*

**AWARD:** The award will be presented at the WFSE/AFSCME Convention, Oct. 12-15 in Seatac.

## WFSE/AFSCME Howard Jorgenson Organizing Award Nomination Form

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
Person submitting nomination Name of nominee

for the Howard Jorgenson Organizing Award.

Nominee's address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Best phone#: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of local: \_\_\_\_\_ How long a member: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Current job class: \_\_\_\_\_

Union offices held: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Description of why nominee should be considered for the award. Include example(s) of: organizing activities; building unity within a bargaining unit or Local Union; improving the union's community image; encouraging other members to participate; working for group welfare and union's goals, etc. (attach additional sheets if needed):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form as completely as possible.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominator's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's best contact information: PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed nomination forms to: WFSE/AFSCME Award Committee,  
 1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.  
 Nominations must be received by Aug. 15, 2017.

## ROSELLA CHARVET LEADERSHIP AWARD

Washington Federation of State Employees/  
 AFSCME Council 28 • AFL/CIO

### ELIGIBILITY:

Locals and individual members may nominate union members, shop stewards, statewide and local officers, staff and other activists. Nominees must have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills.

### NOMINATION:

Submit written nomination (you may use the printed nomination form at right) with the information listed on the nomination form printed at right.

Send completed nomination forms to: The Rosella Charvet Leadership Award Selection Committee, 1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.

Nominations must be received by Aug. 15, 2017.

All written nominations must include a statement of the required facts listed on the nomination form at right.

**ONLINE:** Download this form or submit nominations online at: <http://wfse.org/leadership-award/> Online nominators will receive a confirmation email.

### REVIEW:

A committee, appointed by the WFSE/AFSCME president and approved by the Executive Board will review the nominations and select the recipient of the Rosella Charvet Leadership Award.

*Please fill out this form as completely as possible.*

### AWARD:

The award will be presented at WFSE/AFSCME's Convention Oct. 12-15 in Seatac.

## WFSE/AFSCME Rosella Charvet Leadership Award Nomination Form

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
Person submitting nomination Name of nominee

for the Rosella Charvet Leadership Award.

Nominee's address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Best phone#: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Local union number: \_\_\_\_\_ How long a member: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Current job class: \_\_\_\_\_

Union offices held: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Description of why nominee should be considered for the award. Include examples of: active union participation building consensus; unity and solidarity; teamwork; inspirational acts; improving union's community image; encouraging other members to participate; defending worker's rights; working for group welfare and union's goals, etc. (attach additional sheets if needed):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form as completely as possible.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominator's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's best contact information: PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed nomination forms to: The Rosella Charvet Leadership Award Selection Committee, 1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.  
 Nominations must be received by Aug. 15, 2017.

# JOB ACTION OF THE YEAR AWARD

## JOB ACTION OF THE YEAR AWARD

Washington Federation of State Employees/AFSCME Council 28 • AFL/CIO

Nominations are now being accepted for the "Job Action of the Year" Award to recognize a WFSE/AFSCME member or members who organized the most creative and effective job action since the last convention in October 2015.

The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 15, 2017.

For more, see the details below and in the nomination form at right.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Locals, individual members and staff may nominate a WFSE/AFSCME member or members who who organized the most creative and effective job action since the last convention in October 2015.

### NOMINATION:

Submit written nomination (you may use the printed nomination form at right) with the information listed on the nomination form printed at right.

Send completed nomination forms to: "Job Action of the Year" Award Selection Committee, 1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.

Nominations must be received by **Aug. 15, 2017**. The award will be presented at the WFSE/AFSCME Convention Oct. 12-15 in Seatac. All written nominations must include a statement of the required facts listed on the nomination form at right.

**ONLINE:** Download this form or submit nominations online at: <http://wfse.org/job-action-award/>. Online nominators will receive a confirmation email.

### REVIEW:

The selection committee will review the nominations and select the recipient or recipients of the "Job Action of the Year" Award.

*Please fill out this form as completely as possible.*

### AWARD:

The award will be presented at the WFSE/AFSCME Convention Oct. 12-15 in Seatac.

## WFSE/AFSCME 'Job Action of the Year' Award Nomination Form

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
Person submitting nomination Name of nominee

for the "Job Action of the Year" Award.

Nominee's address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Best phone#: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of local: \_\_\_\_\_ How long a member: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Current job class: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of why nominee should be considered for the award. Include specific example(s) of creative and effective job actions organized by the nominee (or nominees) since the last convention in October 2015 (attach additional sheets if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form as completely as possible.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominator's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's best contact information: PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed nomination forms to: WFSE/AFSCME 'Job Action of the Year' Award Selection Committee, 1212 Jefferson Street S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501.  
 Nominations must be received by Aug. 15, 2017.

## Scholarship alert: Summer Institute for Union Women

Application deadline: May 15, 2017.

The Summer Institute for Union Women celebrates the solidarity of union women across boundaries of age, race, and nation. Rank-and-file members, staff members, and offi-

cers from across the West including Canada will gather to share strategies, information, experience, and skills. Highlights of the week include in-depth classes to hone skills and deepen knowledge as well as workshops and plenary sessions to examine current issues, ranging from politics, to health care, to international solidarity. This summer the Institute will be held at

Summer Institute for Union Women



most meals) and travel.

To apply, please download the

the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii from June 28 through July 1, 2017.

The scholarships cover the costs for registration (which includes housing and

application form at <http://wfse.org/summer-institute-union-women-scholarship/>, fill it out in full and return it to WFSE/AFSCME Women's/Equal Partners Committee, 1212 Jefferson St. S.E., Suite 300, Olympia, WA 98501 or FAX to (360) 352-7608 by 5:00 p.m. May 15, 2017. For questions on the scholarship, call 1-800-562-6002.

## SHARED LEAVE REQUESTS

**Glenda Turner**, an office assistant 3 with the Department of Corrections in Tacoma and a member of Local 53, has been approved for shared leave. She is a disabled employee who is taking care of a disabled granddaughter. Her granddaughter's medical and educational challenges have greatly impacted her allotted leave. Contact: Diana White at (360) 407-5704 or your human resource office.

**Karen Angel**, a safety and health specialist 3 with the Department of Labor and Industries in Spokane and a member of Local 1221, is still in need of shared leave as she continues her battle with Stage 4 breast cancer. Contact: your human resource office.

**Timothy (Tim) Sharkey**, a social services specialist 3 with DSHS in Clarkston and a member of Local 1300, has been approved for shared leave. He is requesting shared leave to cover the time he will be out for medical reasons. Contact: Joe S. Guzik at (509) 363-3366 or your human resource office.

**Tina Diamond**, a custodian 1 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg and a member of Local 330, has been approved for shared leave. She is requesting shared leave to cover the time she will miss for cancer treatments and during her recovery. Contact: Steve Sarchet at (509) 963-1286 or your human resource office.

**Anita Byrne**, a WorkSource specialist 3 with the Employment Security Department in Monroe and a member of Local 1020, has been approved

for shared leave. She is requesting shared leave to cover the time she misses while she is caring for her seriously ill mother. Contact: Kathleen Young at (360) 902-9538 or your human resource office.

**Toni Mohle**, a Community Corrections officer with the Department of Corrections in the Pierce County Special Needs Unit and a member of Local 53, remains in need of shared leave because of ongoing recovery from surgery. Any donation would be greatly appreciated because she has exhausted all her accrued leave. Contact: Heidi Grace at (360) 407-5753 or your human resource office.

**Terri Madison**, an industrial insurance underwriter with L&I in Tumwater and a member of Local 443, has been approved for shared leave. She is requesting shared leave to cover the time she will be out of office for recovery from

surgery and post-surgical treatments. Contact: Cattlena Nguyen at (360) 902-5679 or your human resource office.

**Patricia Ferguson**, a financial services specialist 5 at the DSHS Columbia River CSO in Vancouver and a member of Local 313, has been approved for shared leave. Contact: your human resource office.

**Mary Lou Torres**, a financial services specialist 4 at the DSHS Olympia CSO and a member of Local 443, has been approved for shared leave. Contact: Anne Marie Bammert at (360) 664-5610 or your human resource office.

**Loretta Gutierrez-Sacks**, a WorkSource specialist 3 with the Employment Security Department in Auburn and a member of Local 304, is in need of shared leave as she recovers from a stroke. Contact: Kathleen Young, (360) 902-9538, or your human resource office.

*To place approved shared leave requests: tim@wfse.org, or Tavie Smith at 1-800-562-6002, or e-mail them at tim@wfse.org or tavies@wfse.org.*

*• Donations of unused annual leave, sick leave or all or part of personal holidays can be made. • In all cases, agencies or institutions must approve requests to donate and receive shared leave.*

## IN MEMORIAM



**IN MEMORIAM:** **Kele Wassum**, an office support supervisor 2 with the Department of Correc-

tions in Tacoma and a member of Local 53, passed away suddenly March 10. Wassum, 51, had been a WFSE/AFSCME member since 1992.



## RPEC CORNER

Online:  
rpecwa.org

## PEBB health insurance after retirement



RPEC out in force at March 21 Senate budget hearing.

Did you know that the state receives \$20 million from the federal government in order to continue to offer health insurance coverage to state employees after they retire and become Medicare eligible?

This money comes to the state from the federal Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS) for providing a subsidy toward Medicare retirees' premiums. These federal dollars have lessened the state's overall costs. But in 2011, the state cut that subsidy from \$183 to \$150 per month, causing the Medicare eligible retirees' share of premium to jump substantially. Since then, many have seen their monthly premiums increased by over \$100 per month. After years of fighting to reverse this cut, RPEC is finally gaining some traction.

The Washington House's budget proposal includes a two-year stepped restoration of the PEBB Medicare subsidy from \$150 to \$183. The PEBB restoration is a huge step forward. RPEC members testified in strong support of the house budget and thanked the budget writers for including the PEBB restoration. The budget proposal now moves onto the Senate. We need to continue our efforts by now focusing on pressuring our state senators to ensure the PEBB Medicare subsidy is included in the final budget.

RPEC thanks everyone who made calls to the representatives supporting the House budget proposal with the PEBB Medicare subsidy restoration. Video of RPEC member testimony is available on our website (rpecwa.org) and on our Facebook page (facebook.com/rpecwa).



## SAFETY CORNER

Thinking about cleaning out those leaf-clogged rain gutters now that winter is on the way out?

Then make sure you have the right ladder for the job.

Between 2005 and 2009 Labor and Industries fielded 9,978 Workers' Compensation claims resulting from ladder falls alone.

Here are some tips:

- Check the maximum load that your ladder can handle, set it up on a stable and non-slippery surface, and inspect your ladder before use for any cracks, dents, bends, or missing hardware before using it.

- Not every ladder is created equal, either. There



Safety doesn't happen by accident

are many different types of ladders, each with its own size, shape and load rating to help you get the job done right. Check the ratings label on your ladder to ensure that it can stand up to whatever work you plan on doing. Remember that a ladder's

maximum load rating doesn't mean your weight alone, but the combined weight of you and everything you're carrying with you, such as tools or building materials.

- Another thing to consider is the material your ladder is made of. A metal ladder may be durable and weather-resistant, but if you're working near a potential electrical source the

ladder could easily conduct electricity, possibly leading to injury from both electric shock and falling. Make sure that the ladder you choose is made of



Safety Corner is a project of the WFSE/AFSCME Health and Safety Committee.



Camp Delany Environmental Learning Center (ELC) is nestled in the Grand Coulee Corridor of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park. Camp Delany is an ideal location for large groups to learn the geology of the area.



**Deadline to register:  
Aug. 21, 2017**



The WFSE/AFSCME Members Only Benefits Committee and the WFSE/AFSCME Statewide Executive Board invite all WFSE/AFSCME members and their families to come to this fun, overnight get-together at one of the most beautiful state parks maintained by members of Parks Local 1466.



WFSE/AFSCME Howard Ocobock Memorial

# FAMILY CAMPOUT

Sept. 15-17, 2017

Camp Delany Environmental Learning Center/Retreat Center

## at Sun Lakes State Park

- Check-in begins on Friday at 1pm.
- Cabins have been reserved. **WFSE/AFSCME will pay the \$11.66 per night camp fee for members; members pay \$11.66 for any family or guests over 3 years of age.** Camp Delany cabins have heating and air conditioning: eight cabins sleep 9; one cabin sleeps 4. There are 3 spaces for dry camping RV - no hook-ups permitted.
- **Non-refundable registration fee of up to \$30 for cancellations after Aug. 22, 2017.**
- Lodge and recreation hall with fully equipped kitchens available for meals. Bring your own food for breakfast, lunch and Friday evening dinner.
- Saturday night BBQ with hotdogs, hamburgers, condiments and chips provided. Each family should bring one main dish to serve eight, plus a salad or dessert.
- What is not provided: sleeping bags or bedding materials; kitchen linens and dishwashing supplies; firewood; first aid equipment; recreational equipment.
- Activities: hiking, horseshoes, volleyball and other field games on site. Swimming, assorted water activities, sightseeing, fishing, Interpretive center, Vic Meyers 9-hole golf course and 18-hole mini golf close by.
- Lakes: 8 lakes within 10 miles for fishing and boating. Be sure to purchase your fishing license.
- Free light show at Grand Coulee Dam on Saturday night.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Tavie Smith at 1-800-562-6002 • tavies@wfse.org

**REGISTER ONLINE at WFSE.org/family-campouts/ or mail this form to WFSE HQ\***

**Deadline to register: Aug. 21, 2017**

*This campout requires a minimum number of campers. In the event the minimum isn't reached, you will be refunded your money.*

*If you register and need to cancel, please do so by the Aug. 21 deadline so those on the waiting list can take your place.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL#: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

How many family members or guests will you be bringing? \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay \$11.66 for each participating family member/guest by Aug 21, 2017. No charge for WFSE/AFSCME member and children under age 3.

Washington Federation of State Employees • AFSCME Council 28 • AFL-CIO • www.wfse.org