

# LOADLINE

A UNION BUILT ON PRIDE, SKILL AND SAFETY



The Official Publication of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 — Fourth Quarter 2017



**FUNDING PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS**  
**AK ID WA: THE NEVER-ENDING STORY**



**Daren Konopaski**  
Business Manager

### Brothers & Sisters:

I hope that, for those of you not yet blessed with retirement, you were blessed with a busy construction season. Although the work situation is slowing due to the weather changing, I'm pleased to report it is still continuing to remain fairly busy for this late in the season. Recently, I have seen several all-calls-out for hands. Nothing that makes me happier than a healthy construction economy with plenty of work for our members.

I am grateful for your confidence in our team with your recent unanimous approval of our slate of qualified and competent leaders for Local 302. I can assure you that we do not intend to rest on our laurels and we'll continue to work harder than ever for the membership. We have many tasks yet to complete and improve upon for the continued growth and prosperity as a union. From continuing to push for improvements and possible expansion of our training schools, increased organizing efforts, and more member services to support you, our goal is to ensure that you have the skills and tools that you need to be a successful (and gainfully employed) operating engineer.

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**Negotiations update:** As many of you know, we are going to be very busy at the bargaining table in all three states over the next year. Because the *Loadline* is becoming increasingly popular amongst our friends on the management side of the table, I'm not going to describe the details of our bargaining strategy here. I will say that it is extremely important for you to timely respond to the bargaining survey that you will receive. We need to hear from all of you as to what the priorities are for the membership in order to frame our proposals and strategy. It's no secret some of the other crafts have, at least financially, already fared pretty well in their Washington negotiations given the projected growth in construction and workforce demands. While each negotiation is different given the expected work outlook in each of the states, I am confident that with your support we will be successful. As always, our goal is for healthy, stable, and cost-conscious pension and healthcare plans in addition to fair and sustainable family-supporting wages.

Let me touch briefly on the national political scene. It is my opinion that with most of the media reports that you have to take them with a grain of salt. From a jobs perspective (as well as a poke at some of our environmental adversaries) I am pleased to see discussions are supposedly underway about drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Pebble Mine. However, I'm somewhat dubious whether any of these projects are truly possible in light of the dramatic and rapidly shifting political posturing from the current administration. While these topics certainly stimulate media excitement, the practical reality of moving them forward will take bipartisan leadership and compromise before these or similar projects ever become a reality that our members will go to work at.

While the current political pendulum has swung to the right and we appreciate that job creation appears to still be on the forefront of the agenda for this administration, this is not our first rodeo. We must also be prepared to fight against any attacks on prevailing wages, union rights, and worker protections.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: partisanship is not where we cut our teeth. We support politicians that support us. In Alaska and Washington, we have made great strides in developing and nurturing partnerships and relationships on both sides of the aisle. In "right-to-work" Idaho it will be a much longer road in achieving similar bonds with politicians and appointed officials. Meanwhile, we are not deterred and we are pushing to grow our membership numbers through the efforts of a full time organizing representative in this state. Convincing Idaho workers already covered by a collective bargaining agreement to join the union is no small task when they automatically receive the wages, benefits and services that members

already get. We've begun the tough conversations with these workers so they will understand that if they don't pay their fair share, we may not stick around. While this may be tough love, we find it is starting to work and our membership numbers are slowly increasing.

**Update on the Local 370 merger:** As I told you last year, this is a four-part plan. The first phase was the administrative reorganization efforts which have proven successful and we are well on our way to running seamlessly from the perspective of the members and contractors that work in District 5 (formerly Local 370) and the other districts. We have many success stories about members and contractors that are enjoying the ability to work throughout our jurisdiction with limited interruptions because of processing the paperwork.

The second phase is the merging of the training schools which is still underway and has proven to be more difficult than originally anticipated. While I'm confident these hurdles can be overcome, the process is still on-going.

Phases three and four, which include the health and welfare plans, are a bit more complicated and will take a lot more time to evaluate the impacts. Merging of the health plan should provide us with more capacity and increase bargaining leverage with health care providers. We are still evaluating if and how this will or can be done. These phases can only move forward if we can ensure that they are financially practical and prudent for the entire membership. Until that time comes, we will not move forward with any pension merger that will adversely affect any of the plans' participants.

Speaking of phases, I wanted to wish a heartfelt congratulation to Curt Koegen as he enters the retirement phase of his life. Curt has been instrumental in bringing this merger to fruition and its successful implementation. We wish you and your family well Curt and I expect to see you at the retiree lunches!

In closing, I cannot stress enough the importance of your vote and being an active participant in Local 302 and in your local communities. Our survival and continued prosperity depends on remaining strong as a membership, connected to our communities and electing those that will fight for our priorities: family-sustaining wages, union rights, worker protections, and more jobs for our members. Be safe out there. I hope to see you at the Christmas parties.

In Solidarity,

Daren Konopaski  
International Vice President and Business Manager

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**COVER PHOTO:**

Darrel Call / JR Hayes  
Job in Sammamish, WA

**DISTRICT 5**

Spokane office  
509-624-5365



**Curt Koegen**  
District Representative

With mixed feelings of regret and joy, I think it's time to announce my retirement effective December 1, 2017.

It has been a true honor and privilege to have worked for the members of Local 302 as the District 5 Representative and as the Business Manager and Business Agent for Local 370 over the past 25 years. I have been through times I would not wish on anyone and have had times that were rewarding in every sense. All the decisions that were made were with the intentions of doing the best I could for the membership.

Since the merger, I have gained even more confidence in Daren Konopaski, our Business Manager. I believe in my heart that he, along with the entire Executive Board, care deeply for all of the Membership of this Local as I do also. He has a tough job. I know because I have been there, although on a much smaller level. I know he does the best he can for you, the membership. Please give him, and the Executive Board, the help and support that you gave me. They have earned it and deserve it.

Because of my confidence in Daren's leadership, it makes me more comfortable in my decision to retire. I know that the Local is in capable hands under the leadership of Daren and the Executive Board.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for the Honor and Privilege of working for you.

In Solidarity,  
Curt Koegen  
District Representative

**DISTRICT 5**

Pasco office  
509-545-1811



**Mike Bosse**  
Field Representative

As the 2017 season winds down, fiscal year 2018 promises to be an interesting one at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Some large projects scheduled but funding is still unresolved. The tank farms will continue to be a major focus and over the next few years, work should be steady for those working there. Across the entire reservation, the crumbling infrastructure has not escaped notice and hopefully upgrades will be made soon.

Stepping aside from Hanford, we've had a record numbers of dispatches and low numbers on the out-of-work lists; it appears next season won't be any different. However, in order to fill these calls we ask you do your part by insuring you keep your training current. Pasco will need NCCO crane operators, NCCO Certified Riggers, operators with current 40 hour HAZWOPER cards, OSHA 10, CDL, and operators with experience in utility work. Please take advantage of the classes offered by the training center so you'll emerge from this winter fully trained and ready.

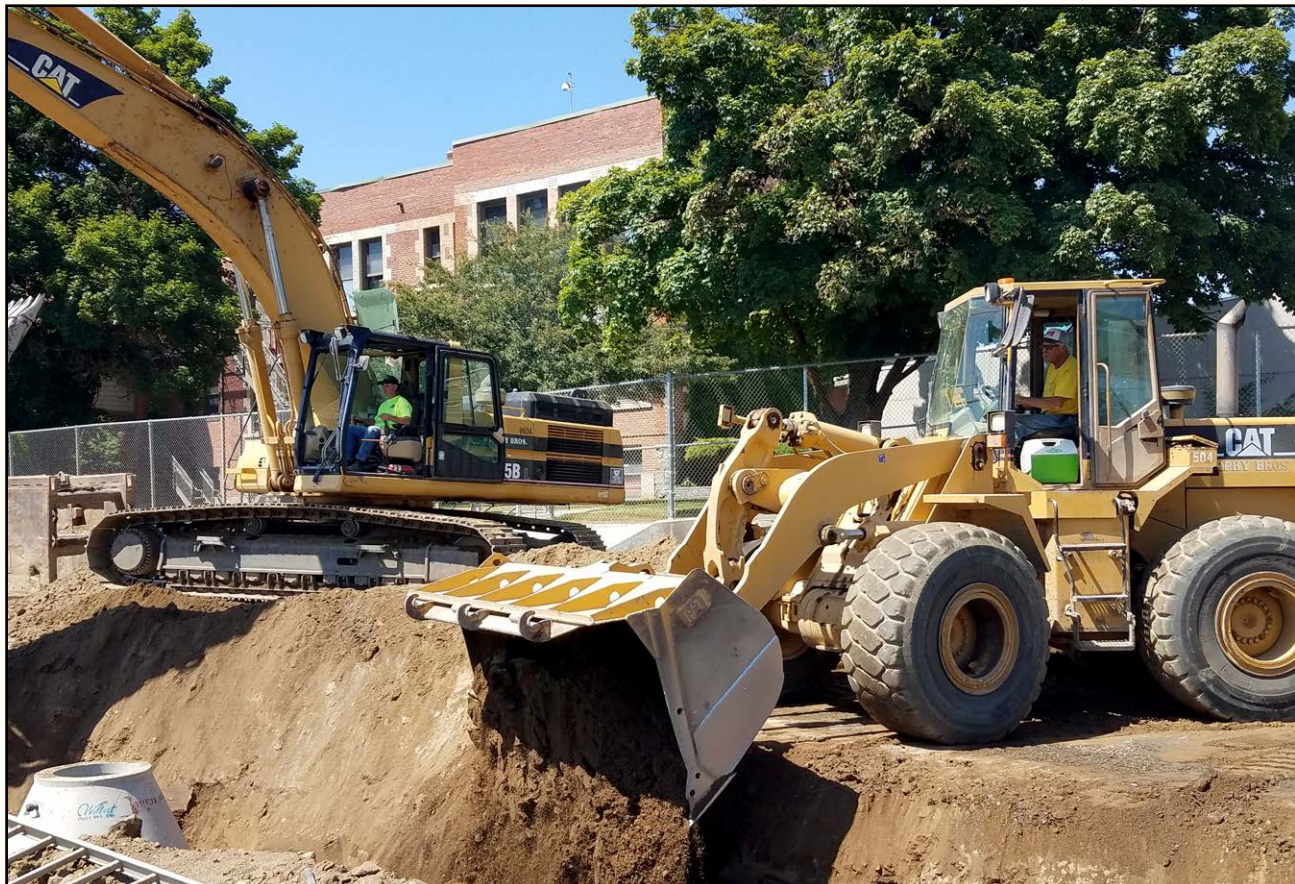
For those of you living in Kennewick, the LINK project will be on the ballot. If it passes, it represents \$45 million dollars of union work right here in town because it will be under a Project Labor Agreement. There are other races on the November ballot and the Freedom Foundation is aggressively trying to get a foothold in our city councils and county commissions. Don't let their name fool you, they are motivated to pass "right to work" in Washington State.

In Solidarity,  
Michael L. Bossé  
Field Representative



*Garco Con. Lower Granite Dam, New Fish ladder.*

*Murphy Bros. 37th Spokane WA. Ronald Schroder, Steve Kobzeff.*



## DISTRICT 5

Spokane office  
509-624-5365



**James Garrett**  
Field Representative

In District 5, our 2017 summer work season was extremely busy. Membership is up and trust hours reported are as well which is good news for Local 302.

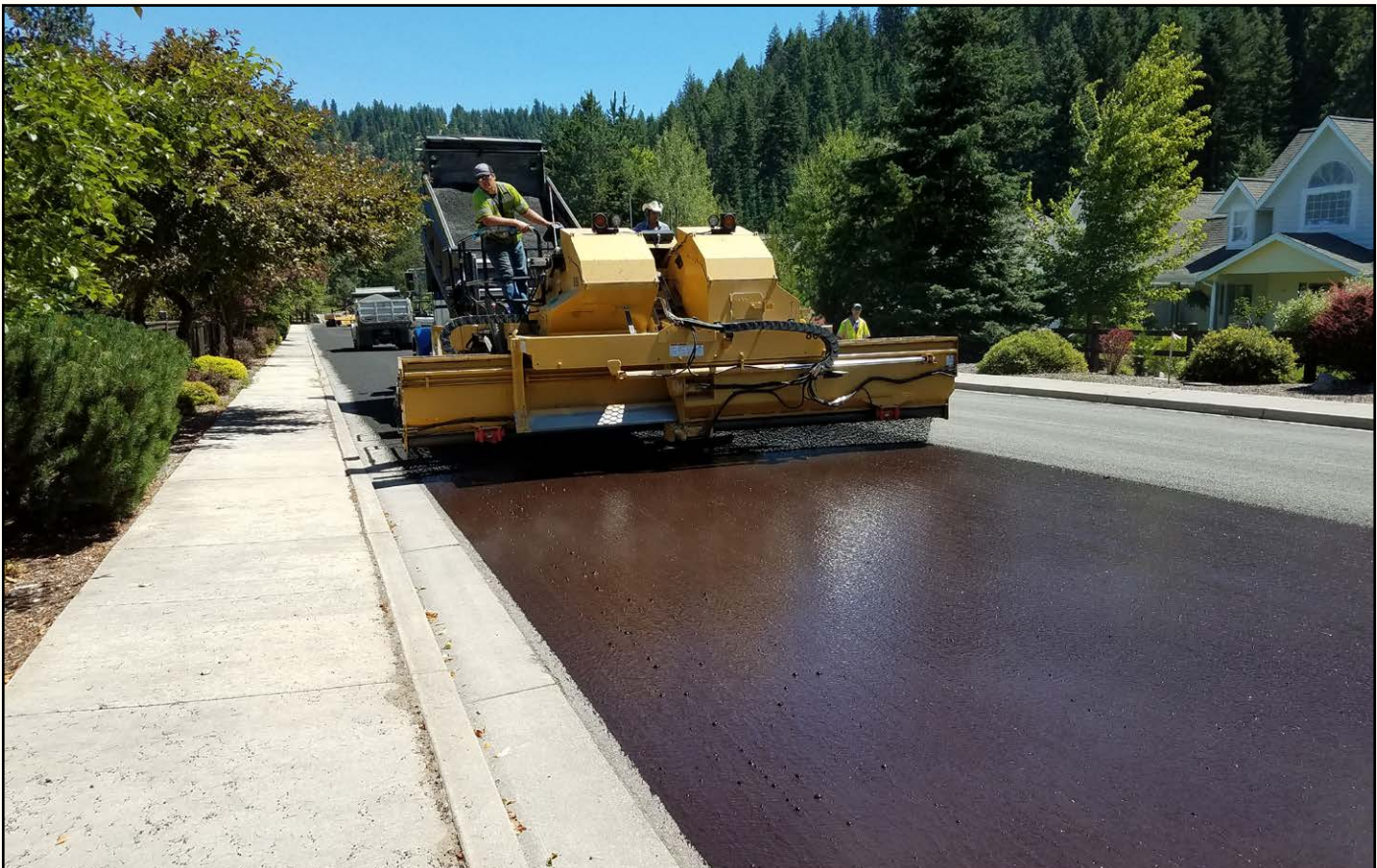
We have a number of members that need to expand their qualifications to meet industry demand; attending training classes will help get you there. Don't forget to sign up for classes as the old year closes and the new one begins. In particular, many members will be seeking CDL training and you should get your name on the list early before these classes fill up. Several crane classes will also be available this winter; we need more members with the Overhead Certification.

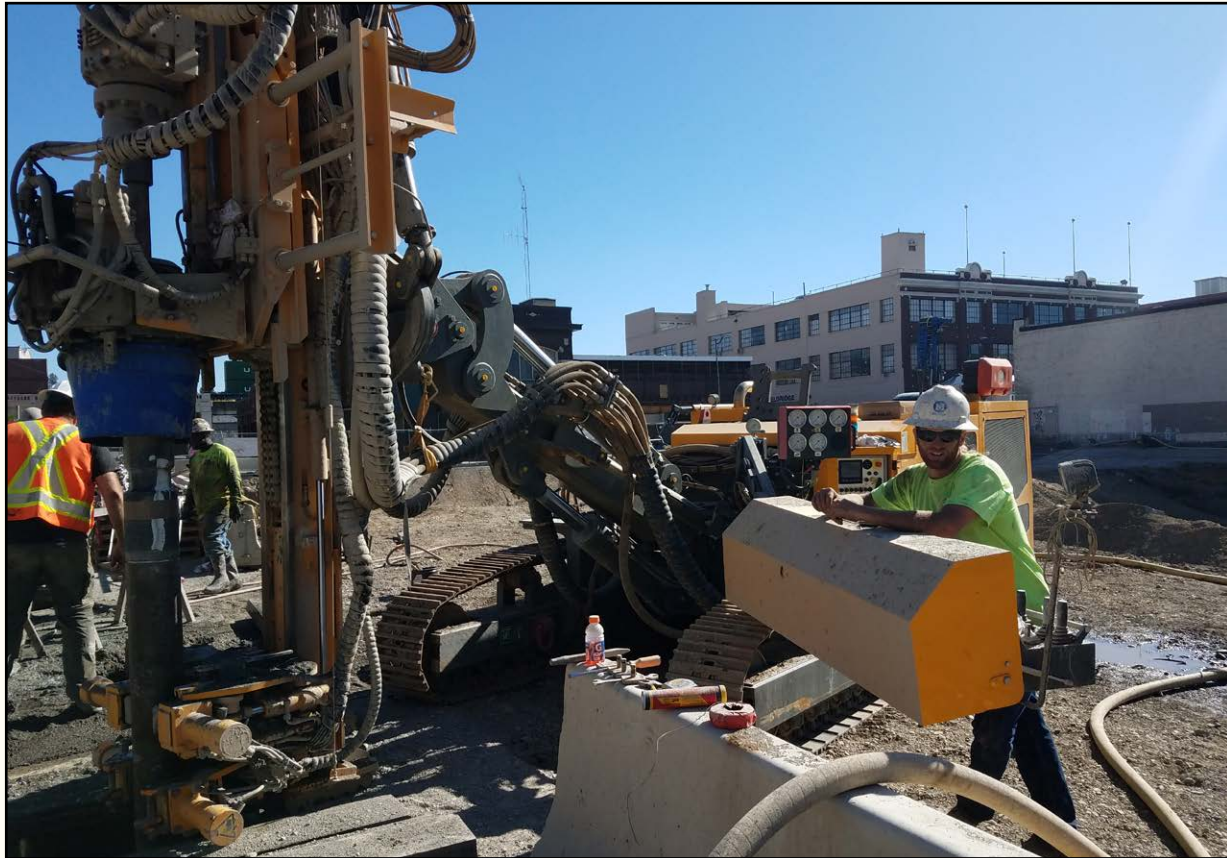
As the seasonal layoff start, please remember to sign the out of work list. It seems like every year I get calls from members who've failed to sign the OWL. If you file an unemployment insurance claim, please be advised that the Washington State Unemployment Insurance office will verify that you are on the OWL. You should check out their web site for a lot of useful information at: <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment>.

Work in the area for next season looks very promising: the US 95 Colfax to Spangle passing lanes project will bid September 27. The US 395 North-South Freeway's next project at the Wellesley Interchange should be coming out for bid soon and another bid should be coming out on US 95 later this year or in early 2018.

In Solidarity,  
James Garrett  
Field Representative

*Poe Asphalt Paving, Hayden Lake ID.  
Dirk Whitmore left new member learning the art of Chip Sealing.*





*Pacific Foundations, Spokane WA. CSO Tank - Tyler Sedge*



*Zetin Construction CSO Tank Spokane WA - Jeff Berger*

## DISTRICT 7

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Lake Williams**  
Treasurer &  
District Representative  
Executive Board

In the Fairbanks district, we're expecting nearly \$375 million in Federal contracts through 2020 at Eielson Air Force Base, another \$250 million through 2021 for the Long-Range Discrimination Radar Complex and Fire Station at Clear Air Force Station and even perhaps missile system construction at Fort Greeley. The good news is that this work will be subject to the Federal Davis-Bacon Act which means prevailing wages and benefits will be paid to all workers, even non-union subs.

We know from experience that many subs pay workers less than the prevailing wage knowing there are never enough investigators watching them. The Fairbanks Building and Construction Trades Council is setting up its own monitoring program to track this problem, to obtain and review certified payrolls, investigate violations and file complaints with both the Army Corps of Engineers and US Department of Labor.

We need your help. Most non-union construction workers aren't shy talking about their wages and conditions if you bother to ask. If they're working on any of these projects, please find out what they're getting paid; are they being paid overtime and fringe benefits? Are they being misclassified as independent contractors? Whatever information you can obtain, pass it on to us and we'll follow-up. We're already working on a case involving demolition contractors at Clear AFS. By policing Davis-Bacon compliance of non-union contractors, we can make sure everyone gets fair wages and that the playing field is as level as possible.

In solidarity,  
Lake Williams  
District Representative

*Wolverine Services, LLC; Mechanic Seth Carre*







*Paving Products Inc; left to right; GF Randy Herrera, Mike Carlson topside, Tim Reese screed*



*Paving Products Inc. Ricky Taylor on the grade tractor*

**DISTRICT 7**

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Avery Thomas**  
Field Representative

First of all, I would like to express my sympathy to all of the families affected by the storms, flooding and fires our country has suffered this past year. I can't begin to imagine the devastation and loss that has taken so much from so many. My heart goes out to all of those affected.

Local 302 members and contractors were busy this summer in all parts of Alaska. Fairbanks city streets and roads along with many areas in interior Alaska all received many repairs and upgrades. At one point or another the Dalton, Parks, Denali and Taylor Highways were all under construction this year. Along with many bridge replacements and repairs our highways, bridges, airports and riverbanks are all getting makeovers of some sort. We had many remote projects underway this summer in places like Galena, Chicken, Newtok, Pilot Station, Saint Michaels, Golovin and Cape Lisburne. Many of

our projects were completed this summer but there will be a few that will pick up where they left off this fall.

As we prepare for another winter ahead, please keep safety on the top of your list. If you have acquired new qualifications or experience over the summer please let dispatch know so that we can add that to your card. Also, if any of your contact information has changed please let us know so we can update your file.

In Solidarity,  
Avery Thomas  
Field Representative

**DISTRICT 7**

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Mark LaFon**  
Field Representative

The majority of our contractors have an incident and injury reporting policy but they are not all the same. I strongly recommend you make sure you are aware of your company's own incident and injury reporting policy. Should an incident or injury occur, follow the policy, report as directed, but take notes of key details like who, what, when, how and, talk to your steward about the incident or injury as soon as possible. These last two steps will help you prepare to answer any questions your employer may have.

Reporting incidents and injuries is not only required by law in general; reporting near-misses, safety incidents and injuries can also help identify job-related hazards and gaps in employer safety programs that other workers may face.

You should also be very familiar with your employer's "lock out, tag out" (LOTO) policy. Unions have fought hard to make these programs mandatory with strong enforcement. If you believe your employer's LOTO program isn't working or deficient, let them know and be part of the solution, not part of the problem

On a different note, I'm pleased to report we have successfully concluded negotiations with Wolf Creek Federal over a three-year agreement. The Company recognized the hard work of the Fort Greely unit and agreed to improve the total package rate with decent annual increases for the duration.

In Solidarity,  
Mark A. LaFon  
Field Representative

**FAIRBANKS DISPATCH**

Winter is fast approaching here in the interior. Keeping that in mind you must be up to date on safety training for almost all North Slope calls. Take advantage of our training being offered and refresh all you certifications before the work season starts. Most contractors are not willing to wait for you to take an 8 hour refresher; they expect you to be ready to go and they are most definitely not going to send you for training on the clock. Don't wait.

I would also like to encourage members who will be in town in December to attend our Christmas party. It's always nice to see everyone and we put out and excellent spread!

The reason we have all worked long hard hours, often away from home, to provide for our families. Enjoy the down time between seasons and cherish your loved ones.

Happy and safe holidays to everyone!

In Solidarity,  
Crystal Tidwell  
District 7 Dispatcher

**DISTRICT 7**

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Crystal Tidwell**  
Dispatcher

I want to send out a big thanks to Jim Sampson, Vince Beltrami, Lake Williams and Doug Tansey for making the Tony Yensen gun raffle-fundraiser a big success.

For those who don't know him, Tony is a thirteen-year Local 302 member who is dispatched as a service oiler on TAPS. In January, Tony was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. When somebody suggested the idea of a gun raffle, I volunteered and immediately called Jim Sampson, former business manager of Laborers Local 959, state AFL-CIO president, Labor Commissioner and director of the Pipeline Training Center. Jim kindly offered to help me explore the legal details of a raffle. Jim called the next day and said Vince Beltrami, current Alaska AFL-CIO president, had agreed to donate two guns and Jim had already arranged for five hundred raffle tickets to be printed. The Building Trades agreed to pick up the cost of printing the tickets and the Central Labor Council generously agreed to let us use their raffle permit.

With this head of steam and the combined effort of many friends, coworkers and family, we sold all the tickets, raising \$10,000 to help Tony and his family in their fight against cancer. Dave Hiland and Alex Marchuck were the raffle winners.

Thanks again to everyone including all those who helped by selling and purchasing raffle tickets. It's amazing what can be done when we work together!

In Solidarity,  
Shawn D. Lowry  
Field Representative

**DISTRICT 7**

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Shawn Lowry**  
Field Representative

## DISTRICT 8

Juneau office  
907-586-3850



**Corey Baxter**  
District Representative  
Executive Board

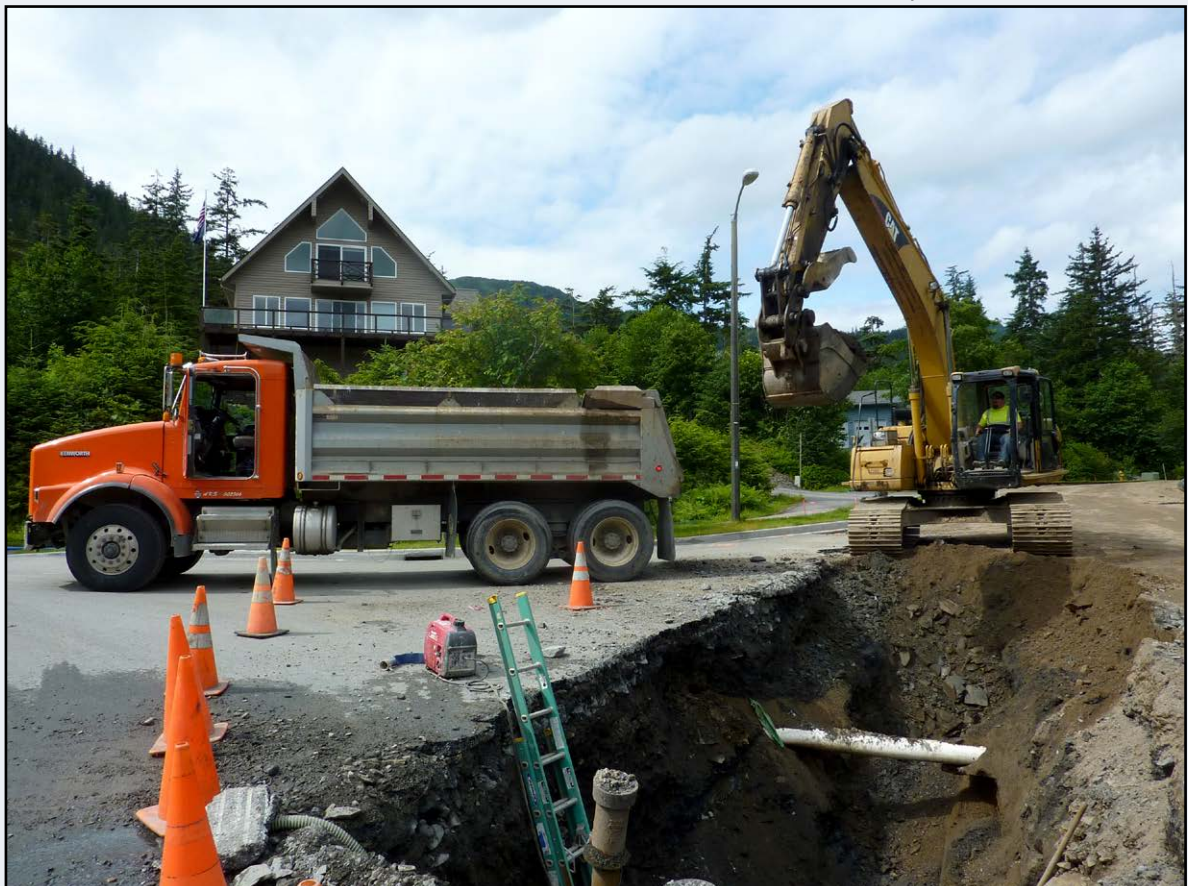
The membership of the union is its lifeblood. Unions have power because they combine the collective strength of a united membership. A single worker standing alone has very little bargaining power.

This collective strength doesn't appear automatically or simply by paying your dues. Bargaining power and union strength happen because union members stay informed and involved with their union. There are many ways you can stay informed and involved and here are just a few:

- Read *Loadline*, and check the Local 302 website, [www.iuoe302.org](http://www.iuoe302.org), for updates. Talk to your co-workers about what you've read.
- Make sure you have a copy of your collective bargaining agreements and bylaws. Familiarize yourself with the important sections, like wages and overtime.
- Attend and participate in your monthly union meetings and get to know members, staff and officers who attend.
- Attend union training sessions when they are offered.
- Whenever you can, wear your union T-shirt, jacket, hat, button or hard hat sticker on and off the job.
- Talk to Local 302 members on the job, particularly new members and apprentices. Welcome them into the union. They can directly benefit from your experiences and knowledge as a 302 member.

In Solidarity,  
Corey Baxter  
District Representative

*Brandon Godkin for Arete Construction.*





*Jeff Brown and Cole Cheeseman for Secor*



*Frank Saranovich for Admiralty Construction*

**DISTRICT 6**

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Jason Alward**  
Vice President &  
District Representative  
Executive Board

Fit for duty exams (FFDE) are a pre-employment physical examination that more and more Alaska contractors are using, including Quality Asphalt, Granite Construction and Anchorage Sand and Gravel. Intended to control workers' compensation and insurance costs, these programs are creating some difficulties for our members. Although this issue came up in our 2015 negotiations, because these are *pre-employment* tests, the employer has no mandatory duty to bargain over them, provided that the FFDE are strictly job-related and do not violate any anti-discrimination laws.

Our 2017 bargaining survey asked how many members actually completed an FFDE—60% of those responding to the question said they had. The survey asked if the FFDE had a negative impact on their employment opportunities—ten percent of those who had an FFDE said it resulted in them being unable to work for the employer requiring the FFDE.

The third question asked for comment about FFDE in general. Almost half of those responding had any opinion or comment about FFDE. Of those who did, about 30% spoke favorably (“people need to be at their best when they are on the job”) and the remainder were negative (“it’s a bunch of BS and just another way of getting rid of the older workers

Because each FFDE program is different as are the operators who undergo the exam, it’s not possible to provide general advice because any individual case will depend upon the specific facts. Our attorney has provided some very general advice to those who may be asked to complete an FFDE.

First of all, make sure you take the FFDE before you go to work, not after you’ve begun working.

Next, if you have a pre-existing injury that is a disability, make sure you point this out in writing before or during the FFDE. Once you do so, under the law, the employer may be required to make a “reasonable accommodation” for this disability.

Be careful but honest about what you disclose in the FFDE questionnaire. Those administering the FFDE will probably spend a lot of time reviewing your answers to see if any may disqualify you from being able to go to work. Dishonesty, if discovered, will very likely disqualify you.

I hope you found this information about FFDE’s helpful and hopefully these programs are an excuse for our members to live a little healthier lifestyle.

Jason Alward  
District Representative

*QAP - O’Malley Road*



**DISTRICT 6**

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Shane Linse**  
Field Representative  
Executive Board

Currently, the Municipality of Anchorage plans a land swap to build a new Health and Human Services building in which the municipality would trade the developer the current Health and Human Services property at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave & L Street in exchange for the construction of a new facility at 3500 Tudor Road. This deal includes thirteen acres at the Tudor property where the developer would construct a retail space, medical offices, a hotel, apartments, and restaurants. Potentially worth around \$180 million dollars, the city would pay virtually nothing except trading the land.

Unfortunately, swaps like these can bypass prevailing wage laws because the amount of government funding falls under the law’s coverage threshold. In Alaska, prevailing wage laws effectively ensure union scale is paid on work subject to the state’s “little Davis Bacon” prevailing wage law.

Fortunately, the South Central Alaska Building Trades Council is working with the Mayor, Assembly and the developer to adopt a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA); CWAs are quite common in Washington State and have preserved thousands of good union construction jobs. Under the CWA, all project workers would be subject to a collective bargaining agreement with union scale wages and benefits; the CWA includes local hire provisions, with apprenticeship, veteran and other utilization requirements. We’ll keep you posted and we may need your assistance to contact local legislators to support this goal.

In Solidarity,  
Shane Linse  
Field Representative

When you get your paycheck, do you make sure you’ve been paid the correct hourly rate and that all the hours you worked have been credited? You should, particularly as the end of the season approaches, because according to Article III, Section 1(m) of Local 302’s bylaws: “no member shall fail to make a claim for shortages in wages, overtime, subsistence and travel time within thirty (30) days after pay day.”

**DISTRICT 6**

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Kyle Virgin**  
Field Representative

If you should notice a paycheck that is short or incorrect, here’s the process:

First, bring the shortage to the attention of your employer as soon as possible. It could be a simple mistake and easily fixed. It could also be a misunderstanding.

If you’ve confirmed there is an error and the employer still refuses to correct it, contact your agent right away. We will contact your employer and attempt to resolve the problem informally. If we can’t resolve the problem, we can file a grievance on your behalf.

Keep in mind that if the error goes back to the beginning of the season, we are limited in our recovery by our by-laws to go back thirty days. That’s why you should “check your check” every payday and make sure you are being correctly compensated. If the numbers don’t add up, follow the process described above.

It’s always a good idea to keep a copy of your by-laws handy. Copies are available to every member in the district office and they’re the same size as our AGC contract book.

Kyle Virgin  
Field Representative

## DISTRICT 6

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Bill Sims**  
Field Representative

On December 8, 2015, the Anchorage Assembly directed the Municipal Clerk's Office to explore implementing a Vote by Mail election process beginning with the April 2018 Regular Election. This decision was prompted by low voter turnout (24% average in last five years) and cost (122 polling locations, nearly 700 poll workers).

According to deputy city clerk Amanda Moser, in the April 2018 election:

1. Ballots will be mailed 21 days prior to Election Day. Each ballot will be mailed first-class. Ballots will be mailed to each voter's registered mailing address.
2. All ballots must be postmarked by Election Day or placed in one of 12 secure drop boxes by 8 pm on Election Day (you won't have to pay for postage if you use one of the drop boxes).
3. Voters will also be able to go to one of a few vote centers in the city and cast a ballot before 8 pm on Election Day.
4. Signature verification on mailed-in ballots will be the main method of preventing fraud. Each signature will be scanned and compared by two different elections officials with signatures in a database from prior elections.
5. Absentee ballot applications will also be available beginning in October on the Anchorage city clerk's website.
6. When you register to vote in Alaska, the city will use the address and signature from your registration form.

If you want more information about vote by mail you can go to [www.muni.org/votebymail](http://www.muni.org/votebymail) or call the city clerk's office at (907) 243-VOTE (8683).

In solidarity,  
Bill Sims  
Field Representative

*Granite - Sterling Highway*





**ANCHORAGE DISPATCH**

With the devastating hurricanes and tropical storms hitting Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and other states, our thoughts and prayers are with everyone that has been affected, particularly our fellow Operators and their families. We often forget how precious and fragile our lives are times like these. The strength in our communities shows as we all come together help the people that are in need of a good neighbor. One option to keep in mind if the work slows in our area is to call the IUOE Locals in those devastated regions to ask if they need some extra hands for the cleanup efforts. In addition, you may wish to donate to the International Union of Operating Engineers' National Charity Fund which provides assistance to members and their families who suffer from damage to their homes in times of disaster.

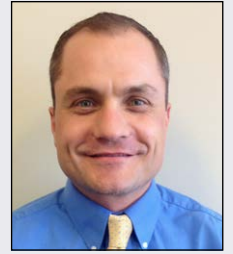
As this season runs out there will be some projects that got a late start that will carry over to next summer. Make sure to stay current on your dues and on the Out Of Work List for a chance at a possible early open call. Time will tell if we will get some snow removal work this winter. Thank you for the opportunity to be your District 6 Dispatcher for another construction season, I look forward to many more.

In Solidarity,

Jamie Mack  
District 6 Dispatcher

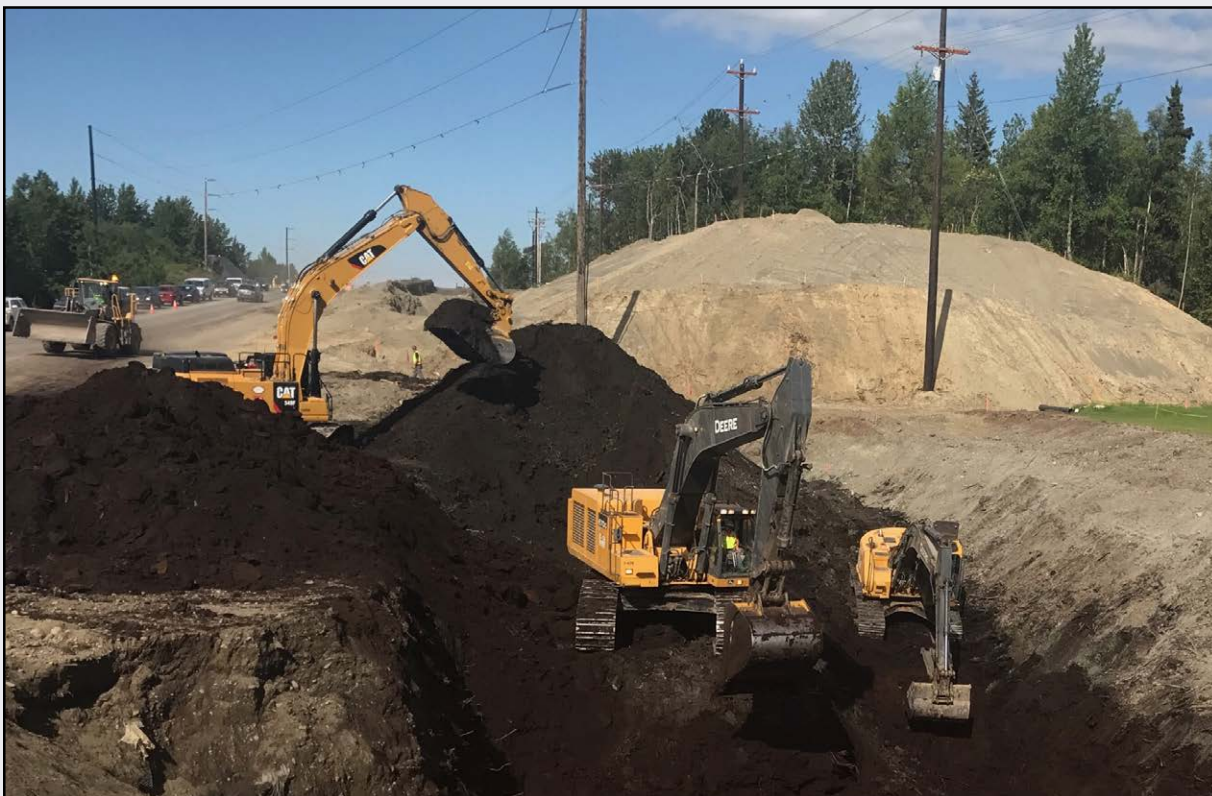
**DISTRICT 6**

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Jamie Mack**  
Dispatcher

*QAP - O'Malley Road*



## DISTRICT 3

Silverdale office  
360-307-0557



**George Garten**  
District Representative

The summer construction season is coming to an end but perhaps somebody forgot to tell all our contractors. We're still fairly busy in District 3. Seriously, now's the time for 302 members to enroll in some classes either to acquire new skills or sharpen those they already have.

New technology means our industry isn't standing still. To keep up, you have to learn new skills or get left behind. New technology is changing everything, even the way you communicate with your union. Not so long ago, if you wanted to speak with your agent, you made a call and hopefully heard back in a couple of days. Or you used the mail and waited for a response to be delivered by a letter carrier. Now thanks to wireless technology and the Internet, we're all getting real-time updates on jobs via text, handling job check-ins on line and even paying our dues over the telephone. It's taken some getting used to, even for yours truly!

Please keep sending member and contractor referrals my way. With all the work that is underway or in the works for next year I don't foresee any slowdown in the need for quality hands and contractors that are willing to employ them. Even though we don't see a lot of cranes in District 3, but when we do our members are running them and doing all the dirt work on the project to boot!

In Solidarity,  
George L. Garten  
District Representative

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## DISTRICT 4

Ellensburg office  
509-933-3020



**Sean Jeffries**  
President &  
District Representative  
Executive Board

A lot of work was delayed in permitting this season which means a number of projects started late and continue to roll. Our signatory contractors have been keeping their workforces busy in the district with housing developments, airports, fish habitats, highway, building and dam projects. Work hours have been up over average and we've experienced difficulty filling some positions in our eastern Washington districts. We all know how construction work has its ups and downs but we don't see it slowing down for at least a couple years so this may be a good time to put away a little reserve, which isn't easy when new toys and trucks are so appealing.

I would also like to thank the members who showed their support and voted for me in our recent officer election; I am very honored and appreciative. Now it's time to prepare and be involved with our upcoming negotiations for our Master Labor Agreement here in Washington for Districts 1 through 4 this coming spring. Please complete your contract survey when it comes and provide as much detail about your top priorities and concerns I hope to see all of you around the Districts at your monthly membership meeting or at our Christmas party.

In Solidarity,  
Sean Jeffries  
President/District Representative

**DISTRICT I**Bothell office  
425-806-0302

Snohomish County is one of the fastest growing counties in Washington. Everett, its largest city and county seat, is experiencing growing pains. The water, sewer and storm drain systems await a long overdue renovation. The city council is considering elimination of the current building code height restrictions to make way for skyscrapers in the downtown area. Perhaps the most dramatic changes are along the waterfront where the Port of Everett is radically transforming a once thriving industrial landscape of pulp and paper mills, sawmills and factories into a colorful patchwork of condominiums, restaurants and shops.



**Rick Cunningham**  
Field Representative

There's a huge amount of labor history here on the Everett waterfront beginning with the Everett Massacre in 1916, the culmination of a five-month long shingle weavers strike. Striking mill workers picketed Kimberly-Clark and Scott Paper for eight months in 1979. Nearby stands the Labor Temple which is on the National Register of Historic Buildings. It's with a certain amount sadness that we watch these iconic workplaces and buildings vanish and newly-purposed ones go up in their place.

Local 302 members have and will continue to play a key role in building, demolishing and rebuilding this great city. Unlike many other unions, you can still find our members working on the waterfront--Ameron Pole Products, the Cadman Asphalt plant next to the defunct Nord Door site and our operators run the Concrete Batch Plants of Cadman and CalPortland. Local 302 is still here and will continue to play its part.

In Solidarity,  
Rick Cunningham  
Field Representative

Fall is here again and work in some areas will start to slow down. This gives our members and their families a chance to reconnect and relax. I think that enjoying the off time is as important as work. It may not necessarily pay the bills, but the down time, even on nights and weekends is what keeps us motivated to work. I hope everyone reading this does work to live, and not live to work. Family and down time are why we work. I wanted to share some of the activities that our members and their families enjoy. I hope you all enjoy the pictures and see something that interests you too.

Here is some info for our veterans too. The new enhanced drivers' license in Washington has the ability to show your veteran status. Just take a copy or original of your DD-214 into the license office when you renew your state I.D. or drivers' license. The information for this is not on their web site yet. I had to make a second trip to get this done. Many stores and restaurants give discounts to vets. This is an easy way to have your info handy.

In Solidarity,  
Larry Gregory  
Field Representative

**DISTRICT I**Bothell office  
425-806-0302

**Larry Gregory**  
Field Representative

## DISTRICT I

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



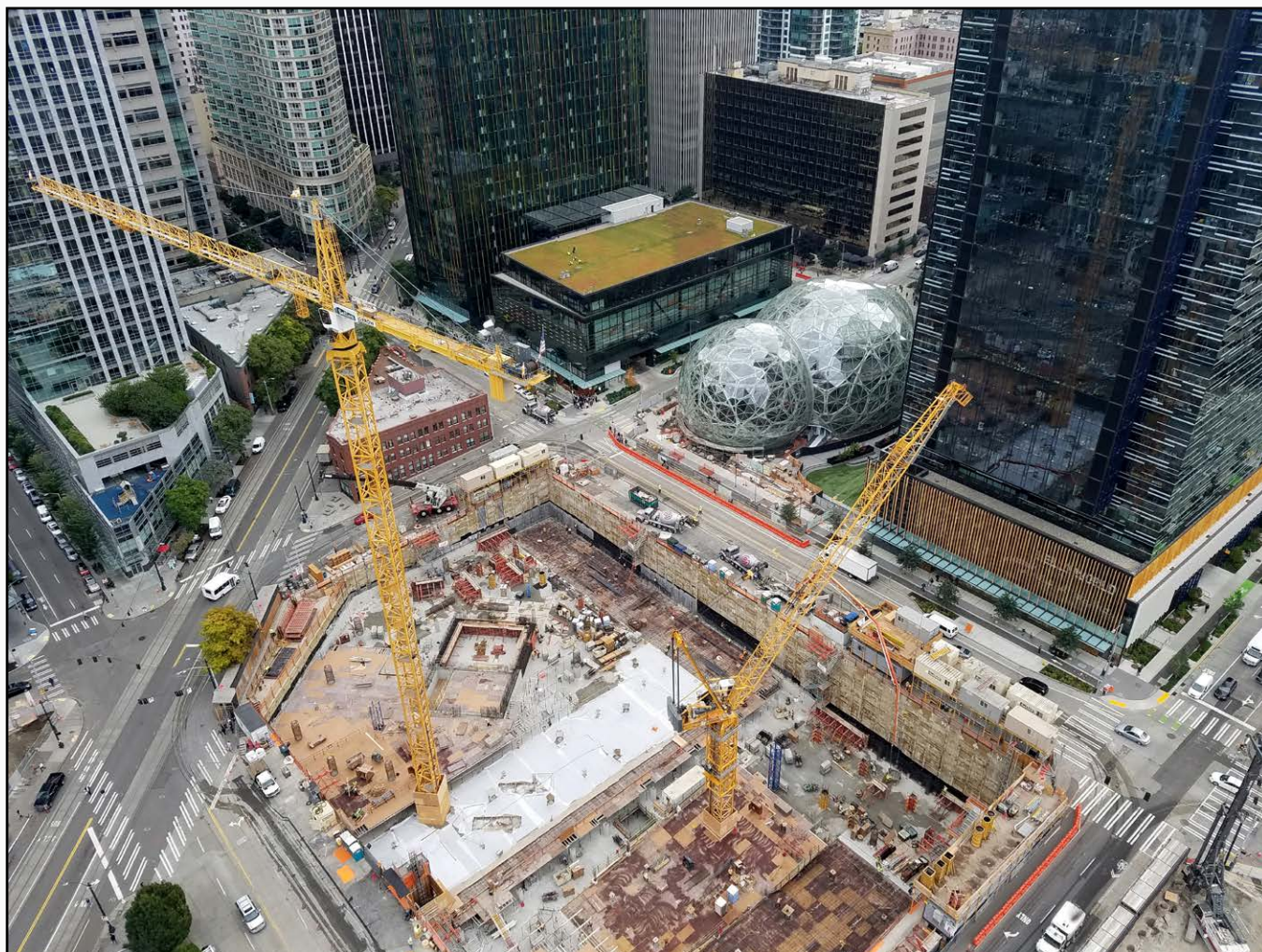
**Denny McKinney**  
Field Representative

According to the Downtown Seattle Association, <https://downtownseattle.org/2017/07/record-investment-propels-downtown-development-2017/>, a record \$5 billion in construction projects is underway in downtown Seattle, representing a 40% increase over 2016 and more than triple the lowest point in 2011. According to the association there are a record 74 major projects under construction from South Lake Union to Georgetown, the most since the Association began tracking construction in 2005. While roughly 50% of these projects under way now are scheduled to be completed this year, there are about 150 projects still in the pipeline; of those roughly 30% are scheduled to break ground soon.

Some of the other crafts in Seattle have recently negotiated their new collective bargaining agreements. Riding this strong construction wave, the majority gained in contract language and wage increases. These gains didn't happen by accident! They are a result of strong membership involvement in and communication with all levels of their union. If our members plan on achieving similar gains, they must also be prepared to do so as well. Make sure everyone completes the contract survey and mails it back to the hall; low response rates don't give the full picture and don't help our bargaining team. The more evidence of membership support, the stronger our bargaining team will be at the table

In Solidarity,  
Denny McKinney  
Field Representative

*Amazon's Block 20 under construction in Seattle*





*Barnhart's 550 Crew dismantling a tower crane on the 255 S. King St project in Seattle's SODO District*

**DISTRICT I**

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Al Cummins**  
Field Representative

In the last *Loadline*, I reported a settlement had finally been reached and ratified with King County. However, the County has still not signed because the agreement had to go through the County’s legislative process for review and submitted to the counsel for approval. I am pleased to report the contract has now been approved by the King County counsel and signed by the King County executive. The pay raises are in effect; retroactivity pay should be out in December.

At Naval Station Whidbey and Smokey Point, our members were recently notified an Ability One contractor, Skookum, will be joining Chugach Services in a new agreement effective October 1, 2017. Chugach is expected to retain some of our current employees and Skookum is expected to retain the remainder. The difficulty is that an Ability One contractor is required to have a work force of which seventy percent are severely

disabled. As a result, three of our members have lost jobs they’ve held for many years. It’s taking longer than expected to resolve, but we have set a meeting with Skookum to negotiate a new agreement in time and hope to have one in the very near future.

Negotiations are still underway at Vigor Shipyards. This is an International agreement that covers multiple crafts in multiple locations. We will keep you posted.

In Solidarity,  
Al Cummins  
Field Representative

**DISTRICT I**

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Ron Dahl**  
Business Relations

Five years ago, business lobbyists in Washington were apoplectic about the state-run workers’ compensation system, warning that employers should brace for the “[mother of all rate hikes](#)” of 19 percent for each of the next 10 years to stabilize the system.

Governor Inslee was elected and cooler heads prevailed at the state Department of Labor and Industries (L&I). The system’s reserves gradually recovered without any spike in rates thanks to L&I’s successful efforts to promote workplace safety and help injured workers return to work sooner. Instead of 19 percent hikes, the average annual workers’ compensation rate increase over the past five years has been less than 1 percent.

In late September, L&I [announced a proposal](#) to *decrease* rates an average of 2.5 percent in 2018, collectively saving the state’s employers about \$67 million or an average of about \$34 less per employee in 2018.

“Efforts to help injured workers heal and return to work are paying off. It’s good for them, it helps employers, and it keeps workers’ compensation costs down,” said Gov. Inslee. “I want to thank businesses and workers for doing their part to improve workplace safety, and L&I for its work to improve the workers’ compensation system. Both are helping create a positive business climate in Washington.”

L&I says it’s working to keep premium rates steady and predictable and avoid significant swings that make it difficult for employers to plan. If adopted, this will be the first decline in the hourly rate since 2007.

In Solidarity,  
Ron Dahl  
Business Relations

## **BOTHELL DISPATCH**

It has been a very busy season for our members. The Group 1 list was down to seventy-five; all four groups combined was just over 200 in August.

With the winter months approaching, now is the time to start thinking about training and certifications like the Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC), RSO, HAZMAT and OSHA10. These are just some of the more common credentials that contractors are requesting when they call us.

Once you obtain a new card, it's up to you to provide a copy to dispatch; the schools are not required to provide that information to us on your behalf. Also, if you have certifications that expire, please let us know right away so we can update your files.

The Ellensburg training center offers a wide variety of skills classes for dozer, loaders and other equipment so you can brush up on your skills and obtain new certifications. Let's show our contractors and the other trades why we are the best!

Finally, as the cold weather approaches, always think safety. Snow, ice and exposure to cold aren't just hazards for equipment, but for operators and their families as well. Be safe.

In Solidarity,  
Bothell Dispatchers  
Bill Albin & Richard Lines

## **DISTRICT I**

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Bill Albin**  
Dispatcher



**Richard Lines**  
Dispatcher



*Gary Merlino - 4th Ave Seattle*

**DISTRICT I**

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Marge Newgent**  
Field Representative

Are you working straight through your lunch every day, taking an “eight and skate? Article 8 of our Master Labor Agreement entitles you to a one-half hour unpaid lunch. If you’re not allowed time to eat your meal, “an additional one-half hour for a total of one hour at the applicable overtime rate shall be added to the hours worked.”

What has your employer *actually said* about taking lunch breaks? If they’ve told you they expect you to work through your lunch break, that’s a contract violation. In 2012, Laborers Local 440 won an important arbitration under the Brightwater PLA. Seven union witnesses testified they never received regular lunch breaks and typically “ate lunch on the fly”. They testified they were told by managers to stop writing “no lunch” on their time cards when they did not get the required meal break.

Employer witnesses testified they saw chicken bones and bread crusts on the tunnel floor but they couldn’t provide any specifics of workers actually taking their lunch break. The arbitrator accepted union testimony and ordered a significant back pay award to the workers who did not receive their lunch breaks.

Most Local 302 contracts have a similar lunch time provision in them. We’ve fought hard to get and keep it. If your contractor isn’t allowing you an unpaid lunch and if you don’t raise the issue, you are walking away from one hour of overtime for every day it happens. If you work 1,600 hours in a year, that’s about 40 weeks or 200 hours of overtime a year you’ve given up. At the Group III rate, that’s nearly \$12,000 you’ve just given up, in addition to 200 hours of benefit contributions.

It’s more likely your employer hasn’t said *anything at all* about lunch breaks: they haven’t said you *can’t* have one but they don’t require you to *take one* either. That leaves it up to you and your co-workers, so you’ve decided to give up your contractually-required half hour unpaid lunch break and leave the job a half hour earlier. If this is what you’re doing, you’re effectively selling your lunch break back to your contractor for nothing. You might think you’re beating the traffic, but leaving work early usually means joining the traffic jam half an hour ahead of schedule.

When you give back your unpaid lunch break, you undermine something we’ve fought for and make it harder for us to maintain it in negotiations. Already contractors are asking us to eliminate the lunch break.

In Solidarity,  
Marge Newgent  
Field Representative

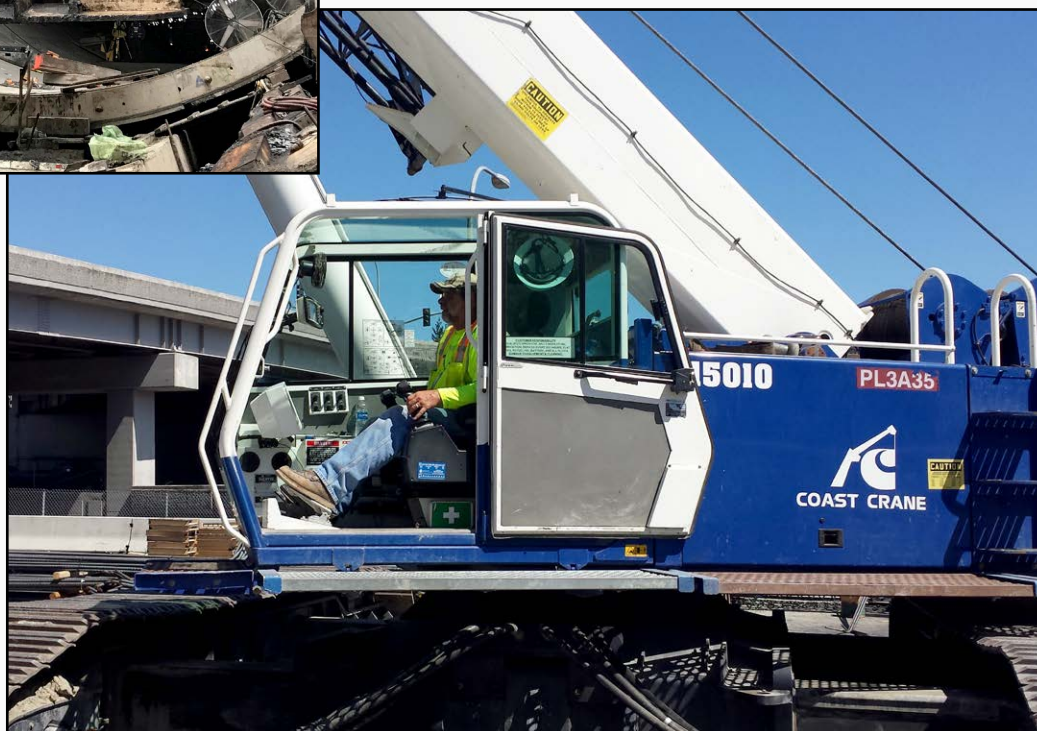




*Light at the end of the tunnel. North Portal after the last Bertha piece was removed*



*Stacey & Witbeck E335 project.  
Mark Mills and Todd Anderson - Crane Operators*



*Mark Mills ,Stacy & Witbeck crane operator on the Sound Transit Eastlink Project*

## DISTRICT 1

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Gabriel Chavez**  
Field Representative

It's been a busy construction season in East King County with many vertical, paving, plat/housing, drilling, commercial and public work projects still going full steam ahead including:

- NE 40<sup>th</sup> Street storm water truck line extension, KLB, \$3,139,581
- Shangri-La Way NW and Talus Dr. intersection repair, Marshbank, \$1,330,684
- Kirkland 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street sewer main replacement, Laser Underground, \$912,637
- 212<sup>th</sup> way SE Sammamish improvements, JR Hayes, \$6,949,795

Regarding the recent Teamsters Sand and Gravel job action: I am grateful to those of you who honored the Teamster picket lines. I understand there was some frustration about the amount reimbursed from the Rock Solid Strike Fund, but please keep in mind the Fund's policy requires a seven (7) calendar day waiting period. Furthermore all payments must be approved both by a vote of the Strike Fund Committee and the Executive Board.

The benefits provided for by our Rock Solid Strike Fund came about, in part, from the job actions that we faced in Sand & Gravel in 2006. Some members may recall those times when there was very limited to no financial assistance. As a membership, we learned from these times and created the Rock Solid Strike Fund to provide for a limited financial relief when we face these situations.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our stewards. They are a critical asset because they provide agents additional eyes and ears on the ground.

Gabe Chavez  
Field Representative

## DISTRICT 2

Bellingham office  
360-336-2615



**Tony Zempel**  
Field Representative

Are your kids respectful and courteous? Do you wonder what will become of them when they grow up?

It's hard enough today to raise a family with all the many available distractions our kids face whether they are social media, homework, or after school sports. My wife and I are hoping our sons will become fine young men who will help others. My wife says I'm a hard-ass about getting our chores and homework done before we can pick any other activity or distraction. Personally, I'd rather put my free time into my community, coaching football, keeping kids active and engaged.

Everywhere our kids face competing distractions as do their parents. When we all get home from work or school, entertainment value often guides our choices. If it's entertainment you're after, homework, chores, music or team practice usually takes a back seat.

We still get to choose our distractions and guide our kids. If we want our labor movement and Local 302 to survive and if we want them to respect others, not to fail in school or work, we need to guide them away from pure entertainment. We must do that first by setting an example.

For me, it's more important to me that my wife and I have raised great children. I honestly feel that Union households embody what is important to the future of this great country, a strong family.

Tony Zempel  
Field Representative

**LOCAL 302**Bothell office  
425-806-0302**Josh Swanson**  
Government Affairs

We are closely watching a special off-year Washington State Senate race that could shift the balance of power and ultimately secure passage of legislation we have been pushing to improve prevailing wage and other worker protections. We're also tracking a number of critical municipal contests. The winners will set and direct local agendas and also determine up-and-coming candidates for future state and even Federal elective office. As former House Speaker Tip O'Neill once said, "all politics are local".

The so-called Freedom Foundation has been "going local". Their latest push attempts to get selected local governments to adopt "transparent bargaining" which would subject labor negotiations for cities to the state Open Meetings law. Where cities have resisted, the Foundation has often involved them in expensive litigation they can ill afford. We'll continue to resist the many tentacles of the right-to-work monster, but it's not just at the state but now even the local level where we have to be active.

If you hear of any efforts to push anti-worker, right-to-work measures at the local level please let us know. Also, if you know of any races or candidates that we should be paying particular attention to and/or if you or someone you know is interested in running for office please let me know.

After the November election, we will know who controls the Senate and, if all goes as planned, we intend to seize the opportunity accordingly. In addition to some of the important bills that we have pushed in the past, we are working on a few new ideas designed to take the fight to the promoters and supporters of the anti-union, right-to-work agenda.

If you have any questions about what's happening in politics or any other government related issues please don't hesitate to give me a call.

In Solidarity,  
Josh Swanson  
Political and Communications Representative



## FUNDING PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN ALASKA, IDAHO AND WASHINGTON: THE NEVER-ENDING STORY

As you look around at all the highways, bridges, ferry terminals, marinas, public schools and universities that Local 302 members have proudly built, let's not forget that nearly every one of them could not have been built without some level of state and Federal funding. In fact, most Federal public works spending *requires* state and local *matching* funds. In the last couple of years, that state funding match has become more problematic in the three states where Local 302 members live and work. Let's check in briefly state-by-state.

Alaska: Currently, there are a lot of shovel-ready public infrastructure projects that aren't getting built either because the state's current capital budget, passed in special session last July, is the *smallest* since 2000. It's no secret why the state's capital budget is this small—much of the state's revenue comes from oil revenue. You can check out the daily price of Alaska crude on a state of Alaska web site, <https://tax.alaska.gov/programs/oil/dailyoil/dailyoil.aspx> and get a good sense of just how bad things have been. When Governor Bill Walker signed the fiscal year 2018 capital budget in late July (<https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2017/07/governor-walker-signs-capital-budget-into-law/>), he and his administration were forced to choose only a few projects from a very lengthy list of shovel ready projects with Federal matching dollars already identified and only requiring a fairly small state match to begin. But the state capital budget could only come up with \$150 million to match nearly \$1.2 billion in Federal appropriations. These were difficult choices but there was only so much state revenue to go around. As Governor Walker noted: "We need new revenues to address our fiscal crisis and put Alaska back on a path towards stability. We cannot cut – or veto – our way out of this crisis. I look forward to continuing to engage with the legislature to resolve Alaska's fiscal shortfall."

On September 22, Governor Walker called the state legislature back into its fourth special session of the year, to begin October 23, with the avowed purpose of coming up with additional state revenue (<https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2017/09/governor-walker-issues-fourth-special-session-proclamation/>). The administration is proposing a payroll tax of 1.5 percent of wages earned by Alaskans and non-resident workers, capped at \$2,200 or twice the previous year's permanent fund dividend amount—whichever is higher; this proposal is expected to generate between \$300 million and \$325 million a year in new revenue. It's too early at this point to predict the outcome.

Idaho: Idaho's Transportation Department (ITD) appropriations (all funds) totaled over \$700 million in 2007 and 2008, but as Federal funding programs expired, by 2013, ITD's appropriations had flat-lined at \$500 million. In 2015, the state legislature raised an additional \$95 million in revenue by increasing the gas tax and registrations according to "Idaho Fiscal Facts", <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/budget/publications/Fiscal-Facts/2016/Fiscal%20Facts.pdf>. This same legislation also created the Strategic Initiatives Program that provides for transportation projects proposed by the department that are rated competitively on their return on investment in safety, mobility, economic opportunity; as well as repair and maintenance of bridges, and the purchase of right-of-way.

Idaho's Transportation Board uses this strategic planning process to develop a seven-year plan called the Idaho Transportation Investment Program (ITIP). After a public comment period, the Board adopted this plan on September 17, 2017. All projects approved over the 2017 – 2024 period can be found county by county or district by district at their web site, <http://itd.idaho.gov/funding/>.

**Washington:** As the editorial board of the *Walla Walla Union-Bulletin* opined October 16, “when the state Legislature adjourned in July after three overtime sessions, its failure to approve a capital (construction) budget didn't get too many folks upset. After all, they reasoned, what does it matter to me?”

But throughout the state of Washington, including Walla Walla, the lack of a state capital budget is having all kinds of unintended consequences, from shovel-ready projects not being scheduled or started, to layoffs of state and UW workers whose jobs are funded by the capital budget and even higher utility bills. In Walla Walla, the city utility had to authorize nearly \$24 million in construction bonds but without a capital budget, it will have to pay significant interest--\$430,660—which ultimately ratepayers will have to absorb. The log-jammed \$4 billion capital budget includes \$2.5 million to upgrade the Westport Marina, \$620,000 to upgrade the School for the Blind in Vancouver and \$15 million to replace the North Pines Middle School in Spokane. Every day this impasse continues, the cost of doing nothing increases in all kinds of ways! With a recent leadership change in the Senate we are hopeful that this impasse can be overcome and a much-needed Capital Budget will be fully funded.

The causes of the capital budget crises in all three states are both familiar and similar—state capital budgets are under stress everywhere and finding revenue for public works projects these days isn't easy. But Idaho provides an example of where the state legislature found the political will to raise revenues. The Alaska legislature is struggling to find the revenues, perhaps realizing that they can only cut so much—but the jury is out and we must await the results of this latest special session. In Washington State, the money is there but the political will to break the impasse isn't quite there yet—we'll have to stay tuned to this one as well. And we're now starting to find out that not investing in public infrastructure has all kinds of costs.

Let's be clear on what's at stake here. Spending on needed public works projects is an *investment* in *growing our economy* which needs good roads, ports, airports, schools and universities. And it's also an investment in the future economic well-being of Local 302 members and their families. That's at least two reasons why you should be concerned about what's going on with your state's public works spending, and two reasons why you shouldn't hesitate to let your state representative and senator know your feelings on the subject.

In Alaska, you can find this information at this website:

<http://akleg.gov/faq.php#2>

In Idaho, you can find your legislator and contact them by starting here:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/whosmylegislator/>

In Washington, you'll find what you need here:

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/mobile/FindYourLegislator/>

*Daren Konopaski, Business Manager, and the staff of Local 302 congratulate the following members on the next phase of their careers; a well-earned retirement.*

**RONALD BRAS  
KENNETH BROKER  
MERLE BROWN  
JAMES CAMERON  
BRUCE CHANEY  
KEVIN CRAVENS  
GARY DAVIDSON  
DIANE DAWSON  
SHELLY FALL  
KELLY GRANT  
DANIEL HAENER  
JOHN HAGARA  
ERNEST HALEY  
WILLIAM HARRIS  
GERALD HEISLER  
KENNETH JOHNSON  
TIMOTHY LINCOLN**

**GEORGE LORD  
JAMES MCINROY  
BLAKE ORMISTON  
JOHN OSBORN  
MITCHELL REICK  
DONALD ROSEVEAR  
SAMUEL SCHNEIDER  
CARL SOUTHWOOD  
DANNY STEWART  
MICHAEL STOLZ  
ROBERT SULIER  
STAN TONELLI  
DAVID TURLEY  
BARRY WEBB  
MICHAEL WRIGHT  
DAN YOUSO**

# Goodbye and Good Luck

Kelly has managed the Juneau office of Local 302 for the last fifteen years. No detail was too large or small for her, nothing escaped her attention. A number of co-workers and members have expressed their deep appreciation for helping them with questions or information.

Her knowledge of all things Local 302 was encyclopedic. Others recall her kindness to anybody who walked in the office. One of her co-workers shared that a call from Kelly always brightened her day and called her an amazing friend.

Off the job, “Kel”, as she was known, loved to plant summer flowers, which she called her “zen”. She would also share stories of her pet ravens and a pet lobster that would manage to escape the tank and wander around the house.

Kelly has left the Juneau office because of family obligations; it was not a decision that came easy to her as she loved her job and was loved by all of Local 302 who worked with her. Kel, we wish you all the best and know that you’ll be missed.

*The smiling face ready for anything*



**Operating Engineers Local 302 mourns the passage  
of the following Brothers and Sisters:**

**STEWART AMGWERT  
O BACON  
RANDY BAHER  
JIMMIE BARNES  
VERN BOGART  
REGINALD BRIM  
ROBERT BROOKS  
ROGER BROWN  
DONALD CAMPBELL  
JIMMIE CONKLIN  
FLOYD CURTIS  
JAMES CUSHING  
LARRY ENGLISH  
KENNETH FLEWELLING  
MARTIN FOWLES JR  
LANNY FRAZIER  
ROBERT FRITZ  
WILLIAM GILPIN  
SHERIDAN GOODWIN  
KENNETH HEDIN  
TIMBRE HOWARD  
KENNETH HULT  
DAVID JOHNSON  
KENNETH JORGENSON  
BRIAN KERR  
WARREN KRUGER  
LYLE LAGE  
THOMAS LAKEY**

**RONALD LAWSON  
DOUGLAS LOCKHART  
THOMAS MCLAUGHLIN  
WILLIAM MONGEAU JR  
RICHARD PEACOCK  
SELDON PORTER  
KARL RAINEY  
JACK RIDDLE  
WADE ROSSON  
KENNETH ROWLAND  
GEORGE SCHARDT  
FRED SHUMAKER  
ERNEST SILER  
JAMES SIMONDS  
LOWELL STAKE  
PAUL STANTON  
DAN STARK  
JARROD TANNER  
STEPHEN TATE  
LENARD TAYLOR  
CLARENCE THOMPSON  
ROY THOMPSON  
JAMES TUMSUDEN  
CECIL WALKER  
MATTHEW WATSON  
JUDSON WHARTON**





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- Sore throat
- Urinary tract infections
- Your individual concerns



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**Operating Engineers  
Regional  
Training Center**  
Ellensburg, WA  
1-800-333-9752



**Tami St. Paul**  
Training Coordinator



**Lacy Hall**  
Training Coordinator

We had a great group of entry-level apprentices come through this summer. We have started the selection process for next year's group. The deadline for applications was November 17<sup>th</sup> and we are looking forward to choosing the next great bunch of enthusiastic and dedicated apprentices. The training trustees gave their approval to purchase a new simulator trailer for training and outreach. We are excited to be upgrading our simulator fleet and looking forward to taking delivery of it. Between now and then hope you can find the time to come to training.

If you are signed up for a class and can't attend, please let us know as soon as possible so we can fill your seat with someone on the waiting list. Here's a tip: if you are looking to get some training and are available at a moment's notice, Monday mornings are a good time to contact the training center to fill unexpectedly vacant seats. Don't forget to check out our web site for the most up to date information about refreshers for cards and certifications that have expiration dates. We've added an M series loader and grader to the Ellensburg fleet over the summer. We look forward to seeing you at the training center, on the job or at meetings. Special thanks to Lacey Hall for this batch of photos.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. May you spend at least some of your time with folks you really enjoy and love.

In Solidarity,  
Tami St. Paul – on behalf of the Operating Engineers Regional Training Program Staff

*The Operating Engineers Regional Training Program participating in the Labor Day parade in our community in Ellensburg. Thanks to the instructors and staff who helped make this possible.*

*The new M Series Loader in the Labor Day parade in Ellensburg. Come check us out at the Training Center just outside of town if you haven't been before we are sure you will be pleasantly surprised.*





*It was all hands on deck to making improvements to the roads at the training center this summer.*



*Thanks to Tobias Hutchins, one of the students who volunteered to give a hand with the paving at the training center this summer. We appreciate the assist.*



*Making progress paving some of the roads at the training center for dust control. We do try to be good neighbors in our little community of Kittitas.*

*Having a fabulous time at the Deming Log show, a big thank you to all the volunteers... Tony Zemple, Rick Cunningham, Jason Hall, Emmett Morrison, Shalynn Cordero, Steve Neese and Kyle Amundson!*





*The largest outreach we do is at the Puyallup fairgrounds every year. Over 2000 high school juniors and seniors participate in the Pierce County Career Day held in mid-November. It is quite an adventure. Thanks to our contractor partners and special shout out to graduated apprentice and talent acquisition specialist John Hurd with Lakeside Industries for helping arrange the donations from our contractors and some rental companies so students get the opportunity to actually operate a piece of equipment or two at the event.*



*Apprentice Steve Lucas doing a great job loading trucks at the Atkinson East Link project in Bellevue.*



*Hoisting Apprentice Erin Medeiros and her Journeyman operator Wayne Gayhart took a second to pose for a picture on the East Link project they were working on.*



*Apprentice James Gaines working hard for ICI making sure the grade is well compacted!*



*Apprentice Jaye Kessler-Walls working the fill for Archer Construction at one of the two new Fed-ex sites in Everett.*



*Apprentice Kilian Ruggiero-Upton running haul truck doing great and enjoying the training opportunity.*

## IUOE Regional Training Center

Palmer, AK  
1-877-746-3117



**Mike Holcomb**  
Administrator



**Justin Quakenbush**  
Apprentice Coordinator



**Adam Ferguson**  
Apprentice Coordinator

Drones. By now, we've all seen, heard about and perhaps even flown them. Drones are very useful with significant new applications, including surveying, mapping, determining quantities and laying out projects, saving hours of field data entry and calculation. We will be offering the course, "Drone Regulation and Basic Operation" at the Palmer Training Center this training season on 02/26/18 - 03/02/18, and 04/09/18 - 04/13/18 and we hope to see you there. As always, you can sign up for the class by calling our Palmer (907-746-3117) or Fairbanks (907-456-5421) offices, or signing up on-line at: [www.aoeett.org](http://www.aoeett.org).

If you reside in Fairbanks, you'll be glad to hear we've added additional equipment to our Fairbanks training fleet including a D5 dozer, Case Skid-Steer, Cat 312 excavator, mini excavator, and fork-lift, in addition to its side-booms and crane it already housed. Contact the Fairbanks training center if you're interested in related training opportunities.

It was with heavy hearts that we said farewell to Lenard Taylor in July, a fixture of our union and crane training program for many years. We'll truly miss his humor and vibrant personality. If you were around Lenard, you were having a good time, as simple as that. During his career, he, taught and inspired hundreds of students and his legacy will be with us always. The Operating Engineers are a better, stronger organization thanks to the contributions of "the Dude."

In Solidarity,  
Adam Ferguson, Coordinator

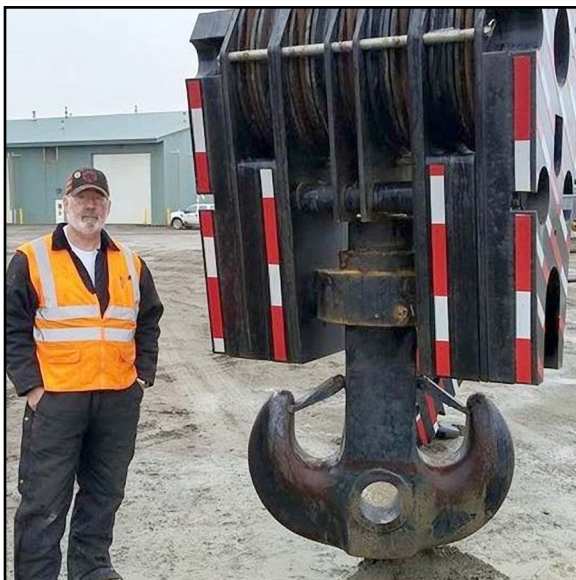
*Instructors, Mark Lappi and Jeff Kron*





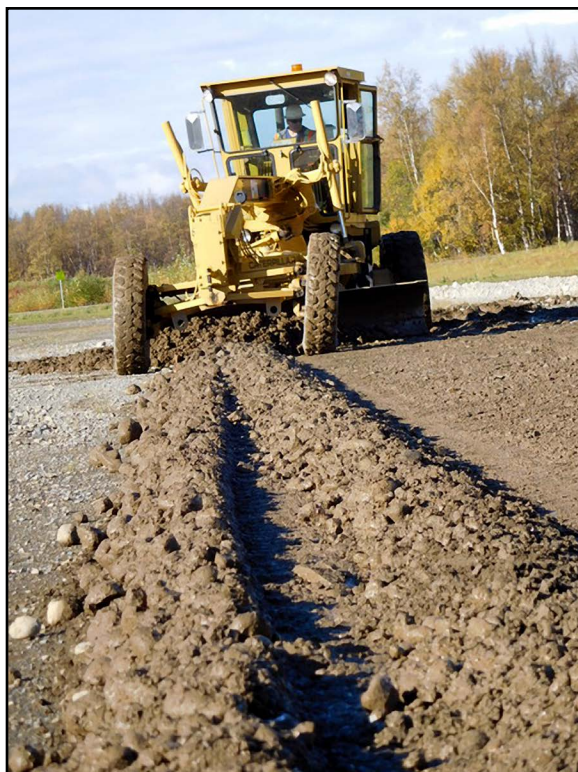


*Joint training with Iron workers local 751*



*Crane Instructor Lenard "Oatmeal" Taylor July 29, 1951 – July 4, 2017*

*Cy Two Elk in fall-time motor grader class*



# CHRISTMAS PARTY SCHEDULE

## ALASKA

**12/8/2017: Anchorage** – The Captain Cook Hotel in the Discovery Room at 939 W. 5th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501. Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 7:00PM. Please call (907) 561-5288 to RSVP by November 28th.

**12/9/2017: Fairbanks** – Westmark Hotel, 813 Noble Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701. Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:30PM. Dinner at 7:00PM. Please call (907) 452-8131 to RSVP by November 28th.

**12/10/2017: Juneau** – Glacier Room at the Juneau Travelodge at 9200 Glacier Highway. Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (907) 586-3850 to RSVP by November 28th.

## WASHINGTON

**11/29/2017: Bremerton** – Kitsap Conference Center, 100 Washington Ave, Bremerton – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (425) 806-0302 to RSVP by November 17th.

**11/30/2017: Mt. Vernon** – Best Western Plus Skagit Valley Inn Convention Center, 2300 Market Street, Mt. Vernon – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (425) 806-0302 to RSVP by November 17th.

**12/2/2017: Bothell** - Union Hall, 18701 120th Avenue NE, Bothell – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 5:30PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (425) 806-0302 to RSVP by November 17th.

**12/3/2017: Pt. Angeles** – Red Lion Hotel, 221 N. Lincoln St, Pt Angeles – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (425) 806-0302 to RSVP by November 17th.

**12/4/2017: Aberdeen** - Aberdeen Eagles, 208 W. Market, Aberdeen – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (425) 806-0302 to RSVP by November 17th.

**\*\*\*New Location\*\*\* 12/12/2017: Richland** – Red Lion Hotel Richland Hanford House, 802 George Washington Way, Richland – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (509) 624-5365 to RSVP by November 20th.

**12/13/2017: Yakima** – Yakima Valley Hotel and Conference Center, 1507 N 1st Street, Yakima – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (425) 806-0302 to RSVP by November 20th.

**12/14/2017: Wenatchee** – The Rivertop Bar & Grill located at The Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, 201 N. Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (425) 806-0302 to RSVP by November 20th.

**12/18/2017: Spokane** – Red Lion River Inn, 700 N Division Street, Spokane – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (509) 624-5365 to RSVP by December 1st.

## IDAHO

**\*\*\*New Location\*\*\* 12/19/2017: Pocatello** – Red Lion Hotel Pocatello, 1555 Pocatello Creek Road, Pocatello – Appetizers and No Host Bar at 6:00PM. Dinner at 6:30PM. Please call (208) 232-8492 by December 1st.

**39th General Convention Nominations  
In January  
For IUOE Local 302 Delegates!**

At each District membership meeting nominations will be accepted to serve as Local 302's delegates to the General Convention of the International Union of Operating Engineers on May 6, 2018 through May 10, 2018.

By IUOE Constitution, all nominees "must, at the time of nomination, be in good standing with respect to payment of dues and meet the requirements of Article XXIV, Subdivision 1, Section (b).

A mail ballot election will be held in February to elect the delegates.





*Jeff Brown and Cole Cheeseman for Secon*



*Avery Thomas shows Camdon Lowry the blade controls  
Labor Day parade 2017 - Fairbanks, AK*



Granite - Sterling Highway #1



Tony Yensen Winning Ticket Draw - Fairbanks, AK



*Zetin, Avista Corp., Spokane WA., Jeff Berger.*



*MJM Grand, Salk Middle School, James Cone, Ray Beckett.*



*Degerstrom's Lead Oiler, Blake Munson takes a moment for the camera and is also preparing for the crew to service Degerstrom's large fleet of equipment.*



*Degerstrom's Shop Foreman and Local 302 Chief Steward, Dalton Bower is in his office preparing for a busy maintenance season*



*We wonder which operator will be assigned Degerstrom's brand new ore hauler tractor in the shop getting final preparations before being put into service. This will make a nice addition to Degerstrom's already massive machinery fleet.*

*Labor Temple Everett, WA*



*ICI New 218 Linkbelt Crane driving Sheet pile on the Grand Avenue Park Pedestrian Bridge over Marine View Dr, Port of Everett, Operator Michael Schumacher.*



*Titan Earthworks - Bellevue WA*





Mark Noah - DMI Drilling - Issaquah WA



GLY breaking ground on Amazon's block 21 project in Seattle

## Member Spotlight: Dale Reid

Dale joined Local 302 in 1966 following graduation from high school. He went to work for Green Construction in his hometown of Petersburg, Alaska. “I got to know some of the hands, and I kept bugging them a lot”, he reminisced. His persistence paid off and he went to work for Green as an oiler, his first job being in Yakutat “at a whopping \$4.89 an hour, working six 11 hour days a week, making good money for a young kid.”

The night the 1964 Easter Sunday earthquake happened, Dale was in Petersburg. He recalls they had a job going in Yakutat and they loaded equipment onto a barge and headed up to Anchorage. Dale enjoyed working with Green: “they were good to their hands; there was always plenty of work, with lots of travel through southeast Alaska. In the winters, they would let me work five eights in their shop in Juneau.”

Early in his career, Dale recalls Russ Conlon visiting a job site where he was service oiling. Russ shook hands and introduced himself and years later, Dale was amazed that Russ still remembered his name.



Dale’s involvement with the Trans Alaska Pipeline began early, around Christmas of 1968 when he flew to Fairbanks and started assembling equipment to go set up camps, including Coldfoot. As they convoyed north, helicopters would drop fuel bladders and supplies and abruptly in the spring on 1969, work stopped and Dale went back to Southeast. It wasn’t until January 4, 1974 that Dale returned and opened up Dietrich Camp. In 1975, Dale went to Glenallen and began working for M-K on the VSM. Eventually, Dale drug up and returned to Southeast to work for AIC.

In 1990, after winning election as Business Manager, Larry Johnson hired Dale as a business agent for Southeast; he would spend the next nine and a half years in this position. Dale recalled he “didn’t have a clue what he was doing”. Despite his initial apprehensions, he admitted he was very glad he made the change. Besides his business agent duties, Dale relished the opportunity to do lobbying and political work at the state capital.

Dale became enmeshed in campaign to keep the Louisiana-Pacific pulp mill in Ward Cove (Ketchikan) open. Local 302 had represented engineers in the powerhouse there since the 1950s, and with L-P’s 50-year lease about to expire, the closure threat spurred Dale into action. He worked tirelessly with the Alaska congressional delegation and the governor’s office to save the jobs of nearly 40 Local 302 members in the mill as well as the other mill workers. The decision to close the mill still went through but thanks to Dale’s help, a retraining package was agreed upon in Congress to help ease the blow.

When Dale retired in 2000, he still worked up to 50 hours a month, but his semiretirement ended when newly-elected Governor Sarah Palin appointed Local 302 member Click Bishop as Labor Commissioner. According to Dale, he was visiting his grandchildren in Arizona when Click asked him to become his chief of staff. Though neither Click nor Dale had any experience working for government, they met one Sunday in the “plywood palace” as the DOL building in Juneau used to be called and mapped out a plan for the next four years. Dale fondly recalls the first meeting with all the DOL management staff: “Click sat at one head of the table and I sat at the other end”. It couldn’t have been easy for these veteran employees “to take direction from a couple of construction hands”, Dale recalled with a smile. “But they did”.



Brian Meyer and his trophy 63" Bull Moose  
Fairbanks, AK

**PLEASE NOTE:**

All correspondence to union offices must include:  
The last four digits of your Social Security Number  
– or – Your International Registration Number

**INSURANCE CLAIMS OR PENSION:**

**Local 302 Members (Districts 1-4 & 6-8):**  
Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Trust  
P.O. Box 34684, Seattle, WA 98124-1684  
Phone: (206) 441-7574, (206) 441-7314  
or (877) 441-1212  
[www.engineerstrust.com](http://www.engineerstrust.com)

**Local 302 Members (District 5 Only):**  
Washington-Idaho Operating Engineers &  
Employees Health & Security Trust  
111 W Cataldo Ave, Ste 220, Spokane WA 99201-3201  
Phone: (509) 534-5625 or (800) 351-6480 &  
Fax: (509) 534-5910  
[www.zenith-american.com](http://www.zenith-american.com)

**LOCAL 302 LOADLINE** is published quarterly  
18701 120th Avenue NE, Bothell, WA 98011-9514  
800-521-8882 or 425-806-0302



**LOCAL 302 REPRESENTATIVES**

**DISTRICT 1 - BOTHELL**

Daren Konopaski, Business Manager  
Josh Swanson, Government Affairs  
Larry Gregory, Field Representative  
Marge Newgent, Field Representative  
Rick Cunningham, Field Representative  
Gabriel Chavez, Field Representative  
Ron Dahl, Business Representative  
Denny McKinney, Field Representative  
Al Cummins, Field Representative  
Bill Albin, Dispatcher  
Richard Lines, Dispatcher

**DISTRICT 2 - BELLINGHAM**

Tony Zempel, Field Representative

**DISTRICT 3 - PENINSULA**

George Garten, District Representative

**DISTRICT 4 - WENATCHEE/ELLENSBURG**

Sean Jeffries, President & District Representative

**DISTRICT 5 - SPOKANE/IDAHO**

Curt Koegen, District Representative  
Recording/Corresponding and  
Financial Secretary  
James Garrett, Field Representative  
Mike Bosse', Field Representative  
Joe Perry, Field Representative  
Shelle Street, Dispatcher

**DISTRICT 6 - ANCHORAGE**

Jason Alward, Vice President & District Representative  
Shane Linse, Field Representative  
Kyle Virgin, Field Representative  
Bill Sims, Business Representative  
Jamie Mack, Dispatcher

**DISTRICT 7 - FAIRBANKS**

Lake Williams, Treasurer & District Representative  
Shawn Lowry, Field Representative  
Avery Thomas, Field Representative  
Mark LaFon, Field Representative  
Crystal Tidwell, Dispatcher

**DISTRICT 8 - JUNEAU**

Corey Baxter, District Representative

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Daren Konopaski, Business Manager  
Curt Koegen, Recording/Corresponding and  
Financial Secretary  
Sean Jeffries, President  
Jason Alward, Vice President  
Lake Williams, Treasurer  
George Garten, Executive Board Member  
Corey Baxter, Executive Board Member  
Shane Linse, Executive Board Member



Daren Konopaski, Business Manager

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Bothell, Washington 98011-9514

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## DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

### **DISTRICT 1 - BOTHELL**

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Union Hall, 18701 – 120th Ave. NE.

### **DISTRICT 2 - BELLINGHAM**

Third Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
1700 North State St.

### **DISTRICT 3 - ABERDEEN**

Second Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Eagles Hall, 208 W. Market St.

### **DISTRICT 3 - SILVERDALE**

Third Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Union Hall, 3525 NW Anderson Hill Road

### **DISTRICT 3 - PORT ANGELES**

Third Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Eagles Hall Aerie No. 483, 2843 E. Myrte St.

### **DISTRICT 4 - WENATCHEE**

Second Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel,  
201 N. Wenatchee Ave.

### **DISTRICT 4 - ELLENSBURG**

Second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Union Hall, 403 S. Water St.

### **DISTRICT 5 - BOISE**

Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Union Hall, 225 N. 16th Street

### **DISTRICT 5 - LEWISTON**

Second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Central Labor Council, 1618 Idaho Street, Suite 102

### **DISTRICT 5 - POCATELLO**

Fourth Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Union Hall, 456 N. Arthur Street

### **DISTRICT 5 - SPOKANE**

Second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Union Hall, 510 S. Elm Street

### **DISTRICT 5 - TRI-CITIES**

Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
CBC Health Science Center, 891 Northgate Drive

### **DISTRICT 6 - ANCHORAGE**

Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Union Hall, 4001 Denali St.

### **DISTRICT 7 - FAIRBANKS**

Fourth Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Union Hall, 3002 Lathrop St.

### **DISTRICT 8 - JUNEAU**

Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Union Hall, 9309 Glacier Hwy., Suite A-105

