



2014 Scholarship Winners

Dependant Scholarship Awards

In Memory of Sandy Chudy, Past Member and Past Local President of Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department, Local 120, Deceased; In Honor of John Ohlson, Former Member and Past Local President of City of Tacoma, Local 120, Retired.

4 Year Scholarship Award (\$5,000 per year for 4 years)

In Memory of Taylor Stoneback, Past Member of King County Library System, Local 1857, Deceased.

Recipient's Name	Member Name	Member is from Local
Anya Hazelrigg	Cecily Hazelrigg-Hernandez	176PD Skagit Co. Public Defenders

\$2,000 Award

Recipient's Name	Member Name	Member is from Local
Colin Ayers	Larry Ayers	270 City of Spokane
Lake Caldera	Ruben Caldera	2083 Seattle Public Library
Micah Carcellar	Chona Lorico	275 Grays Harbor County
Jeremy Fisch	Deborah Fisch	846 City of Wenatchee
Rachel Hedman	Georgia Cookson	120 Pierce County
Jordyn Hill	Thomas Hill	492-CS Spokane Co. Jail Supervisors
Maximilian Hsiao	Xiaocheih & Yin-Chuan Hsiao	307CO Clark County

\$5,000 Award

Recipient's Name	Member Name	Member is from Local
Grace Yukawa	Carol Miyatake	21-HD Seattle/King Co. Health Dept.
Juilanne Schreiber	Lisa Schreiber	1849 San Juan County
Allison Pavish	Christopher Pavish	109 Snohomish Co. Road Dept.
Madison Kuss	Lorrie Kuss	1619MP Clallam Co. Managerial & Prof.
Dallin Carlson	Todd Carlson	120 Pierce County
Nicholas Barreca	M. Leigh Barreca	21C Seattle City Light

\$2,000 Golf Award

Recipient's Name	Member Name	Member is from Local
Sophie Kaatz	Robert Kaatz	270 City of Spokane
Kraig Lindh	Kenneth Lindh	1341 Lewis Co. Road Dept.
Hailey Maltbie	Michele Miller	1811M City of Mill Creek
Danielle McKeirnan	Tammy McKeirnan	2658 Benton County Appraisers
Courtney Mings	Jason Mings	1191W City of Walla Walla
Emily Morrison	Karyn Morrison	307CO Clark County
Tyler Palmer	Kurt Palmer	211 Issaquah School Bus Drivers
Mikila Salazar	Leslie Salazar	1553 Spokane County Courthouse
Edward Vlasenko	Natalya Vlasenko	120 City of Tacoma

Continuing Education Award

In Honor of Denise Ahles, Wife of Greg Ahles, Former Member and Past President of City of Everett, Local 113, Retired.

Recipient's Name	Recipient is from Local
Doreen Gier	87P Yakima County Juvenile Court
Cheryl Harmon	1837 City of Kirkland
Christy Jeffers	1553 Spokane County Courthouse
Robert Mendez	874CH Franklin County Courthouse
Sol Ordonez	21DC King County District Court



Anya Hazelrigg



Allison Pavish



Cheryl Harmon



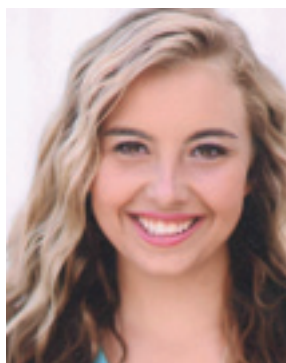
Colin Ayers



Courtney Mings



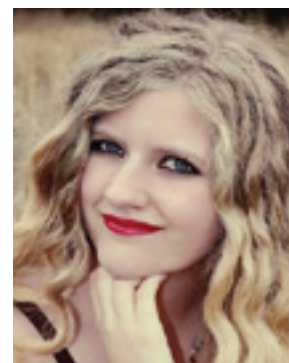
Dallin Carlson



Danielle McKeirnan



Edward Vlasenko



Hailey Maltbie



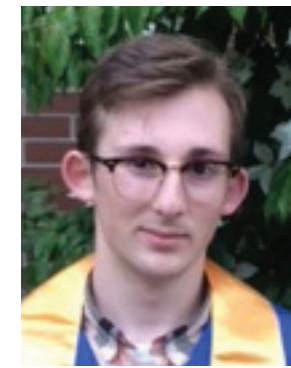
Mikila Salazar



Jeremy Fisch



Madison Kuss



Nicholas Barreca



Kraig Lindh



Micah Carcellar



Emily Morrison



Maximilian Hsiao



Jordyn Hill



Rachel Hedman

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THE VOICE OF COUNCIL 2

VOLUME 29, NO. 2 FALL 2014



Many of the Council 2 delegates and staff at the opening of the Convention's second day.

Council 2 Delegates Take Windy City by Storm

CHICAGO— Over 120 delegates from Locals all over the State attended the July AFSCME International convention in Chicago, joining more than 4000 loud and passionate voices for strength and solidarity in our union. The theme of the convention — *Brave, Bold, Determined* — was displayed throughout the cavernous hall, displayed on the stadium sized video screens flanking the stage, and echoed in a thunderous opening speech from AFSCME international President Lee Saunders.

Adding to the Washington State energy in the room, Saunders came to stage to the refrain of Seattle native Macklemore's "Can't Hold Us", and indeed the response from the crowd nearly raised the McCormick Center roof. Saunders' speech—clocked at nearly 30 minutes—recognized the volunteer organizing efforts that added nearly 100,000 new members to AFSCME in a year-long campaign leading up to the convention, and highlighted the challenges facing the national labor movement in the face of ongoing attacks in state capitals, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Court, ruling in the recent Harris v. Quinn decision, largely invalidated proven organizing models for low wage, quasi-public employee groups such as home care workers, threatening union membership and bargaining power. Saunders noted that AFSCME planned ahead of the conservative court ruling, and will be working with affected employee groups to protect their rights to bargain for a fair wage. Nonetheless, the ruling will impact locals and councils in many parts of the country.

In addition to speeches and presentations, delegates attended workshops and trainings, and even had a little time to relax and enjoy the sights in America's third largest city.

"I arrived excited and left energized," said Janay Jager, a first time delegate from Local 1811, CA. "We face challenges across the country—and here at home, but there is power in our solidarity and determination."

In keeping with the theme, delegates were able to share their stories of bravery, boldness, and determination in a video station outside the main convention hall. Highlights were shared throughout the convention, with stories ranging from organizing in so-called right-to-work states, making phone calls for pro-union candidates, to helping co-workers deal with an illness or family crisis.

"It's always powerful to hear the experiences of AFSCME members making a difference," said Patty Goins and longtime Council 2 leader making her 10th trip to the Convention. "It is important to remember that no matter what challenges we face, we are part of an organization that supports us and fights for us every day."

The "Windy City" lived up to its nickname with rain and wind keeping the weather unpredictable throughout the four day event. While delegates spent most of their time in the convention center, sun breaks and warm temperatures made for nice opportunities to walk along Lake Michigan and take in the famous architecture downtown.

"Spending time with delegates from Council 2 and around the country is the highlight of every convention," said Ron Fredin, Vice President of Council 2. "Chicago was a great city to gather, learn, and organize. As we head into the coming year, I am confident in our ability to make progress for working families."

Or as Macklemore put it, "...this is the moment..."

More convention photos inside on page 3

\$1.3 Million Settlement Award for Health Benefits

In the largest settlement ever received by this union, Snohomish County will be transferring \$1.3 million into our Health Insurance Fund. The settlement money will be solely used to lower your payroll deductions for health insurance depending on what level of plan coverage you receive.

Payroll deductions went into effect July 1st and were reflected on employees' July 22nd paychecks. These rates will be locked in until April of 2015 and will then result in lower premiums until the settlement runs out of money.

The effort by the union, which began in late-2011 as a response to multiple layoffs and wage freezes, involved Snohomish County officials, Council 2 staff members, outside auditors, Lindquist LLC and our insurance consultant, Jack Loos. The union was also backed by support from Snohomish County Executive John Lovick's administration.

"To the credit of this administration, they were willing to work with us," Council 2 President Chris Dugovich said.

In August 2013, the union filed its complaint against Snohomish County for under-funding its health care plan and the County Council approved the settlement on July 2nd of this year.

Under the new settlement-adjusted plans, employees will pay either \$5 or \$10 per month to cover the cost. The cost to cover an entire family will either be \$24 or \$46 per month, a considerable savings. As an additional benefit, employees covered with a Group Health plan will pay nothing for themselves or additional family members.

If you have any questions about the settlement or plan options, please call Matthew Miller at (425) 303-818 or 1-800-775-6418 or email matthewm@council2.com.

A Goodbye and a Fresh Start



CHRIS DUGOVICH

As you may have noticed, our longstanding Council 2 newsletter has a fresh look and a new team of individuals working on its content. We hope you like it. We are always open to your comments and suggestions on how we can

Letter from the President

improve its look and content. The real story behind this new look and team is that our behind the scenes writer and editor, Graham Fysh, has retired to the finer things in life after 20 years of publishing our newsletter. Over the years, many of our members met or talked with Graham about the hundreds of stories Graham worked on for the newsletter.



Graham Fysh, longtime County and City Employee Editor

Graham was a newspaper reporter by trade who retired for the first time from the *Tacoma News Tribune*. Initially, he moonlighted writing and editing our newsletter; and later it became his part-time retirement hobby he greatly enjoyed.

The interesting background on Graham was that he grew up in apartheid South Africa and left the country he knew when the everyday oppression and censorship in his trade became overwhelming. During our many discussions you'd pick up bits and pieces on how life was so very tough during those times. Over the years he would relay how much better things are now in South Africa after his yearly trips to visit friends and family. We were very fortunate to gain his expertise and talents for our Union's newsletter. And when I say "behind the scenes" he really was behind the scenes. Graham never wanted any type of special recognition for all of his hard work and preferred to keep himself out of the story. Putting these newsletters together is no small task, and as a former individual who did it for a few years, I couldn't wait to find someone who could take it over and take it to a new level. Graham did that and so much more for everyone who has found interesting stories in our issues. I wish the best to him and his wife Marcia and their entire family.

Council 2 Scholarships Help Change Lives

The Washington State Council of County & City Employees offers several scholarships, which are awarded annually and range in amounts from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

Some scholarship recipients are eager to use their awards as they begin school having recently graduated. Grace Yukawa, upon receiving her award, mentioned her goal of also giving back, "These funds will help bring me a step closer in reaching my goal towards earning a degree in biomedical engineering and helping others improve their quality of life."

Other recipients show their enthusiasm for opening up new opportunities to continue their education. Council 2 Scholarship Award Winner, Doreen Gier, had this to say about receiving her scholarship, "Although I have been at my job now for 19 years, I feel the need to try something new. Going to college has been a wonderful experience"

To see a complete list of Council 2 Scholarship Award Winners and their photos check out the back page of this newsletter.

Applications for the AFSCME Family Scholarship and the Union Plus Scholarship are currently available on our Council 2 website www.council2.com.

2014 PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE | OCT 24 - 25, 2014

Campbell's Resort | Chelan, WA
Visit www.council2.com for more details and to register.

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I'd Like a C.O.L.A. with My Burger



In a public display of frustration over Spokane County's failure to give county employees a cost of living adjustment (C.O.L.A.) in over three years, members of several different locals organized a BBQ picnic on the same day as the annual Spokane County Employee Appreciation BBQ just a mere block away. The union BBQ was held on August 6th on a grassy area on the grounds of the Public Health Building and nearly 400 people were in attendance.

Gordon Smith, Jr., Staff Representative for Council 2 AFSCME, had this to say about the picnic, "It was an energizing event without any protests or marching. The people there gave us lots of positive feedback and you could definitely tell a message was sent."

There was no cost to attend the union BBQ, whereas the Employee Appreciation BBQ admission was \$1. Joining members and others in the food line were several department heads and elected officials, including County Auditor Vicky Dalton, County Treasurer Rob Chase, County Assessor Vicki Horton and County Clerk Tim Fitzgerald.

Perhaps the biggest star of the BBQ, other than the grilled

options, was the button given out to attendees with the slogan "I'd like a C.O.L.A. with my burger". Colleen Smith, a shop steward with Local 1553, came up with the phrase and organized the button giveaway to highlight the upcoming contract mediation happening on August 28th with union leadership and Spokane County.

Locals around the county unanimously voted down the county offer at the end of July and are hoping to show strong, unified support to achieve success on obtaining a C.O.L.A. at the August mediations.

The BBQ was organized by Local 1553, but members from Locals 492, 492CS, 492J, 492N, 492RF, 492SP, 1135, 1553PA and 1553S were also in attendance.

Local 1553 hopes to keep members engaged by sponsoring a candidate forum in September focusing on key races like the election for Spokane County Commissioner.

Primary Results Point to Competitive November Elections

EVERETT— Analysis of the August 5 Primary Elections indicate a competitive landscape for control of the Washington State Senate, with many House races also in play as campaigns ramp up for the November runoff. A variety of county-level campaigns are also emerging as important contests, many with direct impact on Council 2 members.

The 2014 electoral landscape is unique in that there are no top of the ticket partisan races for U.S. Senate, Governor or other offices. As a result, most of the focus is on a handful of U.S. House races, and the State Senate, where Republicans control the agenda with the help of two Democrats who handed the GOP control in 2013. One of those renegade Democrats, Rodney Tom (LD 48-Medina), is retiring and is likely to be replaced by current Representative Cyrus Habib. The other defector, Tim Sheldon (LD35-Potlatch) advanced to the general election along with Democrat Irene Bowling, making for a confusing "top-2" contest.

Other competitive Senate races attracting plenty of attention and dollars include the 42nd District in Whatcom County, the 44th in Snohomish, 45th in east King County, 30th in south King County, and 28th in south Pierce County. Democrats are hoping to win 2 of these races in order to regain control of the chamber. Several Senate candidates endorsed by Council 2, including moderate Democrat Steve Hobbs in the 44th, had strong showings in the primary, and look to build momentum for November.

Local races are also shaping up to be competitive—including a Spokane County Commission election that could set the tone for future contracts, and a Charter measure in Clark County that would replace the three member commission with a five member, district-based Council, similar to other large counties in the state.

"A governance change in Clark County will go a long way to limit the influence of a single, wealthy commissioner who is trying to buy political control," said Ron Fredin, Council 2 Vice President and a member of Vancouver City Local 307-VC. "We're one of the fastest growing parts of the state, with expanding public service needs—and we need a government responsive to everyone."

Supreme Court Issues Decision in Gainsharing Lawsuit

In a much anticipated ruling, the Supreme Court has overturned the lower Court's opinion and upheld a law passed in 2007 which repealed "Gainsharing" and lowered the normal retirement age from 65 to 62 for members with 30 years of service.

Many members have been awaiting this ruling because if the court upheld

Gainsharing, the Early Retirement Factors could have been eliminated.

The ruling puts an end to the debate and provides the "legal certainty" required to maintain the benefits Council 2 members have worked so hard for.

The passage of this bill and the subsequent Supreme Court ruling also

preserves the largest improvement in Plan 2 since its inception.

For more information, please see "What's New" at the DRS website www.drs.wa.gov

AFSCME International Convention 2014



Here are just a few images of our Council 2 delegates enjoying the Chicago convention.

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