



32 CONNECTIONS

A Publication for Members of United Association Local 32

UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL 32 SEATTLE

Issue 3 • Fall 2010

Working Class Heroes in Our Midst: *Honoring Local 32 Shop Stewards*



Erik Miltun and Greg Fuller in front of the new union-built ferry Chetzemoka.

A good family is only as strong as its commitment to stay together no matter how hard or divisive times get. In the same light, a good union may only be as strong as its stewards. Our union is here today because of a legacy of stewardship beginning with our first constitution. Generations have worked hard to keep the commitments of this union and to stay together through the most difficult of times. Like good parents, our stewards are there to be understanding while offering constructive criticism and to put values that keep our union together ahead of personal goals. Thanks to our stewards, today that commitment is carried forward

to insure we will remain united long into the future. Without our stewards, past and present, our union would not be possible.

Being a shop steward is a very tough and important job. Stewards lead the way in making sure the union is there to advocate for every member when the rubber actually meets the road; on the job, in contract negotiations, at the State Capitol, during layoffs, and during grievances. Out of sheer commitment to our collective well-being, stewards go above and beyond to keep the union together and strong in good times and bad. Union stewards make sure our contracts are up-

held, and our workers are treated fairly. Without the work of ordinary workers standing up for the well being of their brothers and sisters, there really is no union.

An example of the good that stewards can do is when Erik Miltun and Greg Fuller recently stepped up to the challenge of teaching good stewardship at Todd's Shipyard. With inconsistent work over the recent years, the collective bargaining agreement there was losing power. Recently with work picking up, union members new to shipyard work have started there. Most workers did not know what

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UA Local 32

Newsletter Committee:

Wade Jarvis: *Chairman*
 Patty Gilmore
 Leanne Guier
 Dusty Hoerler
 Joe Morato
 Jeff Owen

Agents and Organizers

Jeffery J. Owen
Business Manager / Financial Secretary
 Steve Menne
Assistant Business Manager /
Plumber Business Agent
 PJ Moss
Steamfitter Business Agent
 Erik Pound
Refrigeration Business Agent
 Dan Jensen
Dispatcher and Inside Business Agent
 Marty Yellam
Municipalities Business Agent /
Metaltrade Marine Pipefitter Business Agent
 Troy Shopin
PSE Agent
 Brad Moore
Organizer
 Bruce Kelley
Organizer
 Eric Ercanbrack
Wenatchee Agent
 Lee Whetham
Peninsula Agent



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Union meetings are the 2nd THURS of
 every month at 5pm.

**Have an article you would like to
 submit?** Please contact Wade Jarvis by
 email: wjarvis@comcast.net or call:
 425-765-0659.

Business Manager's Report

by Jeffery J. Owen

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This newsletter, as you will see, covers many topics and issues that affect our Membership on a day-to-day basis. I want to thank the Newsletter Committee for their hard work and dedication in bringing this Newsletter to you.

As you read through the articles, you will notice that it takes a lot of personal time and effort on behalf of the Membership to make a difference inside our Local Union. The reports you will read are from Members who serve on Sound Alliance, PAC Committee, and the Old Timer's Committee. Members not mentioned are those responsible for making the Annual Picnic a success and all members who participate quietly in a variety of ways. The responsibility you have taken to personally make Local 32 a success is paramount to our future success.

This past week, the Assistant Business Manager, Steve Menne, and myself attended the annual IAPMO Education and Business Conference that was held in Seattle this year. I want to thank **Steve Nastruz** who is on the IAPMO Board of Directors and Senior Plumbing Inspector for Seattle and King County, and current Chapter President, **Fred Volkens**, who both work diligently protecting the plumbing codes accepted within Washington State.

Congratulations to the 2010 Apprentices

The Annual Banquet was held at the Museum of Flight on Friday, September 24th. A special thanks goes to Dale Wentworth and his staff for making the night a success. Former Training Coordinator, Ed Holmes, attended and was acknowledged by the Apprentices and all in attendance for his contribution to the JATC.

Health and Welfare Update

While the news media continues to report that the new health care reform changes apply to all group health plans immediately, that is not quite accurate.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) is effective on the first day of the Plan Year after September 23, 2010 and if the Plan is not a grandfathered Plan. A grandfathered plan is a plan that was in existence as of March 23, 2010, the date the PPACA was passed.

The Plan Year for the Seattle Area Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Health and Welfare Trust is July 1 and the **Plan has grandfather status at this time. Changes would be effective July 1, 2010.**

However, the Board of Trustees have amended the Plan to provide coverage for dependent children up to age 26. Children age 19 to age 26 can be enrolled if they do not have access to other employer-sponsored health coverage effective January 1, 2011. Information on enrolling dependents will be included in the Open Enrollment packet the Trust Office will be mailing to you approximately the last week of October, 2010.

Pre-jobs and Jurisdiction

In the last two weeks, we have held pre-jobs with our contractors, with an approximate mechanical value of \$30 million dollars. Some of the **projects listed below** have already started, however, it is important to hold these pre-jobs to discuss the scope of work, resolve potential jurisdiction issues, timelines, and manpower requirements:

- Sunnycrest Elementary School
- UW site 33 Student Housing
- UW site 31 Student Housing



- Finn Hill Junior High
- Queen Anne Elementary
- Port of Seattle – pre-conditioned Air
- Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station
- Spiritridge Elementary School
- Tyee Middle School
- Viewlands Elementary Modernization
- Kindred Healthcare Seattle
- Kent Meridian High will be done next week

Jurisdiction Documentation

Today, more than ever and with the current recession, we are under a constant threat of other crafts claiming our work, or worse, our contractors awarding them our work. These threats are cost related and not craftsmanship. **If the House of Labor is to Survive, we need accountability within the Labor movement.**

We are working on the development of an electronic documentation system that will allow us to file and document our jurisdiction in a timely manner and in a central location. We’ll be able to instantly access it and it will become part of our history as we move forward. It is not enough to say we have always done the work and, therefore, it is ours. We have to take this step, along with others, if we

are to have a future in the plumbing and pipefitting industry. We have to be diligent in protecting our work on the jobsite and here in the office.

Negotiations

Puget Sound Energy

Negotiations began in early August and concluded with the ratification of the agreement on Thursday, September 30th. The Membership voted in favor of the agreement by a 77% margin. I want to thank the Negotiating Committee, Ray Brickell, Bruce Voutour, and new agent, Troy Shopin, who worked countless hours reviewing the proposal with the Membership prior to the vote.

Future Negotiations

- Gas Distribution - Agreement Expires November 15th, 2010.
- Highline Water District - Agreement expires December 31st, 2010.

Fraternally,

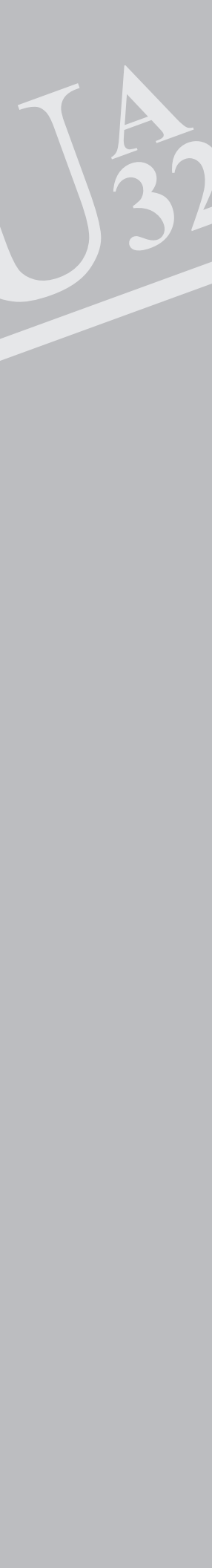
Jeffery J. Owen, Business Manager

“You make progress by fighting for progress. You will only retain the gains you have made by constant vigilance and by a demonstrated willingness to fight again. So when we look back to our gains, let us do so not with the purpose of indulging ourselves in the luxury of a feeling of satisfaction or complacency, but for the knowledge and inspiration needed to carry on in the direction of even a better day.”
– George Meany

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RETIREE CORNER

BY SISTER PATTY GILMORE



Local 32's Heritage Resource of Wisdom, Knowledge, Experience, and History

We would like to welcome our NEW 2010 Retirees. To date, we have 30 members that have gone through the retirement process this year. For those members interested in starting the paperwork for retirement you will need to call the Pension Office and request your application packet. You can reach the Washington State Pension Office in Seattle at 206-352-9728 and the National Pension Office in Alexandria, Virginia at 1-800-638-7442. If you need help in filling out your application, please call me (Patty) at Local 32's Business Office for an appointment. I will be available and prepared to help you.

OLD TIMER'S CELEBRATION

It was a festive day on Saturday, September 11, 2010, when, once again, we honored our Old Timer's at our annual celebration. The day started with opening ceremonies by our newly elected President, Brother Eric Gilbreath. Guest Speaker, UA International Representative, Brother Jim Moss, spoke about pride, our heritage, and gratitude for our Old Timer's. Brother Jeff Owen, our newly elected Business Manager, welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the current and projected future of our business.

Before starting the presentation of awards, I was honored to acknowledge six (6) Brothers who, together, have achieved an accumulation of 421 years of service with the UA and Local 32.

We were honored to have three (3) of the six (6) Brothers present at the Celebration. They were as follows:

Brother Bert Carlson

Building Trades Journeyman Steamfitter
Initiated December, 1940 and lives in Bothell.

Brother Al Hokanson

Building Trades Journeyman Steamfitter
Initiated December, 1940 and lives in Woodinville.

By the way, Bert and Al are not only Brothers in this Local Union, they are cousins in real life.

Brother James Everett

Building Trades Journeyman Steamfitter
Initiated December, 1940 lives in Lacey.



Seated: Bert Carlson, Al Hokanson, James Everett
Standing: Business Manager, Jeffery Owen, President, Eric Gilbreath

The three (3) that were not able to attend were:

Brother John O'Brian

Building Trades Journeyman Steamfitter
Initiated February, 1940 and lives in Monroe.

Brother Richard Egland

Building Trades Journeyman Steamfitter
Initiated December, 1940 and lives in Seattle.

Brother Sidney Foyston

Building Trades Journeyman Steamfitter
Initiated on September 30, 1939.

At the end of this month, Brother Foyston, will actually be a 71-year member. I had the pleasure of talking to Sid by phone a few days ago. He lives in Palm Springs, California and had it not been for a recent automobile accident where he injured his ankle, he would have attended the Celebration. On June 28th of this year, he celebrated his 70th wedding anniversary with his wife Marilyn. He gave up playing tennis 4 years ago, however, he is still an avid golfer.

With the accumulation of over 400 years of service, certain facts about what the Union represents, provides, and the good that can be obtained for one's self, one's family, one's community and one's brotherhood can only be appreciated and acknowledged with a perspective that shows up with 70 years of focus, participation, and tenacity.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE, HONOR, AND SALUTE YOU.

The afternoon concluded with the certificate and pin presentations, pictures, great food, and a wonderful time visiting with old friends.

Thank you to all of the members in attendance for their participation in the Celebration and their many years of contribution to Local 32 and the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry.

With Great Respect,

Sister Patty Gilmore



Years of Service Committee

Seated: Keith Nester, Augie Montoya, Jeff Owen, Steve Menne.

Standing: Vaughn Griffiths, Andy Smith, Jordan Slye, Patty Gilmore, Wally Marshall, Eric Gilbreath, Eric Ercanbrack

SOLIDARITY

BY BROTHER DUSTY HOERLER
AND BROTHER JOE MORATO



Our House Campaign

How it all began:

December 2009: The United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 32, a Sound Alliance member institution, organized a listening campaign for its out-of-work members. Members expressed growing fears about losing their homes after many years of hard work and making their mortgage payments on time. 24 committee members from Local 32 participated in member outreach, planning, organizing and testifying.

January 2010: Sound Alliance leaders formally voted to dedicate their energies to address foreclosure crisis. Leaders on the team researched the issue, spoke with distressed borrowers from member institutions and met with certified housing counselors to better understand the nature of the problem.

April 2010: Sound Alliance pushed for a meeting with Bank of America executives who oversee the bank's home loan modification program. Bank of America is the largest home loan servicer in the United States.

March to May 2010: The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 32 and IBEW local 46, both Alliance member institutions, organized educational workshops about foreclosures, so that members could become more effective advocates for themselves.

June 2010: Sound Alliance leaders from the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 32 and IBEW Local 46, University Unitarian Church, St. Vincent de Paul Church, and Temple De Hirsch Sinai, met with Bank of America executives to demand that the bank be more responsive to addressing homeowner concerns.

August 5: Bank of America conducted an "appointment event" during which their servicers met face-to-face with Bank of America customers seeking to modify their loans.

What we are working for:

We would like Bank of America to establish a homeownership center, as it has done in other areas and as Chase has already done in the Puget Sound.

If Bank of America, the nation's largest servicer of mortgages, did provide such a center, we believe we could begin to strategically address the foreclosure crisis in Washington State by helping the largest number of distressed homeowners and setting a precedent that other banks would follow.

Given the depth of the foreclosure crisis in the Puget Sound, we believe that Bank of America, and other loan servicers, must provide an established, streamlined method (through a homeownership center) for borrowers to get a clearer, faster response on their modification applications. We believe that lending institutions that offered loans with a face-to-face meeting need to resolve problems through a face-to-face meeting with their mortgage customers at these homeownership centers rather than limit them to call centers where they encounter a maze of problems and delays. These procedural problems jeopardize people's chance of staying in their homes.

If you or anyone in your family has a personal story about dealing with your mortgage servicer around getting a modification please call the Sound Alliance office, leave a message and an Organizer will contact you. Sound Alliance office 206.575.2252

ORGANIZING 2010

BY BRUCE KELLEY AND BRAD MOORE



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is the obligation of the Organizing Department to help our membership better understand organizing, its origin, and its purpose. The mission of the union is to meet the needs of construction workers and to elevate the conditions of life and labor of working people.

Organizing is the most effective way to rebuild our declining bargaining strength. Increasing the percentage of workers organized in any jurisdiction increases market share and enhances bargaining power. Organizing allows the union to win better wages and benefits for our members. Our founding fathers understood that only by organizing the supply of skilled labor could the union exercise genuine collective bargaining strength.

Traditionally and historically, the basic approach to union organization of the building and construction industry was one of recruiting and taking into membership all those who were employed in the trade. The unions were founded and built on this principle, which is often referred to as bottom-up organizing. Our forefathers who built these great unions went out and talked to other tradesmen and invited them to join. It wasn't easy. They sold the union idea, the union spirit, and the union principle.

Over the summer, Local 32 and the Washington State Association have been involved in several job actions all over the state of Washington, two specifically in our jurisdiction. One job site was the Issaquah High School project. We bannered several times, not only at the project site, but also at other locations in the City of Issaquah. This got the attention of several residents, as well as the local paper, *The Issaquah Press*. Brother Brad Moore and I did a thirty-minute phone interview regarding our job action. We were allowed to express our thoughts about the Issaquah School Board and the fact that general contractors were hiring out-of-state

"... We were allowed to express our thoughts about the Issaquah School Board and the fact that general contractors were hiring out-of-state sub-contractors to do the work that we do."

sub-contractors to do the work that we do, while our members and other skilled craft union members are unemployed and the out-of-town workers send their earnings back to the states they live in. Cornerstone was the general on that project and though we were unable to reclaim that work, we definitely let the City of Issaquah and the Issaquah School Board know of our discontent.

We also had and continue to have a presence at the SCORE project, a non-felon correctional facility being built in Des Moines, WA. This job action is an informational picket. Local 32, in collaboration with three other King County Building Trades unions, has been able to bring awareness to our plight.

I want to thank the Business Manager, Jeff Owen, for his support this summer and all the Local 32 members who have given their time to support their Organizing Department. I would encourage all members, whenever possible, to get involved.

Fraternally,

Brad Moore and Bruce Kelley

COMMUNITY CORNER

BY BROTHER WADE JARVIS



A tried and true union slogan is “getting the job done right the first time.” Recently turned out journeyman service plumber Danny Klumper has shown this slogan is not just words. Passing just one of the three star exams in Plumbing, Fitting or HVAC is required for graduation. Many times, more than one try is needed because of the difficulty of the exams’ high standards. Danny has passed all

three with high marks on his first try. If this is any indication of the caliber of the journeymen service plumbers coming from the new service program, our union has a bright future in the service industry thanks to the great students like Danny. Danny’s dedication to his training has been noticed by the JATC -- He has been given the honor of Apprentice of the Year 2010. Congratulations!

WORKING CLASS HEROES FROM FRONT PAGE

was in the agreement and were unknowingly working outside the guidance and protection of the contract. Both Greg and Erik have been actively educating the union members that are working at the shipyards. Their guidance has helped those workers protect their rights and the value of solidarity.

Stewards are the glue that holds us together. They are our brothers, our sisters, our heroes. It is very important that we honor and call attention

to the work they all do so selflessly, to protect our families and make sure our union is strong and effective. As long as there are stewards, there is a union.



Political Action Committee (PAC)

The political action committee is made up of local 32 members who spend their time and energy protecting our quality of life. Political candidates from all venues come before the committee asking for their endorsement. After reviewing the candidate's questionnaires, the committee then grills these candidates to make sure they have our best interests in mind. Will they stand up and fight for us? Do they understand what our issues are? Do they understand the importance of Project Labor Agreements (PLA) and apprenticeship utilization? Sometimes the candidates don't fully understand our issues and the PAC is there to educate them. After interviewing the candidates, the committee recommends to the membership whether to endorse and/or donate money. The membership then votes on whether or not to follow the PAC recommendation. Politicians make the laws that create or destroy jobs. These candidates are not endorsed just because they carry a "D" on their ballot.

The United Association Constitution states: "We must assist in electing to public office only those favorable to the cause which we espouse, which is the cause of human freedom and in doing so, elect our friends and defeat our enemies."

The PAC also thoroughly researches ballot measures and initiatives to see how they affect the members. They then discuss them and determine the best position for Local 32 to take. This recommendation is then presented to the membership for approval.

The PAC meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:00pm, dinner is provided at 4:30. The PAC is always looking for dedicated volunteers who are willing to work to maintain our standard of living. Please feel free to contact any one of these members to see how you can help make a difference.



From left to right: Leanne Guier, Chris Hash, Gordon Baxter, Chair Eric Gilbreath, Dusty Hoeler, Keith Nester, Bruce Durham, and Karl Davies. Not pictured: Chris Elwell, John Perkins, Marty Yellam, Bruce Lingenfelter, John Komorowski, and Eric Talley.



NO OVERSIGHT. NO REGULATION. NO ACCOUNTABILITY.

NO I-1082: Written and Sponsored by the Insurance Industry

- I-1082 was written by the insurance industry, so it's loaded with fine print that will help giants like AIG unfairly profit from Washington's workers' compensation system.
- Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler opposes I-1082 because the insurance industry wrote it to give themselves special exemptions that no other line of insurance is allowed – not car, home, life or health insurance.

NO I-1082: Read the Fine Print

- Allows private insurers to set their own rates with virtually no oversight. It's in the initiative: Sec 2 (2)
- Exempts workers' compensation insurers from the voter-approved Insurance Fair Conduct Act, meaning workers' compensation insurers can intentionally delay and deny legitimate claims—with virtually no way to hold them accountable. It's in the initiative: Sec. 3
- I-1082 offers no protection for businesses, workers or doctors if an insurance company suddenly declares bankruptcy. It's in the initiative: Sec 2 (2)

NO I-1082: The Wrong Solution for Washington

- Washington's workers' compensation system is there when you and your family need it. If you're injured on the job, workers' compensation pays your medical bills and provides some income until you can work again. It can also provide job retraining if needed.
- The insurance industry magazine *Risk and Insurance* gives Washington high marks for both high worker benefits and low employer costs.
- Washington's premium rates for employers were in the lowest third in the nation in 2008, based on the Oregon Worker's Compensation Premium Rate Ranking.
- The Office of Financial Management estimates that I-1082 will cost state and local governments \$250 million over five years.

NO I-1082: It's Bad for Small Business

- Forces employers to pay the portion of workers' compensation premiums currently paid by employees. For the average business owner, premiums will go up by 18%.
- Even I-1082's biggest supporters admit there are problems. In a memo to members, the Association of Washington Businesses notes: "This will increase costs for some employers."
- Insurance industry will cherry-pick large and less risky businesses, leaving others to pay higher rates.

**VOTE NO ON 1-1082:
GOOD FOR THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY.
BAD FOR YOU.**

www.voteno1082.com

On the issues that matter to Washington's working families...



There's Just No Comparison



Sen. Patty Murray

DEMOCRAT

A former teacher and State Legislator, Murray was elected U.S. Senator in 1992. She has a **90% labor voting record**.



Dino Rossi

REPUBLICAN

A real estate salesman, Rossi has twice run for Governor and lost. As a State Legislator, he had a **6% labor voting record**.

JOB AND THE ECONOMY

✓ As an Appropriations Committee leader, Murray has **successfully fought for job-creating federal funding** for our state's roads, veterans' hospitals, schools, and military bases.¹ She makes no apologies for bringing our tax dollars home.

Rossi **vows NOT to bring our tax dollars back to this state** from Washington, D.C., in the form of budget "earmarks" for specific local projects.¹ This could cost Washington state thousands of jobs. ✗

WAGES

✓ Throughout her career, Murray has supported **raising the minimum wage**² and to protect prevailing wage standards on federally funded construction jobs.³ Murray voted **against cuts in overtime pay** sought by President Bush.⁴

Rossi voted to **lower the minimum wage** by ending the cost-of-living increases voters approved by a 2-to-1 margin.⁶ Rossi voted to impose President Bush's restrictions to **deny OT pay to workers** here in Washington state.⁷ ✗

UNEMPLOYMENT

✓ Murray repeatedly **voted to extend unemployment benefits** for people who've lost their incomes through no fault of their own.⁵ She says these benefits stimulate local economies, especially those hardest hit by recession layoffs.

Amid high unemployment, Rossi voted to **cut jobless benefits** by up to \$200 a week and make it harder to qualify for benefits.⁸ Rossi also voted to **deny benefits to domestic violence victims** forced to leave their jobs to flee their abusers.⁹ ✗

UNION RIGHTS

✓ Murray **sponsored the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)** to restore the freedom to join unions without employer interference.

Rossi voted **against collective bargaining rights** for state employees and college faculty.¹⁰ He opposes the EFCA. ✗

1. Seattle Times [5/27/10] 2. HR 2 (2007), others 3. HR 3075 (2007), others 4. HR 2660 (2003) 5. HR 4213 (2010), others 6. SB 5697 (2003) 7. SB 5462 (2003) 8. SB 6097 (2003) 9. SB 5189 (2001), HB 1248 (2002) 10. HB 1268, 2403, 2540 (2002)



That's why Your Union supports Patty Murray for U.S. Senate

A message from the working men and women of the Washington State Labor Council.
Learn more at **www.wslc.org**

UA Local 32 Provides Volunteers and Release Staff

By **KAMARIA HIGHTOWER**, WSLC Staff & AFL-CIO Field Communications Assistant



WSLC Political Director Benjamin Lawver, UA Local 32 release staff Leanne Guier and UA Local 32 Business Rep. Marty Yellam

It's 6:00 a.m., the time many of us push the "snooze" button for the first time, yet UA Local 32 member and release staff Leanne Guier is standing at the gate of Todd Shipyard in Seattle.

On this day, she's leafleting workers about the stark contrast between Labor's endorsed candidate for U.S. Senate, Patty Murray and her opponent. And also the reasons working families should vote "no" on I-1082 this fall.

For the past four weeks, Leanne has been working to recruit UA member volunteers to help her educate their fellow union members. It's a tough job, but there is no better way to communicate with workers than at the job site.

"I want to motivate our out of work building trades members, and there are a lot of them, to get out and be a part of helping to bring jobs back to our region," said Leanne. She went on to say that the fight to elect candidates who will support the issues that UA members care about is at a critical juncture. Leanne is comfortable explaining the importance of volunteering because she has a firm belief that doing nothing is the same as voting against your own self-interest.

On a recent day at Todd Shipyard Leanne

brought out UA 32 Business Representative Marty Yellam, and members Erik Miltun and Greg Fuller to help leaflet. Marty started out as a member of UA Local 32 and worked himself up through the ranks to become a Business Rep. He is now the Representative for Todd.

"It's been a tough year for recruiting volunteers," Yellam laments. He believes that as the economy continues to suffer with people out of work it's crucial to get volunteers out to reinforce the message about how each vote will affect working people and the unemployed. He feels a pressing need to get the word out to members. "It's imperative that we remember who [Labor] supported and that we keep track of what they've done for us."

Another volunteer Guier recruited, Erik Miltun, is an employee at Todd. He says he wants to make sure that information gets into the hands of every union member. He's enjoyed volunteering at his worksite because his coworkers appreciate the message coming from someone they know.

Across Washington state there is still a lot of work to do. Labor Neighbor provides opportunities for you to help get the message out in many ways. This election is too important for anyone to sit on the sidelines.

Labor Neighbor By LEANNE GUIER

Labor Neighbor is in full swing this election cycle, and is one of the most effective ways to educate fellow union members of labor endorsed candidates. Labor Neighbor gives you the perfect opportunity to volunteer and do your part while learning more about the candidates and issues on the ballot. It only takes a few hours on a Saturday or a couple hours on a week night participating at a phone bank. Scripts to follow are provided as well as easy to understand messages and flyers so you can discuss the issues with fellow union members. First time volunteers are always paired with experienced veterans. We have a lot at stake this election cycle and it's going to take a lot of work from all of us.

Local 32 will be hosting a walk from our hall on October 16th for Legislative District 41. We will be meeting at the hall at 9am. We will be doorbelling for our endorsed candidates and Initiative 1082 as well as Referendum 52. There are other legislative districts needing our help and walks scheduled in those areas. If you enjoy your rate of pay and benefits, I encourage you to get involved. Our standard of living is under attack and needs your support. **To sign up, please contact Leanne Guier at 206-290-7710 or e-mail at Leanne@ualocal32.com.**

For Labor Neighbor Walk dates, locations and times please go to www.ualocal32.com.

Sustainable Works By MIKE SHILLEY

Part of our work with Sound Alliance has been helping establish the Non Profit "Sustainable Works". Since our last newsletter, over 330 energy retrofit audits have been completed in Seattle and Federal Way. From these, 225 homeowners have signed up and 117 retrofits are now complete.

Many of our members have donated their time to canvas these areas and helped to produce these results. Areas of Lynnwood and Edmonds are now organizing with area utilities and governments involved. We are asking for members living in these neighborhoods to donate a few hours to help canvas and develop neighborhood outreach. This enables our Non Profit to offer this program at a low cost to the home owner.

Another exciting development in the planning stages named "Seattle's Neighborhood Weatherize Every Building" (WEB) program. South East Seattle

from interstate 5 to Lake Washington from Capitol Hill to Seward Park will be the next area to receive this energy retrofit program. Seattle's "WEB" goal is to create 2000 living wage green jobs, reduce energy use by 15 to 45 %, and cut 71,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions over the next 3 years. In order to organize under the "Sustainable Works" model, we would like to identify our members living in this area to help us organize and develop a credible plan to present to the "City of Seattle" in October so we can become the organization to undertake this work. Under this program the federal stimulus funds allow each homeowner or small business an energy audit for just \$95 of the \$600 cost.

If you can donate a little time to help us produce these programs and obtain this work for union shops please call the Local 32 at 425-277-6680. Your contact information will be passed onto the area Home Retrofit Program Organizer.

Company Fostering By TOM VEATCH

To get ourselves employed, why not employ ourselves? While business is weak in commercial new construction, market share growth is wide open to us in the less-cyclic business of residential service plumbing. The UA International is fully behind our efforts to regain this market. As members of this great Union, it behooves us to promote our own shops. With this in mind, we should be keeping our "ear to the ground". Friends and neighbors may not know Local 32 is in the "Plumbing Service" business. We can and will do better than these over priced Non Union Service Shops.

We have established a co-op for members to go after Residential Service. Find us on the internet

at CooperativePlumbers.com, or call 425-CHEAPER. One co-op participant has taken the big step of starting an independent shop, Erik D Plumber LLC, and immediately going signatory; the hall has taken his name off the out-of-work list. Eric Dow has given up his own place in the list, accelerating every unemployed brother behind him to their next job, at his own personal risk. We need to support him in this risky time as well as our other contractors. So give a call if you find plumbing work to refer to a brother who is starting up and taking some of the load off our hall. The co-op number 425-243-2737 (and yes it spells out CHEAPER) presently rings on Eric's phone, and ualocal32.org lists all our contractors besides.



Steamfitter/ Welder Report

By PJ Moss

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It has been a fast moving first two (2) months for me in the office. I have enjoyed getting to know members that I have had the good fortune to interact with on a daily basis, whether in the Business Office, on job sites, or in classrooms. For the many members that I have yet to meet, I look forward to getting to know you and represent you as fellow members of Local 32.

Unfortunately, as we get into the last few months of the year, I can't foresee any good long-term jobs that will clear our lists. For the Welders, there have been opportunities for those willing to travel. I have received several calls from locals throughout the country looking for stainless and chrome welders, which has provided an opportunity for a few members. Since I came into the Business Office, I can point to one constant with our out-of-work lists -- our Welders have been able to weather the current recession better than most. I would implore any of our out-of-work members to take the opportunity that we have in our school's weld shop and work towards gaining these skills that will help you and strengthen our local as a whole.

Since I became a member of Local 32, I have continued to hear that in the coming years we are going to run out of Welders in the UA. I can honestly say that until I became an agent and looked into where we are with the available Welders, I didn't believe that it was as big of an issue as I was led to believe. Brothers and Sisters, if you have your Journeyman card, are able to weld multiple processes at X-ray quality, and are willing to travel, I can find you work. This is a fact, if you have the skills mentioned above, you will work or, at the bare minimum, I can find opportunities for you to work.

Faternally,

PJ Moss
Steamfitter/Welder Business Agent

Refrigeration Report

By Erik Pound

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As we all know, work continues to be slow. We didn't see the increase in the workload we were looking for this summer due to the mild weather. Many of our service contractors are slowing down and don't expect to see any significant improvement before well into next year. Much of the reason for this is customer driven; they have been cancelling scheduled maintenance contracts. Another factor is the large vacancy rate for commercial buildings downtown. This means less tenant improvement, service, and maintenance work.

Much of the same thing is happening with the supermarket industry. For the most part, service has been doing pretty well. On the construction side, there's been activity lately, and projects are coming up to bid, but most contractors are predicting a significant decline in the workload for the rest of the year. As a result, a lot of the supermarket construction mechanics have been traveling quite a bit. We have members in California, Oregon, Nevada, and Eastern Washington.

We still are experiencing quite a bit of underemployment, with many of our members working less than 40 hours per week. A few shops have chosen to put our members on standby; some members are working every other week, others are taking two (2) or more weeks off.

Our out-of-work situation as of September 28th, 2010:

- 39 Journeymen.
- 8 Apprentices.
- 6 Techs.

I keep an email list of many, but not all, of our out-of-work members. I use this to pass along job opportunities for city, county, shipyards, and school districts as they become available, as well as other information. If you would like to be added to this distribution list, please contact me @ 425-277-6680 or Erik@ualocal32.com.

Our next quarterly Shop Steward Meeting will be October 21st, 2010. Pizzas show up around 4:30 and the meeting starts at 5:00 p.m. The Refrigeration Stewards will meet separately to discuss:

- Our \$3.00 increase effective January 1st, 2011, which will be allocated during December's Union meeting.
- Facilities Engineers/Facilities work.
- Contract Negotiations in 2011.
- Any other topics the Stewards bring up.

Our Business Manager will attend for a while, and this will be a great opportunity for our Stewards to spend some time with him discussing issues that are important to the Refrigeration/HVAC industry. Again, I would like to thank our Stewards for their excellent participation since we've started the quarterly meetings.

As the result of a job visit on March 8th to Lake Washington High School to investigate a non-union contractor installing walk-in boxes, I discovered a problem with the prevailing wage rate for Refrigeration Mechanics in King County. For reasons known only to them, Labor and Industries decided to review the prevailing wage surveys of two of our contractors. This resulted in the prevailing wage rate decreasing from \$62.56 to \$37.91.

After four (4) months of meetings, and a seemingly endless exchange of emails and letters between our contractors, Local 32, Rebound and Labor and Industries, this issue was finally resolved on July 22nd, 2010. The prevailing wage rate for Refrigeration Mechanics in King County is now \$62.56.

This was an extremely important issue for our Membership and contractors. Had our efforts been unsuccessful, our contractors would not have been able to compete with non-union contractors on prevailing wage jobs. It took a great deal of effort from many people to make this happen. I would like to especially thank:

- Randy Carlson & Jackie King of Puget Sound Refrigeration.
- Randy Sheppard of Elliot Bay Laboratory Services.

- Miriam Moses, Executive Director of Rebound.
- Randy Scott, Executive Secretary of the W.S.A.

I've also been scheduling introductory meetings with Business Manager, Jeff Owen, and our contractors. To date, we have met with:

- Enviromech
- Trane/Hussmann
- Johnson Controls
- P.S.F.
- P.M.C.
- Key Mechanical
- TrueTemp Northwest
- Refrigeration Unlimited

We have a meeting scheduled with McKinstry and I'm currently working on setting up something with MacMiller and Puget Sound Refrigeration. I'll be scheduling more meetings, in the future, and I think it's important that we get out and see all the contractors as soon as possible.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to mention for those of you who might not be aware that Zac Smith has been elected to the Local 32 Executive Board. This is the first time I remember a Refrigeration Mechanic being elected to the Executive Board since I've been in the Local. I'd like to thank all of you for your support to make this possible; it was great to see the turnout we had at the election.

Erik Pound
Refrigeration Business Agent

Wenatchee Report

By Eric Ercanbrack

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Work has been good in North Central Washington throughout 2010. All local members are currently working on area projects, as well as 35 Seattle area Plumbers and Steamfitters and five (5) Seattle Apprentices.



The majority of manpower is concentrated at the Central Washington Hospital project. I spoke to both the Plumbing and Steamfitting General Foremen for Apollo at the hospital on Friday, September 17, 2010. They informed me that both crews will begin to lay off in about two to three weeks. The Steamfitters will lay off two (2) to three (3) members in two (2) weeks and will then have a lay off around the first of November that will scale back the crew substantially. There will be about six (6) Journeymen and two (2) Apprentices that will remain until the project completion next spring. On the Plumbing side, we can expect to see about four (4) to five (5) members being laid off every two (2) weeks until the first of November. There will be a crew of about ten (10) Plumbers that will remain until completion in the spring.

The future work outlook in North Central Washington will depend heavily on three (3) upcoming area school bonds. One will be voted on this November, and the other two (2) will be voted on in February of 2011. The three (3) bonds, together, total over 165 million dollars of new construction and remodel work. These bonds, if passed, and if our signatory contractors win the bids, should provide steady work for our members for roughly two and a half years. In an effort to help pass these bonds, I will be asking our local members to work as campaign volunteers and will seek assistance from the Local 32 PAC Committee for help with phone banking, doorbelling, etc.

In addition to the school bonds, there are also two small data centers starting in East Wenatchee in the next few weeks. Both are build-outs on an existing facility. I do not expect to dispatch any members off of the Wenatchee list for these two projects, however, due to both jobs being awarded to Seattle area contractors, they will likely man the projects with their existing employees.

There are also two large projects scheduled to begin in the summer of 2012. One is a new potline at the Alcoa Wenatchee Works Aluminum Plant and the other is a mine clean-up project near Lake Chelan that will have an onsite water treatment plant. Information on these two projects is difficult to receive as they are still in the planning stage. If I receive any information on these projects, I will provide it in the next newsletter.

In closing, I would like to add that we will be remodeling the Wenatchee office in October and will have an Open House for our members to view the remodel before the Christmas Union Meeting/Party on December 17th. The Open House will begin at 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with the Union Meeting and Christmas Party to follow. The Labor Temple is a ninety-year old building with a long history. In 1938, the Temple was purchased by a number of unions, one of which was Local 32 (Charter Member). I will be giving a presentation at the Open House explaining the history of the Temple, as well as Local 32's affiliation there. I believe the members will find it very interesting.

Please R.S.V.P. by December 1st so we can make sure we have enough food and refreshments.

Hope to see you all there.

Fraternally,

Eric Ercanbrack
EA WA Business Agent

Sequim Report

By Lee Whetham
Business Agent/Organizer

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On the Peninsula, I'd like to take this opportunity to report that we've just completed two (2) back-to-back months this summer of our best ever reported man hours since establishing our training center and business office in Sequim, Washington.

Currently, there are three (3) school projects that are wrapping up and small pipe jobs continue to be performed at both Paper Mills in Clallam and Jefferson Counties, all by U.A. contractors, in addition to our five (5) plumbing shops that conduct business on the Peninsula.

My final assessment of the Elwha work is that we've lost the last large contract that's coming from this restoration work, the draining of Lake Mills and Lake Aldwell, with the removal of both dams on

this river. As President of Olympic Peninsula Building and Construction Trades Council, we've just had another meeting with Congressman Norm Dicks and staff on August 31st to, again, speak out for local hire and the ongoing worker misclassification investigation, that I've initiated by the Department of Labor, Wage & Hour Division. The dam's removal was awarded on August 27th to a federal contractor from Montana for the amount of 26.9 million dollars.

Our work outlook still seems bright for this area with the announced intentions of both Nippon Paper in Port Angeles and Port Townsend Paper, to each proceed with their own plans to invest heavily into their infrastructure, through the building of Biomass Cogeneration Plants. Each mill intends to install equipment to produce and sell electricity back to the Bonneville Power Administration power grid. Both mills have an agreement, through the state of Washington, Dept. of Natural Resources, for a guaranteed price per ton, of excess forest biomass, that many times is left behind, or burned, as an open air slash fire.

Nippon Paper will also build a 3-story office building with their project, bringing it to an expected total cost of 71 million, compared to Port Townsend Paper at 56 million dollars. Both proposed Cogen Plants have several hurdles before construction can start, mainly permitting and finance, with each already receiving 2 million dollars from the Dept. of Commerce, (public money) which makes them both prevailing wage jobs. To date, I've actively participated in public reviews through writing letters of support and attending public comment events, whenever an opportunity exists for both Cogen Plants.

Another nice job on the Peninsula is the Quillayute Valley School District, (Home of the Twilight series books and movies) release for bid, of their new high school addition. I'm working with the business office to insure our contractors are competitive on this bid, which has an expected total building cost of 12 million dollars.

The Quillayute Valley School District is expected to break ground around November 1st for their high school addition, followed by late November with the start of the Cogen in Port Angeles, then followed by Port Townsend Paper's Cogen Plant in December. At this point, both Cogen Plants remain to be finalized,

yet represent a substantial amount of man-hours to our contractors and Local 32.

In Solidarity,

Brother Lee Whetham
Olympic Peninsula Business Agent/Organizer

Metal Trades

by Marty Yellam

Todd's Completes 64-Car Ferry Chetzemoka

The Chetzemoka is the first new Washington State ferry built in more than a decade. W.S.F. will meet its goal of placing a new vessel into service in September, 2010.

The State is building new ferries to replace its aging fleet. Nine of W.S.F. auto-passenger ferries are between 40 and 60 years old and must be replaced in the next twenty years. Construction is well under way on the second 64-car ferry (Salish) and steel is being cut for the third vessel. The \$114.1 million contract for the second and third vessels, awarded to Todd in October, 2009, includes an option to purchase a fourth 64-car ferry. W.S.F. will pursue procurement of a 144-car ferry, rather than a fourth 64-car ferry, if sufficient funding is available prior to exercising the option to build the fourth 64-car ferry.

As the Metal Trades Representative, I would like to congratulate all Marine Pipefitters who worked on the Chetzemoka. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to the new construction ferry project.

City Members Vote to Approve VEBA

I would like to thank all of the City members who participated in the VEBA vote this year. This is effective January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. VEBA allows employees who are retiring to put their sick leave cash out into an individual account that can be used for IRS approved medical ex-



penses. The money goes in and out of the account tax-free. The total vote was 87% to accept.

Update on Metal Trades

Work remains uncommonly slow this summer at both Foss Maritime and Lake Union Shipyards and we hope the tide turns soon. Both yards have supported the Marine Pipefitter Apprenticeship and have a skilled group of Local 32 hands.

Todd Shipyard has been just the opposite. They have an array of marine projects going on in their Seattle yard. They are currently working on the new ferry, Salish. The hull assembly is 90% completed and roll out is scheduled to be on 10/02/10.

Material for the third ferry, MV Kennewick, has begun to arrive and the keel is scheduled to be laid on 10/11/2010.

USS Ingraham will be undocking on 10/30/2010 and moving to the Everett Naval Base.

Work continues on the USS Stennis at P.S.N.S in Bremerton. The USS Nimitz availability is scheduled for arrival at P.S.N.S in November, 2010, and to be completed by November, 2011. We are hopeful the piping package on Nimitz is substantial.

Todd's also has upcoming work on both MV Spokane and MV Wenatchee that will begin later this year.

As of today, we have 105 Marine pipefitters working at Todd's.

Tentative Agreement Reached With Local 32 and City to Address 2011 Budget

Local 32 and the Coalition of City Unions have reached a tentative agreement with the City to extend the Collective Bargaining Agreement through December 31, 2013. This will produce stability for Local 32 members, as well as give the City structural changes that help close the City's budget shortfall.

For years 2011, 2012, and 2013, members will receive 100% of the C.I.P. formula, with a 0% floor and no ceiling. There are additional conditions, as part of the agreement, that include improving the contracting out language allowing the Coalition Unions to file grievances holding the City accountable when the conditions of the agreement are not met at any time, instead of when layoffs occur.

Local 32 members who work for the City of Seattle will be voting this tentative agreement in the coming weeks.

Marty Yellam

Metal Trades Agent

Our Annual Picnic

Everyone had a great time at this year's Annual Family Picnic at Lake Sammamish Park last July.



NW HOUSING– Discover your options

For many of us, trying to figure out how to best position ourselves to survive, much less thrive, in these current economic times can be a confusing challenge at best. It feels like we have to work harder and get smarter just to return to the stability we had a few short years ago. When it comes to our most important asset, our home, the housing market debacle has added another layer of burden while a seemingly uncaring financial system stands idly by. There has been an increased uneasiness that is rising to the surface in many communities where we live and work. Quiet despair is not so quiet these days.

There is an increasingly disturbing commonality within our communities regarding housing-related issues: lack of information about practical solutions and options. Granted, there is a plethora of information through government program websites, but knowing which option is best for you and your family has become increasingly difficult. What we see and hear in the media is either inappropriately vague or often times flat out wrong. Here are some facts that will hopefully add some clarity and assist you in making an informed decision about your personal situation. Although there are many different challenges faced by your Union Brothers & Sisters, let's review where we experience the most common pain and lack of knowledge and hopefully you will benefit from these solutions:

If you are a homeowner and are either underwater in your home or have little equity, you may still be able to take advantage of ridiculously low interest rates. Nearly every member we speak to has no idea that even if you owe more than your home is worth, you can still potentially refinance at 105% or more of the value of your home. You may not have to live with your higher house payment, or worse, consider tossing the keys back to your lender. This option of refinancing may prove a far better choice in the short and long term than either a short-sale or a foreclosure.

If you want to buy a home but are concerned about the stability of your job or unsure how you could make your payment if you became unemployed, there is a new solution that offers some insurance – Job Loss Protection. On any conventional loan with less than a 20% down payment, mortgage insurance is required. However, with mortgage insurance on this new program, the benefit amount is up to \$2000 a month if you become unemployed– this coverage is paid by the mortgage insurance company for you.*

If you don't have the money to put down on a home purchase or do not want to use your cash reserves, there are two powerful government financing tools you can engage: VA for Veterans and the USDA Rural. Neither requires a down payment (zero), neither have monthly mortgage insurance premiums, and neither requires the buyer to pay all the closing costs (they can be paid by the seller). Your savings and retirement account are left where they should be – intact and earning interest.

If you have too much credit card debt, unsecured debt, or even collection accounts, you are not alone. More importantly though, you need a plan that can deal with it. Engaging a Debt Management program is about getting you out from under that debt in the shortest amount of time and at the greatest interest savings. Debt Settlement is about reducing your debt burden, lowering your payments to a more manageable level and preventing catastrophic losses such as bankruptcy. Each of these options needs to be worked through carefully and thoughtfully.

There are many practical ways to successfully weather the storm we are all in. The first step is to simply connect with a trusted advisor, learn your options, and then take decisive action. Prompt action will be to your benefit. The housing market and economy will experience more pain before it stabilizes and it will take many more months or possibly years before we see any substantive relief. However, this market has also brought about new opportunities for you and your family. Protecting and preserving more than just the roof over your head is an important step towards insuring you and your family live with the warmth, security and dignity every Union Brother and Sister deserves.

We are proud to be able to assist all Union members we serve and to dedicate the efforts of the Union Home Benefit program to that cause of being your trusted advisor.

Patrick Town, Founder
Union Home Benefit & Town Financial
www.UnionHomeBenefit.com
www.TownFinancial.com

1-800-509-8696

*Benefit amount Up to \$2000 a month (including principal, interest, taxes, insurance). Number of benefit payments Up to 3 monthly payments per job loss occurrence, with a maximum of 6 payments during the benefit period. Benefit period Up to 3 years after loan closes, while the mortgage insurance remains in place. Job Loss Protection is underwritten by a third party, "A" (excellent) rated insurer. Please note that the Job Loss Protection program described herein is subject to conditions, exclusions and restrictions not necessarily included in this Summary. The program is subject to availability at the time of loan closing and may be modified or withdrawn without notice. Information is accurate as of date of printing and is subject to change without notice. Mortgage insurance is underwritten by Genworth Mortgage Insurance Corporation in all states except NY and by Genworth Residential Mortgage Insurance Corporation of North Carolina in NY. This is not an offer to extend credit. Individual rates and terms may vary.



Seattle Plumbers and Pipefitters
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32 CONNECTIONS

CREATE JOBS
OR KILL JOBS?
HMMM.

This fall, you will vote on two ballot measures that will directly impact JOBS in every community in Washington.

R-52 will create 30,000 jobs

Referendum 52 will authorize and fund bonds to repair public schools in every corner of the state. Energy retrofits will save more than enough money to pay these bonds. In addition to making our kids safer at school, R-52 will create an estimated 30,000 NEW construction jobs* across the state, bringing new employment opportunities.

* Tri-City Herald, The News Tribune (7-8-10). Details at www.HealthySchoolsForWA.org.



I-1082 will kill jobs by raising costs up to 25%