

# LOADLINE

A UNION BUILT ON PRIDE, SKILL AND SAFETY



The Official Publication of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 — First Quarter 2015



**Thoryndyke Project - Getting Involved**  
**Congressional Pension Plan Changes**



**Daren Konopaski**  
Business Manager

### Brothers & Sisters:

The holiday season is now concluded and we are in a new year. It was great seeing many of you at the Holiday Parties and having the opportunity to meet with you and hear your stories, concerns, questions, and general feedback on the state of this great union. We are very fortunate to have had a busy construction season. We are equally as fortunate to have one of the healthiest pension systems in the country and phenomenal healthcare coverage. I am proud to be a part of this fine Local.

This year has more highlights than I can count. We saw the “Right-to-Work” attempt in Anchorage via the Administrative Order 37 (AO-37) fail. This wasn’t without a great deal of work on behalf of our Reps and members in

Alaska, as well as from the other unions and the AFL-CIO, who fought hard in ensuring that this job-killing initiative failed on the ballot. These efforts were amazing! We also have seen several victories in Washington. We successfully thwarted off efforts by another union to do our work on the waterfront of Seattle on the Deep Bore project; successfully reclaimed our boat work at the Bangor Submarine Wharf; and reclaimed concrete pumpers as Operating Engineers. While the wheels of government appear to move slowly our persistence almost always equates to victories for working families and our members. Mostly, this is because we only take on the fights where we know we are in the right and that are of vital importance for our members. I guess the old adage “Right is right” makes a great deal of sense when we have to engage government and politicians in battle.

Of course we are strongly supported by the International in our efforts to ensure that the membership is protected from those seeking to infringe on our work and our ideals. To aid in our ability to be better supported in our efforts or trained to be more effective the International always comes through. They sent four International Reps to Alaska to assist in the AO-37 efforts, which were critical to our success in defeating this anti-worker initiative. These 4 International Reps also helped with various efforts and our Alaska political agenda. In addition, the International sent staff to Washington to train the Reps to be more effective in our efforts to ensure compliance with the contract and other worker protection laws. I would like to say thank you to the International and to General President Callahan for his support for Local 302.

By this time, hopefully many (or all) of you received your Washington contract survey for upcoming contract negotiations. The information and feedback you provided us is one of the critical tools that we use to ensure that our priorities at the bargaining table are your priorities. Frankly, we can’t do it without you and our primary strength in these negotiations is knowing that you have our back. Thankfully, we also had a busy construction season and a healthy strike fund so the contractors are aware that we are poised to negotiate the best contract that we can for the membership.

I wanted to alert you to the recent congressional actions, commonly referred to as “Solutions not bail out.” Pension reform legislation was recently signed into law that is intended to stabilize the nation’s multiemployer pension system well into the future. Additional detail on these changes is included in the Financial Recording Secretary’s report. However, the short story is that these changes were designed to ensure that pension plans that are, or will most likely be, in trouble have a means to address their insolvency by allowing them to reduce their accrued benefits of active



and retired participants. While this doesn't sound like a good thing, but it ensures for a better benefit than if they were to go insolvent. This proposal averts a broader, system-wide pension insurance crisis, and assists those participants threatened with a reduction of their benefits to the PBGC maximum level of a mere \$13,000 a year. However, the reform package also includes an unfortunate, but necessary, increase in insurance premiums paid by funds to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). The insurance premium will increase from \$13 to \$26 per plan participant annually starting in 2015.

In closing I want to recognize and send well wishes to Vice President/District Representative, Rob Peterson and Executive Board Member/Field Representative, Eric Bellamy as they head off into retirement effective December 1, 2014 for Eric and March 1, 2015 for Rob. Both Rob and Eric were consummate and proud members of this fine Local for over 30 years. We appreciate all of your service Eric and Rob and I would like to personally congratulate you both on amazing careers as Operating Engineers. Your service has been greatly appreciated and we wish both of you and your families well in wherever the next phases of your lives take you and your new adventures in retirement.

In Solidarity,

Daren Konopaski  
International Vice President and Business Manager



KLM - South Lake Union

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**COVER PHOTO:**

302 Member Mark Noah  
working for Condon-Johnson



**Kyle Brees**  
Financial Secretary

Brothers and Sisters:

As 2014 closed, Congress approved and President Obama signed a spending bill that included pension legislation which is being called the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA). While a good portion of the rule changes are complicated and address how the different zone status's work, what has gotten most folks attention are the new benefit suspension rules. While the latter is not a pleasant subject none the less it is now the law and I would like to make you aware of these changes. Let me start by saying that our plan is healthy and is not projected to get into the situation I am about to discuss.

Our Pension Plan is governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). When ERISA was passed it established protections for accrued benefits for solvent plans. In order to protect a limited amount of these accrued benefits if a plan becomes insolvent, a federal agency known as the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) was created and tasked with funding the payment of these limited pension benefits to participants and beneficiaries of covered plans once they become insolvent.

Until the Pension Protection Act (PPA) was passed in 2006, reducing certain benefits was prohibited. PPA established "early warning" rules that require multiemployer pension plans like ours to annually report their zone status. For the worst funded of these plans certified as being in Critical Status (Red Zone), PPA permitted plans to cut retirement subsidies, such as the subsidies paid to early retirees, that were previously considered protected for solvent plans. While these changes were enough to help some plans avoid going into insolvency, it was not enough for several others including some rather large plans that are projected to be unable to save themselves from future insolvency without additional help. As most of you are aware there are many pension plans across the country that are failing. What a lot of folks don't know is that the PBGC is forecasting a substantial increase in the number of failed plans, and a very large deficit of its own. In simple words, the PBGC will be unable to pay its obligations without further help. With these issues facing the multi employer world, the National Coordinating Committee for Multi-Employer Plans lobbied congress with their plan called Solutions not Bailouts to hopefully get some rule changes that would allow multiemployer plans to better regulate their plans and hopefully keep many of these plans from failing. This resulted in what is now known as the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014.

The MPRA has done several things. First off it repeals the sunset language in the Pension Protection Act of 2006. What that means is that all of the rules and conditions of the PPA will remain in place going forward and can only be changed by an act of congress.

Second, it allows for significant increases to the PBGC premiums. Those premiums will go from \$12 per participant in 2014 to \$26 per participant in 2015. Third, it increases the types of disclosures that a multiemployer plan must supply to any plan participant, participating union or contributing employer. Fourth, MPRA provides clarification and new tools for plans that are in or fall into the PPA Endangered (Yellow Zone) and Critical Plan (Red Zone) statuses.

Finally, most visibly and controversially, MPRA established new rules permitting only the worst funded plans the option to suspend certain accrued benefits in order to avoid insolvency and the potentially much larger benefit reductions that would apply when insolvent. Again, these suspension rules only apply to the worst funded plans...those that are certified to be in the new "Critical and Declining" status. **The Local 302&612 Retirement Plan is in Safe status (Green Zone) and is nowhere near this Critical and Declining status!!!**

MPRA allows plans that are certified in the new "Critical and Declining Status" the possibility of temporarily or permanently suspending certain accrued benefits for all classes of participants.

For the limited number of plans that qualify, several requirements must be met in order for the benefit suspensions to become effective:

- The plan must be amended to provide for the Board approved suspensions deemed necessary to avoid insolvency after taking into consideration all reasonable measures to avoid insolvency, *and...*
- The actuary must certify that the proposed suspensions (including any proposed plan partition for plans taking the maximum suspensions) would avoid projected insolvency without any material margin, *and...*
- Benefits for any participant are not suspended below 110% of the PBGC guarantee level; this PBGC guarantee is still maximally \$35.75 per month per year of service (e.g., \$1,072.50 per month for 30 years of service), *and...*
- Benefit suspensions are not applicable to participants who are age 80 and over or are disabled with prorated suspensions for participants between ages 75 and 80 at the time of suspension, *and...*
- Notice must be provided by the Board to participants, unions and employers, *and...*
- The Secretary of the Treasury, the PBGC and the Secretary of Labor (jointly "Agency") approve an appropriately timed application for suspension of benefits that meets the established standards, *and...*
- Plan participants must ratify the benefit suspensions. The suspension shall be ratified and effective unless more than 50% of all plan participants vote to reject the Agency approved suspensions.

The key take away is that these suspensions of benefits must be approved by all the above mentioned agencies and the plan participants. Again, these rules only apply to plans that qualify. Our plan does not currently qualify, nor is it currently projected to qualify, for these new protection tools so you should not be concerned about how these new rules could affect your benefits.

In Solidarity,

Kyle Brees  
Recording/Corresponding and Financial Secretary

### LOCAL 302

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Josh Swanson**  
Government Affairs

#### Brothers & Sisters:

I hope you all had a wonderful time over the holiday season with family and friends. The election has passed and there is an interesting political make-up that we will be facing in the 2015 legislative session. You probably have also seen that the political pendulum has swung in Congress equating to a conservative majority. The next few years at both the national and state levels should definitely be interesting with the balance of power shifting.

The good news is that jobs, a transportation revenue package (jobs and infrastructure), and improving the state of the economy are becoming less and less of a partisan issue. Republicans and Democrats alike have been supportive over the interim about the possibility of approving a multi-billion dollar transportation package that will mean more jobs and improved traffic and freight mobility for Washington. We have been talking to legislative leaders and some of the newly elected officials as well as our friends from the other construction crafts and some new allies from the business community to ensure that we do whatever possible to make this transportation package a reality.

The Governor recently put out his transportation package. While it is a different approach than the conventional gas tax that we have been fighting for, it takes an environmentally related tax approach to finance approximately \$12 billion of work over the next decade. His plan uses fees and bonding as well as on a new carbon pollution charge. Sources of major transportation-related pollution, such as the oil and gas industry, will pay a charge for every ton of carbon they emit into the air. The revenue raised through the carbon pollution charge, about \$4.8 billion over 12 years, would be the equivalent of the amount of revenue generated by a 12-cent gas tax increase. His proposal estimates almost \$4 billion in engineering and construction spending in 2015-17 with an expected creation of approximately 50,000 jobs over the next decade.

While the stars appear to be aligning on the need for transportation investment the question in this upcoming session is what will the end result look like in projects and where will the money come from to pay for it. The state Senate now has a Republican majority and the House of Representatives has a 2 vote Democratic majority. With the partisan margins being that close there will be a lot of negotiations on the final package before we will be able to cross the finish line. That being said, there are several conservative legislators that want to see concessions (they refer to them as “reforms”) on prevailing wage and apprenticeship. Obviously, this is not an option in our book as worker protections, training, and family wages are not on the table. We fully expect to see a similar onslaught of anti-prevailing wage and apprenticeship bills this session and we intend to strongly defend against any attacks on these laws. We have provided alternatives that we believe to be favorable to prevailing wages, such as adopting collectively bargained wages in lieu of surveys and improved enforcement in ensuring compliance with apprenticeship utilization requirements. These are reasonable alternatives to their attacks that would ensure for family-wage jobs and enhancing our time-tested apprenticeship workforce training model.

## LOCAL 302

Bothell office  
425-806-0302

Aside from a multi-biennium transportation package the Legislature will also be faced with addressing education needs, the state's operation and capital budgets, and the Governor's environmental agenda. All of these cost money so the competition for dollars this session will be unprecedented. We are hopeful that we address transportation fast and early to allow for the Legislature to pick up the date on the other issues and to identify other revenue sources to fund these efforts. We are also hopeful to see a healthy capital budget request that includes building and expanding schools (not just installing portables) to further increase construction and jobs. Given the recent ballot measure that passed on class size and the Supreme Court's interventions on fully funding education we are hopeful that these will equate to a healthy capital budget.

It should prove to be an exciting and interesting legislative session. With a competitive political arena looking for funding, the undeniable need for job creation, and a slim partisan margin in the Legislature we expect this legislative session to be unprecedented. Our focus will be on defending worker protections and rights; promoting family-wage jobs; and doing the best we can to bring a transportation package to the Governor's desk.

I look forward to reporting good news in the next edition of the Loadline and always feel free to call me with any questions or concerns at (206) 293-8350. Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Josh Swanson  
Political and Communications Representative





## DISTRICT 7

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Rob Peterson**  
Vice President &  
District Representative  
Executive Board

Brothers & Sisters:

I was almost 20 years old and just a “young kid” from Fairbanks, AK when I joined the Operating Engineers, Local 302 as an apprentice mechanic. There is no way I could have known then that I would one day be the Vice President of one of the largest construction trades locals in Alaska and the 10th largest in the United States. But today, it is with some sadness, a little nostalgia and a lot of good memories that I share with you that I am in fact retiring from my position as District Representative and Vice President of Local 302 effective, March 1, 2015.

With nearly 10,000 active Local 302 members across the two states, sometimes we forget just how fortunate we are. Our work picture is changing to where almost all of our jurisdictions have an abundance of work and very few members are out of work. Our funds are seeing surpluses, and at the time of this writing, the stock market has remained strong throughout 2014. I am proud of my tenure with Local 302. My ride on the Local 302 bus has certainly been an interesting, fulfilling and sometimes crazy one, and I would not take back a single experience. This includes the nearly 100 District Meetings I attended as a District Representative and Officer of this union. (This is where you really get to know and appreciate the membership).

My wife Kathryn (also a member) and daughter Kasey got older knowing nothing else but Local 302. They basically lived a construction worker’s life while I traveled and worked on projects across the entire State of Alaska. They waited for me to come home after late night union meetings and later Trust meetings that are typically out of the State of Alaska. They saw me exchange a hard hat and greasy coveralls for a coat and tie and, through it all, they depended on Local 302 just as I did – just as so many of us and our families do. Without this great organization, none of us could see the doctor without going into debt; we couldn’t get that pair of glasses or those hearing aids we need; we couldn’t have job security and respectable wages; and we couldn’t retire with dignity and peace of knowing that a check will come for us and our families until the day we die.

Local 302 is my family. Throughout my more than 33 years with this union I have learned from and greatly respected so many amazing folks who taught me how to listen first and then to lead; negotiate and later manage contracts; settle a grievance; keep my cool under pressure; organize a company; use humor to disarm a conflict; write a newspaper article; and strike an anti-union company. One thing I always knew was that the importance of doing what was in the best interests of this union’s great membership. I am very proud of that. I am also very proud of all of you, because none of this would be here without you. I would be lying if I said I have no hesitation as I leave (retire). I am leaving my home away from home but I know it is a good time to retire. As you all know, it is a never-ending battle!

You are in good hands with Business Manager, Daren Konopaski and Local 302’s leadership, and whoever they choose to fill my position will be a wise choice. I encourage you all to continue supporting this officer core and its Executive Board, as they have guided us through the roughest times in our over 100-year history.

Thank you, Local 302, for a great ride. I also want to thank my wife, Kathryn, my family and, most importantly, you, the members of Local 302.

In Solidarity,  
Rob Peterson  
Vice President & District Representative  
Executive Board



**FAIRBANKS DISPATCH**

Brothers & Sisters:

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Kevin Lincoln and I am the new Dispatcher for District 7. I have been a member of Local 302 for 8 years. Working for Aurora Energy, I have been involved with many projects in the Fairbanks area over the years and have had the opportunity to work with many of our local contractors. I am an operator/mechanic - welder and I know what it takes out in the field. If you are in the area, come by the Union Hall and introduce yourself, I would love to meet you.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about jobsite safety. Many of our members have been working in the industry for a long time. The tendency to skip the safety aspect of the work to get the job done quicker is always there. I know from my own experience, that if your instinct tells you it is not safe, stop. Remember, it only takes a few minutes to reassess the work, but an injury can take months or even a lifetime to heal.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you and wish all of you a safe and productive winter season. I would also like to turn this over to our new Business Agent, Brother Mark LaFon.

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Thank you Kevin, Welcome Aboard!

I would like take the brief opportunity to discuss the issue of union hands working non Union. Do you ever ask yourself, why would a union hand work non union? It is a disappointing fact that some do. When a union hand works for a non-union contractor, they are literally providing the non-union contractor an edge over any union contractor. Why would a non union contractor sign a contract when they can get a union hand to work for them without paying any of the benefits. A union hand that works for a non-union contractor helps insure substandard working conditions, lower wages on non prevailed work, no health and welfare benefits for their family and no pension contributions on their behalf. If you are a union hand that is working for a non- union contractor or are thinking about it, think twice because not only will it affect you but it will hurt all of your brothers and sisters.

In Solidarity,

Kevin Lincoln & Mark LaFon  
District 7 Dispatchers

**DISTRICT 7**

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Kevin Lincoln**  
Dispatcher



**Mark LaFon**  
Dispatcher

**DISTRICT 7**

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Shawn Lowry**  
Field Representative

Brothers & Sisters:

Greetings to one and all; as the 2015 North Slope winter season is now underway we are looking at another busy season.

In conversations with the contractors a few things have been identified as minor problems that need to be addressed. The first is the need for our membership to be ready to go to work when they accept a dispatch. When the dispatcher calls and you accept a job you need to be ready to go. If there is a situation that will delay you for a time that needs to be brought up and cleared with the contractor before you say yes. In most cases, the contractors are flexible to a degree as long as they know beforehand. What is not acceptable is to say yes, start the new-hire process and then tell them you are not available to go for an indefinite amount of time, for example, two weeks.

Another issue that has come up several times is the use of cell phones during work hours. Cell phones are great communication tools and have become an everyday staple in life for most people. The problem with these handy devices is that too many people are spending too much time on the phone, taking pictures, playing games and using social media like Facebook, Instagram etc... to post their work life in Alaska and are not doing their jobs.

Many companies on the North Slope are implementing a "leave it on the bus" policy where you can bring it out to the job. However, you must leave the phone on the bus in a box provided and are not to use them during work time. There are several places on the Slope where your phone will not get coverage already and if you do have coverage and spend your time checking your phone, odds are pretty good you will get a flight back to somewhere there is a lot more coverage.

I know that we are all striving to be the best professionals we can be. May we continue to do so.

In Solidarity,

Shawn D. Lowry  
Field Representative

International's Mobile Petro-Chemical Training Unit



Brothers & Sisters:

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a belated Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year! 2014 was a very busy year for Fairbanks and interior Alaska. We have seen a lot of new upgrades in our road systems around town and some large improvements on our major highways. Over the past couple of years we have seen many new roads, bridges, roundabouts, passing lanes, airport and construction projects completed throughout the state. All of these projects have been good for our membership, and we hope to see many more in our near future.

2015 is here and staring us right in the face with many more new projects and jobs to be completed from last year. Our winter work season on the North Slope, which normally kicks off right after Christmas, will put the bulk of our membership back to work. I think it would be safe to say that there will be a small out-of-work list again this winter.

Looking ahead to this year, our workload looks very good and I hope it continues to stay that way for years to come. We have projects ongoing at the University, on our military bases and power plants. We are always trying to express the importance to everyone on staying current with the hiring hall and also on your certifications and cards. Every year the regulations and qualifications seem to have some changes take place, so make sure you are current for any upcoming jobs.

I recently drove the Parks Highway from Anchorage to Fairbanks and I was really impressed by the work that was done. With the help of Great Northwest Inc. and Quality Asphalt and Paving, the Parks Highway is looking more like Alaska's first interstate every year. The passing lanes and brush clearing are amazing and has definitely made driving much safer and more enjoyable. Phase 3 of the Parks will continue this year along with bridge replacements and rehab work. Great job!!

I wish everyone a great 2015, and safe travels throughout the year!

In Solidarity,

Avery Thomas  
Field Representative

## DISTRICT 7

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Avery Thomas**  
Field Representative





**DISTRICT 7**

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131



**Lake Williams**  
Business Relations

Brothers and Sisters:

I hope everyone enjoyed a great New Year! I want to thank all the Brothers and Sisters who attended the Local's annual Holiday Parties. A very special thank you to the Brothers and Sisters who continued the tradition of bringing toys and canned food to the parties, in order to give back to their communities. I've been on staff for nearly 10 years and I'm proud to say that this was the best donation year I can remember. Our Fairbanks folks truly stepped up to help those in need, and out of the 223 members that attended the Fairbanks District 7 event, we received donations of 202 individual food items, 166 individual toy items, and \$110 cash (converted to toys). It was rewarding to see our members generosity and both the Fairbanks Salvation Army and Fairbanks Community Food Bank wanted us to send a special "thank you" to everyone from the families that had presents under their trees and food in their bellies this holiday season.

As I write this Loadline the Alaska (AK) Legislature is poised to convene in Juneau for the 2015 Legislative session. I would like to congratulate Brother Click Bishop on his re-election to the State Senate in AK. Brother Bishop never forgets where he came from and is always proud to wear his Operating Engineers gear as he walks the Legislative halls in Juneau. This election season was a mixed bag and I believe the one thing we can all agree is, "Thank God THAT it is over". Labor gained few friendly faces in the AK State House, lost one friend in the AK State Senate, and elected Bill Walker as the new Governor in AK. Governor Walker is proud to say he worked as a Union hand during the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and I'm looking forward to working with him and his new Commissioner of Labor Heidi Drygas. I've personally known Commissioner Drygas since high school. She comes from a strong Union family and has spent nearly a decade as general counsel for the AK District Council of Laborers. Some may disagree, but I feel our biggest loss this election cycle was the failure to re-elect Senator Mark Begich to the US Senate. A solid vote for Labor and the American Worker, coupled with the Senator's ability to cut through the red tape and steer Federal money to Alaska, Senator Begich will truly be missed. We took one on the chin but we still plan on getting up off the canvas and reaching out to US Senator Dan Sullivan. We met with Mr. Sullivan during the primary and we will continue our efforts in building a relationship. There is no reason why he can't earn our support in the future if he models himself after late Republican Senator Ted Stevens. Uncle Ted earned the support of Labor by standing against all forms of "Right-to-Work For-less" laws, and being a steadfast supporters of prevailing wages.

**DISTRICT 7**

Fairbanks office  
907-452-8131

Local 302's Bylaws state we ought to, "encourage all members and their families and all working men and women to actively participate in the political life of their respective communities and to register and vote." Voting aside, the next best ways to stay involved: attending local constituent meetings, going to the Legislative Information Office (LIO) to testify on pending legislation, contacting our elected officials through direct correspondence (via phone / email / mail / PM), and participating in your Local 302 Union meeting. We must work together to hold our elected officials accountable. If we don't, who will?

In Solidarity,

Lake Williams  
Business Representative



Fairbanks Holiday Donations

**DISTRICT 8**

Juneau office  
907-586-3850



**Corey Baxter**  
District Representative  
Executive Board

Brothers & Sisters:

**BATTLE FOR THE ROAD**

The long-contentious road north from Juneau may be taking a new higher profile, even a national profile, as groups for and against the road have worked to turn the Alaska Department of Transportation's (DOT) public comment process on the road into a referendum on the project. That process drew a surprising 42,746 comments on the \$574 million project to extend the Juneau road system 50.8 miles up Lynn Canal toward Skagway and Haines. A new ferry terminal would take vehicles from the road's end to those cities, where travelers can connect to the Alaska Highway and the continental road system.

Turning the environmental impact statement public comment process into an informal referendum is a tactic that environmental groups have long used, but Pro-Road groups were also used aggressively this time. Environmental groups reached out to their statewide and national network of supporters to weigh in strongly against the road. But Juneau's road advocacy group Citizens Pro-Road countered with ads featuring former first lady Sandy Parnell urging support of the DOT's preferred road plan and the Operating Engineers, Local 302 also weighed in with radio ads as well.

DOT spokesman, Jeremy Woodrow said the bulk of the comments came from electronic form letters, with the vast majority of those coming from Earth Justice, a San Francisco-based group with an office in Juneau. Earth Justice was responsible for 36,459 form letter comments. Other big contributors to comments were the Alaska Wilderness League, which generated 3,900 comments, and the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, which produced 895.

But what impact will those comments have? The total number of comments doesn't actually matter and the department is looking for information that may point out flaws in the studies and plan to help them ensure they've made the correct decision with the chosen option in the final EIS due out next year. What the department is looking for is substantive comments that are constructive to the document.

The environmental, economic and other studies are required under the National Environmental Policy Act for projects getting federal funding, but they don't require any specific outcome, just that knowledgeable decisions are made. They don't have to be the most popular decision. Even though every comment gets reviewed, it doesn't mean that the comments make the final decision on the project.

DOT did move ahead on its preferred alternative, the road up the east side of Lynn Canal, by applying for a wetlands fill permit last month. Filing that application now would save time by having the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



**DISTRICT 8**

Juneau office  
907-586-3850

review it while the EIS is also being finalized. The wetland fill permit may take nine months to a year to complete, with the review of public comments possibly taking a similar amount of time, especially if additional or expanded studies are required. That would mean the earliest that the road could get approvals, if the final plan calls for the road alternative, would probably be next fall. However, that could be when environmental groups again challenge it in court if the final EIS is flawed.

So, to put this in perspective, Earth Justice has turned in more comments than the population of Juneau and Haines combined. Is this supposed to be Alaska or a suburb of San Francisco?

In Solidarity,

Corey Baxter  
District 8 Representative



Senator Click Bishop after being sworn in for second term as Senator.  
From Left: Corey Baxter, Daren Konopaski, Lt Governor Byron Mallot,  
Click Bishop, Jani Reid and Dale Reid.

## DISTRICT 6

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Jason Alward**  
Treasurer &  
District Representative  
Executive Board

Brothers & Sisters:

Hello Brothers and Sisters and Happy New Year! While the great majority of our membership is typically on the right path, I once again find myself writing about members in trouble for making poor choices. In addition, I also cannot help refrain myself from throwing a non-union contractor (owned by a Local 302 member) under the bus in this conundrum as well.

This last summer the Anchorage Hall found out that we had 6 (yes 6, you heard me correctly) Union members working for Big Dipper Construction in the Matanuska Valley. They are a non-union contractor. While our offices don't have the resources to go on frequent "wild goose chases" to keep an eye on our membership, we will unquestionably pursue any claims of this or any other activity which helps non-union contractors be more competitive.

Of these 6 individuals: two of them removed themselves from the situation immediately, two of them stayed there beyond the order from the Local to remove themselves, and two are still there today and have faced very severe consequences.

Now, Big Dipper Construction did nothing to help matters in all of this and certainly could care less about our members being in harm's way, as they continued to lead us on a primrose path of assuring us that they would sign a Union contract. As you can probably already tell they never did sign a contract, which left our members in an even a worse situation.

Two of our members eventually did the right thing and removed themselves from the job. They avoided having charges brought upon them only after they agreed to come before their Brothers and Sisters at a Union meeting and apologize for their actions. The remaining two Brothers really found themselves on the wrong side of the tracks on this matter, as they were brought up on very serious Union charges. A trial ensued at the Local Union hall with a jury of their peers late this last fall. In the end, these two members were fined over sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000).

If you can learn anything from this article, I urge you to make sure you do the following:

- Always comply with lawful orders of a Union hall representative
- Make sure you are working for a signatory contractor
- Don't take any non-union contractor's word of a contract or even a fellow member
- Make sure there is a contract in place
- Call a business agent or the hall to confirm your ability to go to work
- Make sure you are dispatched before you go to work, as this will ensure a contractor signs an agreement with the Union

In conclusion, our members' withholding their work is the single biggest tool this Local has for organizing the non-union Contractors!

I hope you found these very serious matters informative for the good of our great organization.

In Solidarity,

Jason Alward  
District 6 Representative

Brothers and Sisters:

After the election last fall, Alaska saw large changes in politicians and policies alike. Having elected a new Governor and United States Senator, there are sure to be many more changes to come.

However, Alaska's recent Ballot Initiative No.2, which decriminalizes marijuana on a state level, will have little to no impact on workers. In fact, it expressly excludes all employers, public or private, from any change in current practice. Also, if you are working for a contractor on a federally-funded project, your marijuana policies are governed, first and foremost, by the federal Drug Free Workplace Act. This Act requires entities that contract with the federal government to enforce zero-tolerance policies regarding use of illegal drugs in the workplace. Federal contractors are subject to federal law pursuant to the terms of the contracts, and because marijuana is still an illegal drug under federal law, no state law may require a federal contract to accommodate marijuana use. From a legal standpoint, courts of law continue to defer to federal law when evaluating claims brought under state marijuana laws, employers are able to continue to enforce zero-tolerance drug policies and to discipline employees who fail drug tests as a result of marijuana use.

Below is the language from the State of Alaska Initiative that specifically pertains to employees and employers:

**Sec. 17.38.120 Employers, driving, minors and control of property.**

- a) Nothing in this chapter is intended to require an employer to permit or accommodate the use, consumption, possession, transfer, display, transportation, sale or growing of marijuana in the workplace or to affect the ability of employers to have policies restricting the use of marijuana by employees.
- b) Nothing in this chapter is intended to allow driving under the influence of marijuana or to supersede laws related to driving under the influence of marijuana.
- c) Nothing in this chapter is intended to permit the transfer of marijuana, without remuneration, to a person under the age of 21.
- d) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit a person, employer, school, hospital, recreation or youth center, correction facility, corporation or any other entity who occupies, owns or controls private property from prohibiting or otherwise regulating the possession, consumption, use, display, transfer, distribution, sale, transportation, or growing of marijuana on or in that property.

With a rapidly approaching construction season please remember, **regardless of Alaska's new state law, when it comes to employment, it is still legal for your employer to terminate you for testing positive on a drug test.**

In Solidarity,

Kyle Virgin  
Field Representative

### DISTRICT 6

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Kyle Virgin**  
Field Representative



### DISTRICT 6

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Shane Linse**  
Field Representative

#### Brothers & Sisters:

Losing a loved one can be one of the biggest challenges in your lifetime. Recently my father passed away and I have had the painful pleasure of dealing with his estate. My father lived a long productive life, but he was not the best financial planner. As the appointed executor of his estate I have learned a few things and the importance having your affairs in order. Most people find it uncomfortable to talk about, but for the sake of your loved ones you should make some preparations.

**GET A WILL.** One of the best things you can do is have a will. Again, most people are uncomfortable talking about death, but having your last wishes in writing is critical. This is especially so, if there are kids involved. I would also recommend considering appointing an executor for your estate. It can be a friend, attorney, or even a family member, but someone who can execute your last wishes.

**HAVE YOUR FINANCES IN ORDER.** Have all your financial institutions written down and put them in a safety deposit box. It is a very daunting task dealing with creditors, insurance companies, banks, utility companies, even the things you never think about like magazine subscriptions. This makes it so much easier to know where to look and help close things out.

**GET LIFE INSURANCE.** This is especially important for young families. Funeral costs are expensive and this will help out. Also if you leave behind a spouse, they will need financial help, as they now have lost a significant part of their income. Most financial planners will recommend enough life insurance to pay off all your debt, provide daycare, possible schooling for the spouse, and college education for the kids, etc.... Every situation is different, but it is important to have something. Your loved ones will already have enough stress; they shouldn't have to worry about how to pay for things too.

It doesn't matter if you're an apprentice or a retiree, you should have some things ready. In fact, I think it is more important for young people to have some preparations, especially those with families. We have even had some very young members pass away that left behind spouses and children. Unfortunately and as death does occur, you should heed some of this advice and do what you can to be prepared for the sake of those that have to settle your affairs.

In Solidarity,

Shane Linse  
Business Representative

**ANCHORAGE DISPATCH**

Brothers & Sisters:

The first year as District 6 Dispatcher has been eventful and educational. Thank you for all of your patience as I've made the transition from the field to the dispatch seat. I'm looking forward to another busy construction season in the summer of 2015.

There are still some sizable projects carrying over from the prior season, not to mention all the new projects already awarded. Contractors will be gearing up as soon as they can, in anticipation of the relatively short window of opportunity we get to complete as much work as we safely can in one summer. Please help me at the Hiring Hall by making sure your contact information is current in our system. Updating your current phone numbers and qualifications will ensure that I can fulfill the needs of the contractors by dispatching properly qualified operators and mechanics. Please remember that it is the member's responsibility to ensure that the any updates to your records are recorded and updated with the hall.

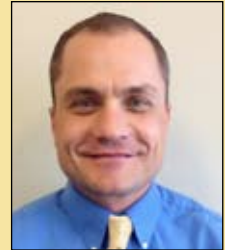
Other than that I want to say that I look forward to working with all of you in 2015 and be safe out there in the field.

In Solidarity,

Jamie Mack  
District 6 Dispatcher

**DISTRICT 6**

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Jamie Mack**  
Dispatcher

Sellen - Amazon Site in Seattle



**DISTRICT 6**

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



**Bill Sims**  
Field Representative

Brothers and Sisters:  
I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season.

Well, the residents of Anchorage have turned out and spoken. Anchorage voters rejected Municipal Ballot Measure No. 1. By doing so, they in effect, repealed Mayor Dan Sullivan’s rewrite of the city’s labor law which came to be known as AO-37.

AO-37 was written to make it against city code to negotiate over certain fundamental worker rights such as seniority, scheduling, the right to strike, and forced “managed competition” into every agreement.

In the 22 months leading up to the November election, all of labor came together in an effort to educate the public on the issues of AO-37. Countless hours were spent working on the effort to repeal AO-37. Many people compared it to a form of Right-to-Work. Had the labor law not been repealed, it would have limited the Union’s ability to negotiate collective bargaining agreements with the city’s administration. This is not only a huge win for the 140 plus Local 302 members that work for the Municipality of Anchorage but for every other Union and their members that work for the city.

I think that with the repeal of AO-37, it is a statement to any legislator with plans to bring Right-to-Work legislation to Alaska: “Think twice, we did it once, we’ll do it again.”

I would like to thank the District 6 staff, my job stewards, and the membership for all their help in this epic fight for worker rights. They worked very hard, working nights and weekends away from our families to do what was right for not only our members, but for every worker out there.

In Solidarity,

Bill Sims  
Business Representative





**DISTRICT 6**

Anchorage office  
907-561-5288



Dan Billmeyer operating the high reach Cat 345 (BACK)  
Doug Holland is in the Cat 375 (FRONT)



Central Environmental - Taking down hangers built during WWII on Ft. Wainwright.



## DISTRICT 3

Silverdale office  
360-307-0557



**George Garten**  
District Representative

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I hope this finds you well and working and that you and your family had a happy holiday. District 3 had a great 2014 with everybody working and we recruited a lot of new members. There is a lot of new work out to bid and it looks like 2015 should be another banner year. I would like to talk to you about protecting our work and how you can help me do that.

If you see that another craft is doing our work first call me or the Local 302 Agent that represents the area. Next, talk to your foreman or the person performing our work and let them know that it is our work and that an operator should be doing it. If you are in a crane seat and not doing anything and the forklift has another craft on it you need to either run that piece of equipment and/or tell your boss to call for another operator.

Another way you and your family can help Local 302 is to get active in your community. Attend community meetings such as the school board, the Parent Teachers' Association (PTA), and the city council and county commissioner meetings. Let them know that you are a union member, that you vote and that they need to protect the middle class. We are the ones that pay the taxes that pay their wages. You can also help at the ballot box by voting for the people that look out for our interests and help them to get elected. And then hold them accountable for their actions.

Another way you can help is to let me know when you see a job starting in District 3. It is a large area and I can always use your help. Also, I wanted to tell you all what a pleasure it is to work for you and how proud I am to be a member of Local 302.

In closing, in all my years as a District Representative this was the most generous year for toy and food donation. Thank you to all who contributed toward our member's kids and families who are struggling to make ends meet. Thanks again for the great attendance at the Holiday Parties.

In Solidarity,

Kiewit - Pontoon Project in Aberdeen

George L. Garten  
District 3 Representative



Brothers & Sisters:

Happy New Year to everyone! 2014 was a very busy year and by all indications 2015 looks even better in Snohomish County and District 2. We are hopeful that a state transportation revenue package will be approved in the upcoming legislative session. For Snohomish County and Everett it will include funding under the title "Freight Improvement Projects" through the WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Some notable projects are US 2 improvements, a new bridge across the Snohomish River on SR 9, a new I-5 / 116th Street Interchange in Marysville, and at least 12 more various projects are listed for our ever crumbling infrastructure.

Some of the larger and more notable projects now slated for 2015 were delayed or postponed from last year, are a new county courthouse in Everett with a cost estimate of \$162 million, Washington State University is building a 95,000 square foot branch campus across from Everett Community College estimated at over \$150 million. The City of Everett and BNSF are planning to shutdown Broadway for the year to replace the bridge over the railway between Hewitt and California streets with a cost estimate of \$13 million. WSDOT is building a replacement Ferry Terminal in Mukilteo with a cost estimate of \$141 million. Many current WSDOT projects include the \$146 million SR 522 widening project south of Monroe, the \$59 million SR 9 widening through Maltby and Clearview, the \$18 million replacement of the SR 9 Bridge over Pilchuck Creek north of Arlington, and the \$334 million I-405 "Hot Lanes" widening project between Lynnwood and Bellevue.

If that isn't enough, Polygon Northwest has purchased the Large River Front Development in South East Everett near Lowell and will be building a whole new community with homes, stores, restaurants, commercial space and parks. The Boeing Everett 777X expansion projects are estimated at over a Billion dollars.

Last year, it was a little more than a Billion dollars of work and for 2015 it adds another Billion dollars and Local 302 members will certainly benefit greatly.

In Solidarity,

Rick Cunningham  
Field Representative

### DISTRICT I

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Rick Cunningham**  
Field Representative

## DISTRICT I

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Denny McKinney**  
Field Representative

### Brothers & Sisters:

I want to say thank you to Eric Bellamy for mentoring me during my career as an Operating Engineer. It's great to see someone as deserving as Eric finally reach the point when all of his hard work paid off. I hope you enjoy as much relaxation as you did hard work throughout your 40 year career. Thank you for all you have done for Local 302 and congratulations on retirement. I look forward to serving Local 302 as the new downtown Seattle Field Representative.

Downtown Seattle continues to experience a significant wave of construction activity, approaching some of the highest levels ever recorded. Since January 2013, there have been 100 projects worth at least \$1 million that are currently under construction, about to break ground, or completed. In total, \$3.1 billion worth of buildings are currently under construction in Seattle, according to the Downtown Seattle Association. The majority of current construction projects are residential, but there are some large office and hotel projects that are currently under way.

With all this work and overtime running wide open, it is easy to forget that the slow seasons tend to sneak up on us. Remember to prepare for the sometimes inconsistent nature of construction. The previous construction cycle in downtown Seattle peaked in 2007, when there were 51 projects worth at least \$1 million each under construction that totaled \$2.9 billion. But we all remember that by December 2010, that number had declined to only 12 projects.

For the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett metro area as a whole, construction jobs have increased by 9 percent in the last year. The metro area now employs 79,000 people in construction, according to state Employment Security Department Economist, Anneliese Vance-Sherman. It is impressive to see the amount of equipment being operated by Local 302 in Seattle. There are literally dozens of projects currently in the permitting process, including several hotels, biotech spaces and office buildings. In 2015, Downtown Seattle projects will continue to need the skills of several Operating Engineers to complete them.

In Solidarity,

Denny McKinney  
Field Representative

Howard S Wright - Future 21 Story Building







5th and Columbia Tower- JR Hayes, DBM and Brundage Bone



### DISTRICT 1

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Al Cummins**  
Dispatcher



**Bill Albin**  
Dispatcher

### Brothers & Sisters:

The year is behind us and for most of our members it has been a banner year! Group 1 got down to a low of 29 and all four groups totaled 109. Dispatch has been slowly building up to approximately 400 in all four groups as we write this article. The 2015 work season is projected to be very busy as well; we will have a good amount of work at the refineries in the month of February and should be in full swing by March. In order to work these jobs you must have your TWIC and RSO cards and many of the company's want a valid forklift card as well. Over the 2014 season we have had shortages on overhead crane operators, experienced mainline excavator hands, experienced finish blade hands, and drillers and asphalt hands.

We are getting more requests for OSHA 10 and HAZWOPPER cards from contractors on jobs. With the work slowing down and the school ramping up, it could be a good time to check the training schedule or call the training center at 1 800 803 7139 or visit the web site [www.oetraining.com](http://www.oetraining.com). Don't forget that when you receive new certifications and qualifications you will need to get them to us to put on file so we can add them to your qualifications

This year in December we put a Christmas tree in the lobby, we will put it up every December in the future at the Bothell office to collect non-perishable food and toys for the less fortunate. We will also collect non-perishable and toys year round and see that they get distributed to those in need.

Tony Zempel has left dispatch and is now a field representative primarily in District 2, which covers the Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan counties. Denny McKinney has left dispatch and is field representative working the downtown Seattle area.

Many Thanks to Denny, Tony and Rick for their past service, guidance and training in District 1 dispatch.

At this time I would like to welcome Bill Albin to dispatch. Bill started in dispatch on December 1st. Bill has worked in the sand and gravel industry for 18 years and has been a job steward for Local 302 for the past 11 years

It is always important to check in at dispatch as soon as you are out of work and get on the out-of-work list even if you are going back to work for the employer you have been working for. Unemployment does check with us to see if our members are on the out-of-work list and in good standing. Always remember to register every 90 days and let us know if your phone number or address changes.

We are looking forward to meeting and working with you in the 2015 season

In Solidarity,  
Al Cummins and Bill Albin  
District 1 Dispatchers

Brothers & Sisters:

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. It was great to see so many members, spouses, and family members attend the annual Holiday parties. I'm always amazed by the people I see and the stories that are told. I always learn so much from our retired members. I hope all of you get a chance to sit down with some of them and learn from their experiences and wisdom.

The times we live in are constantly changing, and hopefully for the better. We as union members need to be ready and willing to change with them, just as our predecessors did. They tell of the old cable blades and the different methods that were used to move materials and build the cities, roadways, and structures of today. We went from a training center in White Swan to new training centers in both states - One in Ellensburg, WA and one in Palmer, AK. Just as our equipment has evolved, and keeps evolving, our skills, methods, abilities, and scopes of work will also change. We have evolved and grown. We must continue to do so. This also means watching technology and seeing how it affects us now, and in the future.

This also means not being defined by negative words when it comes to our equipment and our industry. As Our Business Manager, Daren Konopaski recently stated, "There is no such thing as a mini-excavator. An excavator is an excavator, no matter what the size." He is absolutely right. We cannot let our equipment be referred to by words that can diminish their status. Everyone thinks they can run a "mini." Maybe they can but we are the only ones that can OPERATE an excavator. These kinds of words are used to lessen our grasp on what is rightfully our work. The only true "mini" is a shovel. We can let them have that one...maybe.

This is not just about excavators, but all equipment that is used in construction. As technology evolves and manufacturers make more specialized "material handling devices," we must constantly be on the look out for those cross over items that are really ours to man and operate. A crane is a crane, whether it is a tower crane high up on a new building, a crawler on a barge, or a "remote controlled material lifting device," it is still a crane and requires an operator with certification.

Another perspective that may hit home, when you are unemployed is it because other trades are running our equipment by giving it fancy words or names to try to change its meaning? Are your brothers and sisters unemployed because you aren't asking your representative if the new lifting device, or soil spreader is really our work? Please make the call and ask the question. Remember that every hour of our work done by another trade is an hour less into our fringe benefit package. Let's keep our money and our equipment for us.

In Solidarity,  
Larry Gregory  
Field Representative

### DISTRICT I

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Larry Gregory**  
Field Representative

### DISTRICT I

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Bob Franssen**  
Field Representative

### Brothers & Sisters:

With consternation and a mild amount of ambivalence, I write this article to create food for thought for our membership. Recently, the most read about organizing campaigns have been centered around Wal-Mart employee's, fast food workers, domestics, and taxi drivers. The drives have prompted states and cities to raise their wages and worker-friendly regulations. But what is noticeably deficient in numbers is the dues paying members created. Possibly for the immediate future there may not be dues paying members. Blocked by Management tactics, the absence of support from laws that fail to keep union activists from being punished, certain unions have pushed for raising the wages and benefits for workers that they can't claim as their own. Our Union has always supported minimum wage and safety laws that benefit all workers not just our members.

Some unions have recently invested major amounts of money into drives that will likely yield new laws but not create new membership. The decision of Seattle's government to raise the city's minimum wage to \$15 was a result of a local campaign. The city's fast-food workers' campaign, backed by a local area union, sought to organize 4,000 food service workers at Sea-Tac, the city's airport. The union put an initiative on the ballot in Sea-Tac to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Perhaps the strategy would push the employers to bargain in return to have the measure withdrawn. As we all know, the employers did not bite and the initiative surprisingly passed. The news media and the plight of the underpaid workers pushed the minimum wage even further. A year later, the City of Seattle raised its minimum wage to \$15 per hour as well. As a result of the strategy, there are now 100,000 workers covered under the \$15 per hour minimum wage law now that were not. Wages are just one of the things unions have increased in the legislative process, they have also created overtime pay, and favorable part-time workers laws.

The Knights of Labor pursued similar tactics but with no contracts for the workers. The result was the Knights of Labor fell upon hard times with no way to sustain their organization because of lack of dues/revenue. The AFL/CIO did have contracts and dues-paying members, thus managing to survive. As a result, today's unions are compelled again to confront many survivor type choices. How long can you afford to sustain a campaign without new members in the foreseeable future? I have no crystal ball to look into but what I see happening is a whole lot of workers making more money and now they will start asking for benefits such as healthcare, better working conditions, retirement, etc. Some employers are figuring out that with the laws in place they can lower the employee's numbers to a point they do not have to pay for healthcare. And Pension, some employers want to decrease their costs by establishing systems that won't allow you to vest or to earn a pension. As an American, I tend to want fast results. Fast results are what we are used to, but this Labor Movement has been going on since mankind started. Perhaps raising the bottom has created opportunities, but it may take awhile for it to materialize.

### DISTRICT I

Bothell office  
425-806-0302

As a final comment, I would like to point out that it is the union members that are paying their dues that have enabled them the resources to respond to prevailing wage surveys and other efforts to decrease workers rights and working conditions. This ensures that workers enjoy better benefits and wages. Non-union company's then become more amenable to working with us as they are required to pay prevailing wages, so why not work with a union to lower their overtime liability in exchange for health and pension benefits for the workers? Try to look at paying dues as a privilege because you are helping yourself, your family, and a whole lot of other folks that will eventually be Union, and keep in mind that those new members will be contributing to benefits which gives us all something to look forward to.

In Solidarity,

Bob Franssen  
Field Representative



Local 302 Member William Cundy



### DISTRICT I

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Marge Newgent**  
Field Representative

Brothers & Sisters:

I hope everyone had a happy holiday. Hopefully you were able to spend time you're your family and loved ones. I think it is important to try and work to live and not live to work. That being said, it is going to be another very busy season. We are in the upswing of the work cycle. Make sure you put money away for hard times. We weaken our bargaining strength when we have a majority of our members who can't or won't support an economic strike.

While we are not suggesting we are going to strike but it is a bargaining tool we use in negotiations. When your employer knows you are living check to check it weakens our position. It is kind of like buying from the "company store" or paying rent to your employer. This was an old tactic that was used to bust the Coal Miners union. Negotiating is all about who has the better bargaining position (power), and knowing the opposition's weak points. Right now there is a labor shortage as construction is on the rise. We should be able to bargain from a position of strength given the amount of work in our region for the next couple years.

However, and as I have said in past articles, **WE ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR WEAKEST MEMBER!** Once again, we have several members who are union in name only. They are union because their company is signatory. They are union because the wages are higher or we have exceptional pension and health benefits. They don't necessarily agree with our principals. These are individuals who don't participate and prefer to only take and they are the ones who always complain about a problem but never have a solution. And then there are the strong union members who constantly vote against their best interest. This is even more detrimental to unions. There is a massive effort underway to pass "Right to Work" legislation not only here in our state but nationwide - Divided we parish. Prevailing wage and union pensions are also under attack. We need to educate our membership, our neighbors, family and friends. Let them know what being a union member means to you. Get involved in local politics (school boards, city council, etc). The American dream shouldn't just be for some of us. Every American deserves a living wage job, with decent health benefits and a strong pension.

Unions also have to get it together. We need to stop dividing the masses by which union we are affiliated with and join together to stop the anti-union rhetoric. We all have skin in the game. If you want to retire after 35-40 years with a pension you can actually live on, now is the time to become involved in YOUR union. Show up for union meetings and provide feedback on the upcoming negotiations for the Washington Master Labor Agreement negotiations. Hopefully you returned the survey and will vote on the contract. I still haven't met a member yet who voted for the last contract. Somebody must have as it passed at a two-to-one ratio. We typically have an extremely low voter turn out for the contract. Yet many members complain about giving up double time or parking. When I ask them if they voted most folks say no. When I ask them are you willing to give up money on the check for paid parking,

most say no we want both. Well if your company knows you're not willing to put any skin in the game then guess what? You just gave them all the power they need to keep wages stagnant and give up language too. We have to do a better job people.

Collectively we need to stand up and fight for what we want. You get out of the union what you put in. Always do your best. Your reputation is the most important thing in the industry. It follows you from job-to-job. If you throw another union member under the bus, trust me, everyone will know about it. If you stand by and watch other crafts run our gear, even if it's just a couple hours, then don't complain when you get laid off because there isn't enough work to keep you busy. Our entire jurisdiction is at stake. Please don't think "it's just the forklifts and I don't like to run them anyway." It's not just the forklifts. It's Bobcats, backhoes, boom trucks, spider cranes, gantry cranes, excavators, etc. There is no such thing as a "4-hour rule." Another one we hear often is that the equipment is a "Tool of the trade." That's right. It is a tool of our trade alone. Help us fight for our union by standing with us in these battles. Get out of the crane and run the forklift if you're not busy. Make sure you have an oiler and don't let them, stand on the tracks and BS all day. Put them on the forklift if their not busy. Get out of the excavator and run the Bobcat. Be a part of the solution.

Contractors want to make money, and when they make money we are working. Stay busy and be a productive operator. If we are the best in the business they will use us and us alone. Work hard, stay proud and be a strong advocate for your union. In the words of Mother Jones: "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living." See you in the field.

In Solidarity,

Marge Newgent  
Project Labor Agreement Representative



Sister Tiffany Manney loading trucks at the Seawall project in Seattle for Mid Mountain

## DISTRICT I

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Gabriel Chavez**  
Field Representative

Brothers & Sisters:

Hopefully your holidays went well and you made it to one of the Holiday parties. It's a new year and there are still several projects underway in East King County. Several large buildings are still being constructed in downtown Bellevue, and the large State Route 520 job was recently completed by Eastside Corridor Constructors. I fully suspect it's going to be a busy 2015 in my area as the weather starts to improve, particularly plat jobs for new residential and commercial construction.

In my last report you may recall the private work that I reported on in East King County jobs. Many of these jobs had to shut down for the Winter, but at this time Northwest is still working in Carnation and Jennings Northwest is finishing its two plat jobs in the Sammamish area. JR Hayes just got a big plat job in Issaquah that is underway. Also, on public works jobs: KGM is still underway on the State Route 520 Bridge project; Johansen Excavating is still working in Kirkland; GoodFellow Brothers Construction in Bellevue; and Active Construction in North Bend. The Cadman, Glacier, and Lakeside pits are still busy mining sand and gravel throughout the winter months.

One of the issues that I wanted to bring to your attention is that this past year we had several incidents with other crafts operating forklifts and smaller equipment. One of the consistent messages that we are hearing in the field is that anyone is being allowed to operate smaller equipment because it is labeled "mini." Also, skid steer equipment is being referred to as being equivalent to a wheelbarrow. This is simply not the case. Equipment is equipment and only Operating Engineers can run it. I'd suggest never using the term "mini." An excavator is an excavator and a loader is a loader regardless of its size. You may recall hearing the old "4-hour rumor," where folks in the field were considering that anyone, including non-operators, could operate equipment for less than four hours at any pay scale. That is absolutely false! Operating Engineers run equipment, and according to prevailing wage laws this work must be compensated at our scale. I ask that you continue to stand up for our equipment, fellow members and this fine Local.

I look forward to another busy construction season getting underway as the weather begins to improve and new projects get let in the spring. As always, feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or issues in East King County. Be safe out there.

Waterfront Seawall Construction

In Solidarity,

Gabe Chavez  
Field Representative



Brothers & Sisters:

Well, we are approaching the end of a great project. The Kiewit project in Aberdeen, WA to construct the pontoons for State Route 520 is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2015. They have worked nearly two million man hours on site and the community will definitely feel the impact when the almost 200 construction workers leave town.

There will be a very interesting project in Westport that recently started. The Grays Harbor School District is preparing to build the nation's first tsunami refuge. The residents of Westport, Grayland and other communities in the Ocosta School District approved a \$13.8 million bond issue to replace a substandard elementary school building with a complex that includes a gym strong enough to withstand tsunami surges, tall enough to stay dry and big enough to shelter more than 1,000 people on its roof.

Being less than a mile from the ocean they have no hills to seek high ground. In the wake of a magnitude 9 quake the resulting tsunami is expected to slam into Westport within 20 to 30 minutes. The new gym will be built on a small hill and its roof will sit about 55 feet above sea level. That is well above the tallest surges that are predicted. The building must be constructed on deep pilings being done by Dewitt, in case the tsunami scours out the foundation. SDI is doing the site work for the project. The gym will be bolstered by reinforced concrete cores at each corner with staircases leading to the roof. Even if the walls are ripped away, the cores should remain intact through both the quake and the tsunami.

I am looking forward to seeing the completion of this cutting edge design. This area has an extremely repressed economy and is need of good paying family-wage jobs. Hopefully, this school/tsunami project will help to assist in the drastic transition in job reductions that this area will experience with the completion of the State Route 520 pontoon project in Aberdeen.

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to attend one of the Holiday Parties. I'm looking forward to a productive and busy 2015 and hope to see you on the job. Be safe out there.

In Solidarity,

Ron Dahl  
Business Relations

Waterfront Seawall Construction



### DISTRICT I

Bothell office  
425-806-0302



**Ron Dahl**  
Business Relations



### DISTRICT 4 & 5

Ellensburg office  
509-933-3020



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

Brothers & Sisters:

Work in District 4 & 5 this fall is going better than we normally experience this time of year. We still have a large crew with Advantage Dirt Contractors working on the Microsoft Datacenter project in Quincy. The overall site for the Datacenter is pretty large with Advantage doing the civil work while we also have Ralph's Concrete Pumping, Ness/Campbell Crane, and soon to be Granite as contractors employing 302 Members on that project. They plan to continue working through the winter if the frost and snow doesn't get too bad.

Also, along the Interstate 90 corridor, work is still underway due to the lack of snow on Snoqualmie Pass. Atkinson has a small crew along with Malcolm Drilling trying to get the holes drilled for the new bridge supports along Keechelus Lake. In talking with a few of the drill operators they said that the granite rock they are drilling into is very hard and slow going. There are also a few projects still going around Yakima County. Scarsella is still working on the Roza Irrigation project in the Sunnyside area. They have been building a new reservoir for the irrigation district to use for water storage. Apollo Inc. has the wastewater treatment plants for Granger and Wapato that they will be continuing to work on given the mild winter. We will also be watching the projects bidding for possible work to start next season.

Here it is the holiday season; hopefully you were able to make one of the Holiday dinners across the state. Being the holiday season it made me think of the importance of sharing or giving to others. I know it makes me feel good to help a person and I also believe most other people look for ways to help others, but in our trade it can be so easily overlooked to help a fellow member that needs it. It could be as simple as politely offering advice on the job or just to acknowledge a fellow Operator for their professionalism or production. When we build each other up with knowledge or positive encouragement we all benefit. So I thank you all for the great job you do everyday and the support you give to this Union. Remember the most valuable gift you can give to a fellow member, family or friend, is your time. Time can not be purchased!

I hope everyone had a safe and prosperous work season. Please attend our union meetings on the eastside of the state. The Ellensburg meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in our hall and the Wenatchee meeting is the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the West Coast Hotel on Wenatchee Avenue.

In Solidarity,

Sean Jeffries  
President & District 4 & 5 Representative

Brothers & Sisters:

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Holiday Parties this year. It was real enjoyable getting to talk and listen to all the folks who attended and relive old memories and hear about all the retirees when they were young. It was quite entertaining. If you didn't get a chance to attend this year please make plans early so you can next year as we would love to see everybody.

This spring should be just as busy as last year with all the work that is scheduled to kick off early in District 2. The refineries will have the usual turn-a-round work that will require the TWIC card and a RSO or C-Stop card. Please make sure you renew your cards or get new ones to be prepared for work up there. There will be a large project in Oak Harbor this spring along with a bunch of plat work, which is starting to pick back up as well. There also is some work that is waiting for approval before it can go out, and if approved, will be a big boost for District 2. We have on-going work that will carry over into next spring with two bridge projects --- some plat work and a fire station in East County. Skagit, Whatcom and Island counties are not blowing up like Seattle, but we have steady work which is fantastic for all our members in District 2 so the commute to work should be a little shorter.

The Gateway Pacific Terminal project has been continuing to test Rick Cunningham's patience but Rick is in the mix and we should have a contract signed before too long. This project would provide numerous jobs for years to come so we are behind it 100 percent. I have also been getting my feet wet in the non-union arena up in District 2. Hopefully, in the near future I will have some positive news, at this juncture I can tell you I have knocked on several doors. I can tell you in my short tenure as a field agent the one thing I have learned is you have to knock on a lot of doors before anyone will open one.

I don't want to dwell to much on phone numbers, but as a field agent when I need to get a hold of a member and his/her numbers aren't current it really complicates my efforts to represent all of you in the field as well. So check your numbers at dispatch when possible and make sure you get all of your certifications and cards to Al and Bill when possible. Remember if your phone numbers aren't current we can't get a hold of you to put you to work and you won't come up on a job order if you don't have the qualifications in the computer.

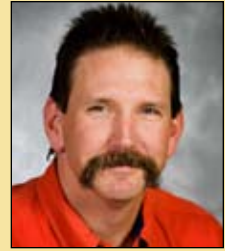
Be safe out there this spring and drink lots of water.

In Solidarity,

Tony Zempel  
Field Representative

### DISTRICT 2

Bellingham office  
360-336-2615



**Tony Zempel**  
District Representative

# Thorndyke Resource Project - Pit-to-Pier

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a project that is local to my neck of the woods that we have been very passionate about assisting for at least the past decade. You have heard me talk on several occasions about the importance of union involvement in local and political efforts to forward our efforts to improve job creation in both states. I have been known to speak up about various frustrations and disappointments that we run into daily with political movements contrary to our beliefs and the lack of leadership on the part of many politicians to see the handwriting on the wall when it comes to getting this economy back on track.

Whether it is the Pebble Mine in Alaska, Keystone Pipeline XL, large scale projects, and even local projects that we may see in our daily lives in our own communities it is becoming more and more important to be active in permitting efforts, political pressure, voting, and being generally active in local, regional, statewide, and nationwide efforts to improve job growth for working families. I have seen small grassroots efforts equate to projects and jobs for our members in both states. In contrast, we, as a strong Union, have been actively involved in several efforts to thwart off attempts to cancel/stall projects, deteriorate union representation, and question the need and values of unionism. While we often have to fight off attacks we also have to seize opportunities to demonstrate our true value as skilled craft on the jobsite and as an active political voice in front of city councils, state regulators, legislators, and even Congress. More often than is probably recognized many of these efforts begin locally but will grow to a much larger audience.

Having laid the foundation for this article I wanted to provide an example of how we do whatever we can, at any of all levels, of government to ensure that our voice is heard. You have heard on many occasions our efforts to forward an effort for several jobs on the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington. This project, affectionately known as the “Pit-to-Pier” project (It is now called the Thorndyke Resource project), is a large scale gravel extraction and reclamation project to be done near the Hood Canal bridge. The spoils of this extraction would be moved via conveyor from the pit to a pier (hence the name) and barge to its needed location. By my estimation, as the then District 3 Representative, this project seemed to be a no-brainer. Who doesn’t need sand and gravel? This is the blood that pumps the heart of most construction projects. And, quite frankly, with the diminishing high quality gravel deposits left in the lower 48, we are in need of a transfusion if we are going to continue to construct buildings, roads, bridges, etc. Unfortunately, many folks don’t see things the way that we do and chose to fight against us for a local issue with local environmentally focused ideals that could have enormous construction, jobs, and societal benefits.

In addition to the local fight we soon found ourselves in fisticuffs with the U.S. Navy (Bangor Nuclear Submarine Wharf across from the canal), County Commissioners, and a former Congressman who so happened to have a friend who was not a supporter of the project that lived across the canal from the proposed new pier. Needless to say the battle to move this project forward, which at the time would not have seemed to be one that would have attracted the political and governmental interest that it did, is continuing to move forward. I felt that the current status of this project along with renewed interest from the Legislature made it a topic worth sharing with the membership. As I stated earlier, this is an example of what would have otherwise seemed to be job creation issue with no opposition to one that has, at times, gone to “nuclear” scale on the political and regulatory front.



Proposed Pier and Barge-Loading Facility on Hood Canal.

The current status of this project is that the Legislature is favorably considering legislation that would provide for a more streamlined permitting process for projects of this nature in the future. Unfortunately, even with all of our hard fought battles to move this legislation it wasn't until after the project was able to move forward through the Environmental Impact Phase that the Legislature, particularly the Republican controlled state Senate, decided that this permitting process worked so well for Boeing's 777 project, that it deserved a closer review and expansion. The Democrats have been sparse on their support given the environmentalists opposition to the Pit-to-Pier project. This whole process has been an example where, regardless of political affiliation, we are willing to work with anyone that supports efforts that puts our members to work without any adverse compromise that would be contrary to our ideals and this Union.

In closing, I have included an Op-Ed that I supplied to the local news media about this project for your reference and information. It is efforts like these, which as members of this fine Local we must represent and push for our interests and priorities. Whether it is before a city council, the Legislature, Congress, local media, and even at a local event or ball game it is in all of our best interests to be active and Get Involved! Involvement is critical to our success and the growth of this Union into the future.

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to represent you.

In Solidarity,

Daren Konopaski  
International Vice President and Business Manager



Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015 – Mason County Journal – Page A-5

GUEST COLUMN:

## **Thorndyke Resource project would create family-wage jobs**

By Daren Konopaski

A Proposed project just up the Hood Canal has brewed long enough. It would blend mining and forestry, jobs, and environmental benefits. Perceived strange bedfellows, perhaps, but in real terms, they pose a complement that could benefit us all.

That is, if political chicanery doesn't hi-jack the project.

Not unlike barging operations at Johns Prairie here in Shelton or Glacier's DuPont pier – or, for generations, the former Steilacoom Pit – the Thorndyke Resource project (originally known as "pit-to-pier") proposes to deliver sand and gravel using marine transportation.

A typical lone barge can take 150 trips with trailers off our crowded highways and roads. When we can, moving by water is safer, carries a lighter carbon footprint, and sustains a construction industry that relies on sand and gravel to produce concrete for roads, bridges, tunnels, hospitals, seawalls and the core of our public infrastructure.

The project's upland mining operation proposes to run a conveyor (sound familiar?) to the water. The proposed load-out facility on northern Hood Canal would give the Puget Sound access to vital construction sand and gravel.

For generations, the Hood Canal Tree Farm has hinged on the compatibility of logging, mining, reclaiming and replanting. Following the harvesting of timber, sand and gravel is extracted from the cleared land. The ground is then recontoured with topsoil and replanted with seedlings, giving root to generations of harvesting.





A typical barge transiting the eastern span of the Hood Canal Bridge as proposed.

The vast upland deposit's rare, glacier-carved sand and gravel meet the Navy's high performance concrete specifications and have been used on numerous facilities at Kitsap Naval Base-Bangor, including the latest Explosive Handling Wharf (EHW-2) pier, which is being built following a pair of recent Navy environmental impact statements that, by the way, found no incompatibilities with the "pit-to-pier" proposed pier on Hood Canal several miles north of the base.

Now, ironically, as the project heads toward its final environmental impact statement, an isolated state agency – the state Department of Natural Resources – penned an unprecedented, sweeping restrictive easement on Hood Canal, attempting to stymie the proposed sand and gravel pier. This Constitution-challenging prohibition of commerce circumvents the lawful environmental review process and cuts off the very high-demand construction materials our state, region, Pacific states and fleet use.

Oh, yeah, it would also kill more than 2,000 direct and indirect family –wage jobs in mining, longshore, maritime, construction and shipbuilding that would translate into onshore and offshore workers, heavy-equipment operators, engineers, shipwrights, electricians, pipe fitters, oilers and welders. These wouldn't be seasonal tourism jobs. They would be careers, providing income and health care to West Sound families. All would be here at home, working on a much needed domestic source of raw materials that U.S. –flagged and U.S.-crewed vessels would move.

The Thorndyke Resource project would blend sustainable forestry, surface mining and our waterways to produce and transport a benign cargo and basic commodity.

It's time to get things moving.

Let legislative leaders like the 35th District's Sen. Tim Sheldon (D-Potlatch) know what you think. Sheldon can be reached at 786-7668 or via email at [timothy.sheldon@leg.wa.gov](mailto:timothy.sheldon@leg.wa.gov)

\*Daren Konopaski is general vice president of International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 302, in Bothell. He can be reached at [dkonopaski@iuoe302.org](mailto:dkonopaski@iuoe302.org)

## RETIREES

*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.*

ZACHARY AHQUIN	ROSS KNAPP
LAWRENCE ARLITT	JAY KNUDTSEN
WILLIAM ARNOLD	MICHAEL LOWE
ROGER BEAN	D MAGGARD
RANDY BEASON	DAVID MARX
REBECCA BECHTOLD	BYRON MATLOCK
ERIC BELLAMY	CARL MICHAEL
RONALD BENARD	WILLIAM NEAL
MICHAEL BOEGGEMAN	LAURIE NILSEN
JAMES BUCKWALTER	MICHAEL NYBERG
JERRY CANTRELL	MICHAEL OLSEN
RAYMOND CHEELY	JOHN PAPENBROCK
PAUL DANBO	PER PETERSEN
DAVE DEBRUIN	ROBERT PETERSON
D DENISON	MARK PLISKA
MARK EKMAN	CHRIS POCK
ALLEN FISCHER	TIMOTHY PRUSAK
GAIL FLAMMAND	LARRY RAYNES
MARK FRIESEN	GARY RITCHEY
WILLIAM GOODPASTER	TY ROBISON
RAY GRAFF	MATTHEW STRUBLE
DARRELL GREENWAY	DANIEL TREBINO
WILLIAM GRESS	STEPHEN TRYON
KEVIN HANNON	RONALD TURNBULL
MARK HATTON	TERRY TURNER
MICHAEL HENRY	CHARLES UNDERWOOD
JESSE HOPSON	RONALD UNICK
JONATHAN JENKINS	HAROLD VERNON
JEROLD JOHANSEN	DENNIS WEST
MICHAEL JOHNSON	PATRICK WHELAN
BRAD JONES	GARY WHITE
WALTER KAEMERER	JERRY WHITE
GARY KANGAS	RANDAL WOOTEN
DELVAUGHN KING	RICHARD WOOTEN

# DUES CLUES

helpful hints from your dues office...

When personal checks are received often times the dollar amount that is spelled out and the numeric amount written in the payment box do not match. The dues office only processes the dollar amount that is spelled out.

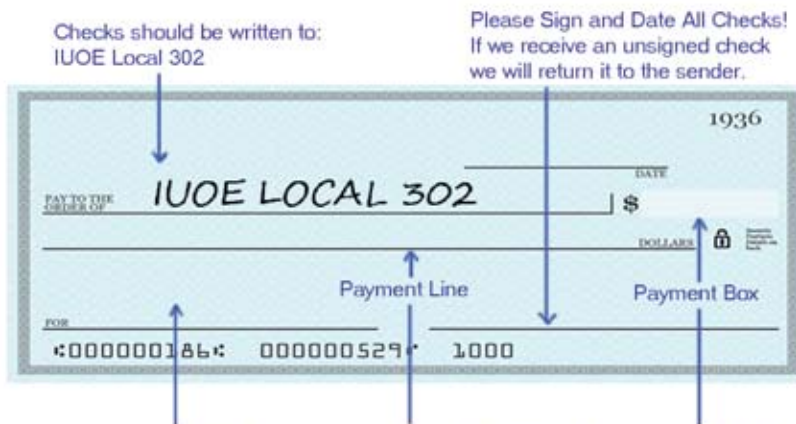
Your check will be returned to you if it is unsigned. Your check will also be returned to you if the section for the spelled-out amount is blank.

When payments are sent in on behalf of a member, make sure the members name and member register number are included with the payment. Often times we will have payments arrive with nothing to indicate whose account to apply the payment to. In those cases the payment is returned to the sender.

Remember if your check is returned or not properly completed your account may risk Suspension from membership and possible termination from employment as a result of going into a Suspended status.

Occasionally we receive the pre-addressed green payment envelopes that have been re-addressed to someone else or to another organization (not intended for Local 302). Please keep in mind that the Post Office sorts mail based on the bar code on the envelope. So even if you re-address the green payment envelopes to go to someone else, they will still be sent to Local 302. When this happens, the envelope and its contents are returned to the sender.

## WHAT TO INCLUDE ON YOUR DUES CHECK



So that we may apply payment to the correct account, please put the member's name and union registration number (found on previous dues receipts or membership card) on the Note/For line.

Please fill out the dollar amount both in the payment box and on the payment amount line. Local 302 and the bank will only process for the amount spelled out on the payment line. If we receive a check with two different amounts, it will be processed for the amount spelled out on the payment line, not the amount written in the box. If the payment line is blank, checks will be returned.



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

GORDON ANDERSON  
ROLAND BERGEY  
WILLIAM BINYON  
KEITH CALHOUN  
MELVIN CERNICH  
ARTHUR CLAWSON  
RICHARD COOK  
WILLIAM CURTIS  
BERNARD DAVIS  
EARL DEATER  
EARL DEHART  
ROBERT DELLINGER  
DANIEL ELMENDORF  
ROD GRABER  
CLARENCE GREEN  
BEN HEFLIN  
DAROLD JOHNSTON  
FRANK KOWALCZYK  
THOMAS LOKKEN  
DAVID LUBINSKI  
BRENDAN MATTINGLEY  
DANIEL MAULE  
MARK MC MILLIAN  
KENNETH MILLER  
FRANK MONKS

LLOYD MONTGOMERY  
EDWARD OLSEN  
JEFFREY PANEITZ  
BYRON PETERSON  
HARLEY RAYMER  
BUD SHAUF  
HARVEY SHOOK  
LLOYD WEATHERFORD  
BRIAN WILEY

# Juneau-Douglas Bridge 1935

The original Juneau-Douglas Bridge was built in 1935. It connected mainland Juneau with Douglas Island. It was later demolished in 1981 after the current bridge was completed in 1980.



P127-0028 Alaska State Library  
Mrs. Allen (Agnes Swineford) Shattuck Photograph Collection



P127-0027 Alaska State Library  
Mrs. Allen (Agnes Swineford) Shattuck Photograph Collection



Juneau-Parades-058 Alaska State Library  
Alaska State Library Photograph Collection



P359-022 Alaska State Library  
Fox Family Photograph Collection

Oct. 13, 1935 - Opening Day - Pretty Big Deal

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



**Tami St. Paul**  
Training Coordinator

Brothers and Sisters,

We hope your holidays were happy and spent with folks you love and enjoy and that 2015 is treating you right so far. If, however, you are getting a little case of cabin fever... You might consider spending some time at the training center with us this winter or spring, you can brush up on some skills that have been in hibernation or add some entirely new ones to your tool belt. Just a little tip, sometimes one of the best ways to get into a class is to call the training center on a Monday morning to check for last minute cancellations and availability. There is almost always an opportunity to fill a canceled spot. So if your schedule is flexible, you could get to attend some fantastic courses.



The training center has been going great guns since late October with CDL classes going strong. The weekend crane classes have been very popular and well attended and there are a few scheduled for 2015 too. The forklift, grade and equipment classes are all ongoing and well worth attending if you get the chance.



The refinery work usually kicks off towards the beginning of the year and some of the work will require a TWIC card that can be obtained by contacting the TSA and scheduling a background check. If you Google TWIC, it will get you to the TSA site to start the process. It can take several weeks to get one so if you want to be eligible to participate in the refinery work, don't delay. Additionally, they won't even let us through the gate unless we have our RSO cards up to date, contact the training center for the next available RSO class or refresher.

On that note, it is time to upgrade, or refresh most of those safety cards. Your Haz-Mat card has to be refreshed yearly and, no offense to Jerry Bennett who teaches an interesting and engaging 40 hour haz-mat class, would you really want to have to sit through another 40 hour class when you could just hang out with him on a random Saturday this winter or spring and get your current one refreshed? Jerry and Bryant are great about bringing the refreshers all over Western and Central Washington. So find out when they will be in your area and “git r done”. Jerry also tells me there is some updated information for the North Slope cards. If you took the North Slope safety training in the past few years, you might want to check in with the training center or Jerry just to make sure you have everything you need before you head up North.

While you are scheduling refreshers, you might check your First-Aid/CPR/AED card and don't forget your forklift card expires 3 years from the date it was issued. If your card is not dated... It has expired. Call over to the training center and see about getting your cards all up to date so you can be handy and ready to be dispatched when and where the hall or your employer needs you.

In November we had our first – possibly ever – but definitely first in a really long time, drilling class. It was fully attended and we heard lots of positive reviews about the class. As an introduction to drilling, for someone who hadn't been exposed to it, those folks found it interesting and informative. For the folks who had some drilling experience, they also found value in attending the class. We want to send out a special thanks to the folks at Malcolm, DBM, Condon Johnson and Versatile drilling. They each brought out a drill rig and some folks to help instruct the class. It was a few long days of classes and some folks suggested it could be even better if it was a whole week, but then there's the trade off of being able to do it over basically a weekend and only missing one week day of work. We'll see what the future holds. But in the meantime, thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make that opportunity available. It required a lot of planning and logistics and cooperation efforts from a lot of folks to make it happen and we greatly appreciate everyone's efforts.

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In Early December, the Training Trustees approved the purchase of a Konecranes Overhead Crane. We will use it for NCCCO testing. Ole and the crane instructors and mechanics have been coordinating with them on the installation and it looks like we can expect to have it up and running by April this year. As demand for overhead crane certification expands we are excited to have the opportunity to do the training and testing for them at our training center in Ellensburg.

A big heartfelt thanks goes out to one of the local Ellensburg contractors, Advantage Dirt. They did us a great favor by hauling our 631C Scraper to the Yakima NC for repairs... And, they did it for cost. It should be back shortly if it isn't back already. We truly appreciate the assist with that task. It's so great to have that feeling of community cooperation within our organizations.

We continue to schedule and facilitate ongoing NCCCO testing. As of the writing of this article, our next written Exam is scheduled to be in Bothell January 24, 2015. It is likely too late to get in to that one but we schedule them about every other month as needed so if you missed this one, give us a call and we'll start putting together the next one. Please call the training center to sign up for the tests and don't forget to sign up for the refresher class. We have found that our folks who attend the refresher class prior to the test have a much higher rate of success on the written test than those who don't. It appears to be time well spent.

We are well into the middle of our selection process for this year's entry level apprentices. We did some outreach again this fall to get the word out about the tremendous opportunity presented through our apprenticeships. We helped put on the King County Construction Career day October 9th at Magnusson Park and the Pierce County Career day at the Fairgrounds in Puyallup November 13th, 2014. We want to thank our fantastic instructors and the great apprentices who brought their can do attitudes and great work ethics and experience to these events. Their efforts are the critical component in reaching out to these students so they can explore careers they might not even know are available. Without their help we couldn't do this amazing hands-on type of outreach. Thanks to everyone who herded kids, or wielded a shovel or broom in the clean up efforts to make it possible. It really means so much to these students and their parents and educators. We also need to send out a huge Thank You to long time member Dave Turley and his employer Tetra Tech EC Inc. We came up short one relatively small but critical piece of clean up logistics at the King county Construction Career day event and they pitched in and came up with a big save for our clean-up efforts there. Thank you So much. Some of our regular contributors to these outreach events are Lakeside Industries, Miles Sand and Gravel, Ceccanti, and Ness and Campbell Crane. They move materials and equipment to the events and often send help to staff them. Without their help, we absolutely couldn't make this hands on exposure available to the students and we are deeply grateful for their unfailing support.

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# APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

**Operating  
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Ellensburg, WA  
1-800-333-9752





## APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING

We hosted another small group from the apprenticeship program ANEW (Apprenticeships and Non-Traditional Employment for Women) based out of Renton Technical College at the training center. Several of those women applied to our program directly as a result of their experience at our training center. Thanks again to our staff and instructors for making this valuable hands-on opportunity available to folks exploring careers working with Construction Heavy Equipment.

We are looking forward to seeing the top scoring candidates from the selection process as they try us out at our one week safety and orientation in March. It's a critical part of the process where they get a very clear idea of who we are and what we do and how; and we get a fantastic opportunity to check out their attitudes, aptitudes and work ethic, so we can make the tough choices about who we will invest in to build our future workforce. The top scorers will move on into our entry level pre-construction training later this spring, so they can be ready for dispatch as the industry demands in the summer.

We look forward to seeing you at the training center this season or out and about in the field and at meetings. In the meanwhile, have fun and be safe. Respectfully submitted,

Tami St. Paul – on behalf of the staff at the Operating Engineers Regional Training Program

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





**IUOE Regional Training Center**

Palmer, AK  
1-877-746-3117



**Mike Holcomb**  
Administrator



**Chad Hutchinson**  
Apprentice Coordinator



**Adam Ferguson**  
Apprentice Coordinator

## Training and Apprenticeship in Alaska

Here's hoping that this Loadline has made it into your home following a rewarding summer and a happy and healthy winter/ holiday season.

Both the Palmer Training Center and the Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center have been buzzing with activity this fall/winter. The turn-out we have seen from members seeking skill improvement classes this year has been unprecedented. It's inspiring to see you all pro-active in refining your skills and adding new competencies to your "bag of tricks."

If you haven't been able to make it in yet this year for any classes, the training schedule is posted on our website: [aoeett.org](http://aoeett.org). Check it out, and you might be surprised to see what all is being offered. In fact, the following classes are being conducted right now in the classrooms beside me:

GPS Grade Checking, 966 Caterpillar loader rebuild, Welding Skills upgrade, AC Electrical 2, Paving, CDL-Level I, Crane Operator Level I and all Safety Refreshers. *That's just this week!*

Please don't forget that new North Slope Training Co-operative material came out last spring. If it's been awhile since you've had an NSTC refresher, you might look into signing up for a class so that you remain eligible for a North Slope dispatch.

On another note, notification letters were recently sent to this year's group of apprentice mechanics who were selected to begin their training in February. We are excited about the group of talent that we see headed our way this year. The Training Trust would like to say Thank-You to the interviewing committee that called on their many years of combined experience to help evaluate this year's group of applicants. The commitment that these interviewers have shown to our Union, (and apprenticeship program) is invaluable. It's not an easy task and they do a great job at it!

As for the Operators, the selection process will be finalized in late January. The selected individuals will receive letters and phone calls, congratulating them on their acceptance. The Operator training will begin in the middle of March, for which we are already preparing!

In closing, I would like say Thank-You to everyone out there striving to see our organization grow and be successful. We all know how important our skills are. They are high-lighted on the job-site by every day by our performance and attitude. Local 302 hands have always prided themselves in having the best of both and it never gets old to hear the positive feed-back from contractors. Efficient performance, constant skill improvement, and the sharing of knowledge is what make us who we are. It makes us strong. Well done everyone.

In Solidarity,  
Adam Ferguson  
Apprentice Coordinator

## APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING



**IUOE Regional  
Training Center**

Palmer, AK  
1-877-746-3117



## General Rules & Instructions for 2015 - 2016 School Year

**Two scholarships of \$1,500** each will be awarded to winners for study at any accredited college or university. A scholarship will be awarded to one student each in Washington and Alaska. **Two scholarships of \$1,000** each will be awarded to runners-up for study at any accredited college or university. A scholarship will be awarded to one student each in Washington and Alaska. **Two scholarships of \$1,000** each will be awarded for study at any vocational technical college. A scholarship will be awarded to one student each in Washington and Alaska. Local 302 will impose no restrictions on courses of study. Recipients may accept other grants or awards that do not rule out scholarship aid from other sources.

## Who May Apply

Children of Local 302 members, or grandchildren of Local 302 members who are the legal guardians of their grandchildren, may apply for the scholarships. The parent or grandparent of the applicant must be a member of Local 302 for at least one year immediately preceding the date of application. Sons and daughters of deceased members are eligible to apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must have been a member of Local 302 for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

Applicants must be senior high school students who have, or will be, graduated at the end of: (1) fall semester 2014, or (2) spring semester of 2015, in public, private or parochial schools who plan to attend a college, university, or vocational technical college anywhere in the U.S. during the academic year and who are able to meet the academic requirements for entrance into the university, college, or vocational technical college of their choice. Students selected for scholarships must have achieved not less than a "B" average in their high school work.

**Applications will be accepted between March 1 and June 30, 2015.** Application forms and instructions are also available at [www.iuoe302.org](http://www.iuoe302.org).

## Awarding Scholarships

Upon receipt of the application and required forms, Local 302 will verify the membership of the parent. The application will then be submitted for judging to a Scholarship Selection Committee. No applicant will be favored over another in any way, providing the applicant submits a complete application packet and meets the basic eligibility requirements. The Scholarship Selection Committee will select the winners based on factors normally used in awarding scholarships. Scholarship awards will be announced as soon as possible and the checks will be deposited in each winning student's name at the college or university he/she plans to attend.

## Jack McDonald Scholarship Award Fund Instructions

1. APPLICATION – to be filled out and returned by the applicant.
2. SCHOOL STATEMENT AND TRANSCRIPT – to be filled out by the high school Principal or designated representative, and returned directly to Local 302 at the address below by the person completing it.
3. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION – every applicant must submit one to three letters of recommendation describing his/her character and ability. They may be from teachers, community leaders, family friends, or others who know the applicant. These may be submitted with the applications, or sent directly by the writers to Local 302 at the address below.
4. RECENT PHOTOGRAPH – you may submit a digital photo, clearly identified, via CD or by email to [mainoffice@iuoe302.org](mailto:mainoffice@iuoe302.org). Or, please send a photo that is clear enough to reproduce with the applicant's name written on the back. The photo will not be returned to the applicant.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all required items are received on time and that they are sent to: **Kyle Brees, Financial Secretary, IUOE Local 302, 18701 – 120th Ave. NE, Bothell, WA 98011-9514**

**JACK McDONALD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
**2015 – 2016 SCHOOL YEAR**

PLEASE PRINT  
NAME OF  
APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX:  Male  Female

PARENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PARENT'S SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICIAL USE ONLY: Initiation Date: _____ Register #: _____ Good Standing _____
---

School you presently attend: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

To which university(ies), college(s) or vocational program(s) have you applied or will you apply? \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a brief statement regarding your educational and career goals: \_\_\_\_\_

List all activities, organizations and honors while in high school: \_\_\_\_\_

List outside activities and/or other special interests: \_\_\_\_\_





**SCHOOL STATEMENT FOR 2015 – 2016 SCHOOL YEAR**

PLEASE PRINT  
NAME OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF ENROLLMENT AT YOUR SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe the applicant will perform university, college or vocational technical college work successfully?

- YES                       NO

Is the applicant a leader in recognized extracurricular activity at your school?

- YES                       NO

If so, please specify the activity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please give your personal evaluation of the applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Principal or authorized representative is requested to complete this form, include one copy of the applicant's official transcript, and mail both directly to:**

**Kyle Brees, Financial Secretary, IUOE Local 302  
18701 – 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Bothell, WA 98011**

IUOE 302  
Loadline



# **Rob Peterson retires after 33 years in Local 302**

*District Representative, Vice President and Trustee  
or as he says: "just a simple mechanic"*





Keith Kaiser & Kent Laulainen Crane Operator/ Mechanic  
Crowley Solutions West Dock, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska



Release Staff in Alaska



Pumping the north end landing lights for the Juneau airport



**GOOD OF THE ORDER**



Alaska Training Center



Paving project at the Fairbanks Airport



Alaska Training Center



Alaska Indoor Training Center



**GOOD OF THE ORDER**



Ralph's Concrete - Sellen - Amazon Site



Casting basin for SR-520 pontoons in Aberdeen



Josh Brothers - Party Chief - Turner Construction - 2nd and Pine





Rich Brinkman - DBM - 2nd and Pine



Dave Hausman - DBM - 2nd and Pine

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**



Lease Crutcher Lewis American Made Tower Crane Base



Sellen - Amazon Site



GLY - Brundage Bone - Bothell

Hoquium slide clean up - Rognlins





CHRISTMAS  
AT LOCAL 302  
2014





# Member Spotlight

## 2014 - Toy/Food Drive

We recently wrapped up the Holiday Parties for 2014. A wonderful time was had by all and I really enjoyed seeing and talking with members in both states. A special thanks to all of you that provided gifts and non-perishable foods for those members in need. This was truly appreciated and I am proud to say that we received well over a few thousand gifts and food items. Every year the Reps work hard to get the word out to members to come to the parties and, if able, to bring unwrapped gifts and food to donate. It has become quite a competition to increase the donations (toys and food) for us to share as far and wide as possible with our less fortunate members and their families. I'm proud to say that this year, the first place award for the most donations was Fairbanks, AK with 223 guests and 384 donations (1.72%) followed closely by Port Angeles, WA with 51 guests and 74 donations (1.45%). Your generosity is truly amazing and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Mark Lafone Fairbanks Agent giving 500.00 to Fairbanks Food Banks from IUOE LOCAL 302

## Voluntary Political Contributions

New Public Disclosure Commission regulations require that all employers and labor unions who offer voluntary political contribution options to their employees and members inform their employees and members of certain statutory protections. The statutory language from the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 42.17.680(2) is:

No employer or labor organization may discriminate against an officer or employee in the terms or conditions of employment for;

1. The failure to contribute to;
2. The failure in any way to support or oppose; or
3. In any way supporting or opposing a candidate, ballot proposition, political party, or political committee

The new regulations also require employers and labor unions to provide information regarding where employees and members can send their written notice of revocation. Information regarding where to send notice of revocation is either:

1. Name and address of employer's contact; or
2. Name and address of person or entity who is responsible for disbursing wages or salaries

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### 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:

Claims information and forms are now available on the new benefits web site: [www.engineerstrust.com](http://www.engineerstrust.com)

Or access it via our web site: [www.iuoe302.org](http://www.iuoe302.org)

Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Trust  
P.O. Box 34684, Seattle, WA 98124-1684  
Phone: (206) 441-7574  
206 441-7314 or 877 441-1212



## LOCAL 302 REPRESENTATIVES

### DISTRICT 1 - BOTHELL

Daren Konopaski, Business Manager  
Kyle Brees, Recording/Corresponding and  
Financial Secretary  
Josh Swanson, Government Affairs  
Bob Franssen, Field Representative  
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, Dispatcher  
Bill Albin, Dispatcher

### DISTRICT 2 - BELLINGHAM

Tony Zempel, Field Representative

### DISTRICT 3 - PENINSULA

George Garten, District Representative

### DISTRICT 4 & 5 - WENATCHEE/ELLENSBURG

Sean Jeffries, President & District Representative

### DISTRICT 6 - ANCHORAGE

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

### DISTRICT 7 - FAIRBANKS

Rob Peterson, Vice President & District Representative  
Shawn Lowry, Field Representative  
Lake Williams, Business Representative  
Avery Thomas, Field Representative  
Mark LaFon, Field Representative  
Kevin Lincoln, Dispatcher

### DISTRICT 8 - JUNEAU

Corey Baxter, District Representative

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Daren Konopaski, Business Manager  
Kyle Brees, Recording/Corresponding and  
Financial Secretary  
Sean Jeffries, President  
Rob Peterson, Vice President  
Jason Alward, Treasurer  
George Garten, Executive Board Member  
Taylor Mayfield II, Executive Board Member  
Corey Baxter, Executive Board Member

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

Daren Konopaski, Business Manager

18701 120th Avenue NE  
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, 200 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, 110 S. Penn St.

### **DISTRICT 4 - WENATCHEE**

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

### **DISTRICT 5 - ELLENSBURG**

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

### **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., Bldg. A-105.

