



EVERGREEN LEADER

The Voice of I.A.M. & A.W. District 160 in Western Washington

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DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT



Obama/Biden Team Just the Ticket for Working Families

With the election two months away, it already looks like the working family ticket is a strong one with Obama and Biden. There are also rumors that Hillary Clinton could be appointed Secretary of State and Dennis Kucinich in the Cabinet. Workers and their unions could not be positioned better to win in November. This new administration will stop the endless attacks on workers and their families and start to rebuild our economy again. It will be everyone's job and obligation to get out and vote this November.

But this election must be different. Everyone must take your children, your parents and your friends to the polls. Anyone that can vote must.

Next week I am off to the 37th Grand Lodge Convention. International President Buffenbarger has appointed me to the Resolutions Committee. Myself and 28 other delegates from District 160 have been elected to represent all 11 Local Lodges.

This will be a historical convention and I am anticipating great things to be accomplished. This is a very busy summer for contract negotiations. All of the Representatives for District 160 have seven or eight negotiations ongoing, all at the same time.

NOTICE TO ALL LOCAL LODGE 2379 MEMBERS

Final nominations for Local Lodge Vice President will be held on October 2, 2008 at the General Membership Meeting.

The Election for this office will be held on November 6, 2008 at Local 2379 Meeting Hall, 2064 Vista Drive, Ferndale, WA.

Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

IAM Endorses Obama/Biden Ticket

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) today delivered a full-throated endorsement for Barack Obama following a personal appeal from New York Democratic Senator Hillary Clinton at the union's national convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

"This union is not half-hearted with its endorsements," said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger, who was an



Barack Obama



Joseph Biden

early and strong supporter of Sen. Clinton throughout the primaries. "When we go in, we go all in. We will have boots on the ground in every

state to make sure our members understand that Barack Obama is the best chance in a generation to reclaim the American Dream

for working families."

The endorsement will trigger a massive education campaign among IAM members and extensive publicity in union publications and worksites nationwide. The IAM is a significant political presence in key industrial states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The IAM is among the nation's largest industrial trade unions, representing over 700,000 active and retired members in airline, aerospace, manufacturing, railroad, woodworking and shipbuilding industries.

Working Families Struggle During Economic Slump

We all know it: The economy is not working for working families.

Fact: Workers in America:

- Are the most productive in the world.
- Work longer hours than in any other developed country.
- Live in a country with more than \$13 trillion a year in income.

YET we face:

- Stagnant wages and family incomes.
- Increasing income insecurity.
- Eroding health care benefits.
- Disappearing pensions.

BUT we don't have to sit and wait for it to change.

WE ARE THE CHANGE OUR ECONOMY NEEDS.

Get the facts at goiam.org and find out how you can DISMANTLE the corporate agenda and BUILD a working family agenda.

Here's our working family agenda:

- Anyone who wants to work should have a job with a living wage.
- Workers are proud of their work and should have the chance to do it right.
- All workers and our families should be able to live in dignity with health care and retirement security.
- Every worker should enjoy the freedom to form a union and bargain collectively.
- Workers want to contribute to, and share in, building a world-class economy.

Union Negotiators at the Table



From left to right: David Glenn, Business Representative Greg Heidal, and Scott Humphries are negotiating with Waste Management on a new contract.

IAM Scholarship Competition Underway

This scholarship competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada under the procedures and rules of eligibility explained in this Announcement.

The 2009 Scholarship Competition begins in August 2008 and runs through February 27, 2009. Beginning in August 2008, applications will be accepted for the 2009 Scholarship Competition. Applications will be available to seniors in high school and IAM members and may be downloaded and printed from this web page. Applications will not be accepted until August 2008. An application can also be obtained by mail from the IAM Scholarship Department after printing, completing and mailing the request form available online at <http://www.goiam.org/content.cfm?cid=431> or in the 2008 Fall IAM Journal issue.

The IAM Scholarship Fund, which is used exclusively to make possible these awards, was established by the delegates to the 1960 IAM Grand Lodge Convention.

The Scholarship Competition

Scholarships to make possible attainment of a Bachelor's degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification are determined in a competition among eligible applicants that is judged by a special Selection Committee.

Amount of Awards

Awards to Members are \$2,000 per academic year. They are granted for a specific period from one to four years to enable

the member to earn a Bachelor's degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification.

Awards to Children of Members are: College - \$1,000 per academic year. All awards are renewed each year until a Bachelor's degree is obtained or for a maximum of four years, whichever occurs first. Vocational/Technical School - \$2,000 per year until certification is reached or for a maximum of two years, whichever occurs first.

At the 2004 Grand Lodge convention, the delegates voted unanimously to name one of the scholarships after Roman A. Mayfield, a 55-year member of District Lodge 751, now deceased. This will be given to one of the scholarship recipients who best represents the spirit of volunteerism and strong sense of service to their community that was the hallmark of Brother Mayfield.

A distinguished panel of four academics met at the IAM William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center to select 24 winners from among 602 applicants in the 2008 IAM Scholarship Competition. The winners, from each IAM Territory in the U.S. and Canada, will receive a \$4,000 scholarship to pursue a college degree or vocational and technical training. "The winners were notified by mail," said IAM Safety & Health Department Director Mike Flynn, whose department administers the popular program. "The scholarships are a great opportunity for IAM parents and a great way for members themselves to continue their own education."

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LOCAL LODGE MEETING NOTICES

LODGE 79 - SEATTLE

Regular Lodge Meeting — 5:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday, 751 Meeting Hall 9135 – 15th Place South, Seattle.

Executive Board Meeting — 5:30 p.m., the Monday preceding the Regular Lodge meeting (3rd Wednesday). District 160 Conference Room, 9135 – 15th Place South, Seattle.

LODGE 130 - EVERETT

Regular Lodge Meeting — 7 p.m., 2nd Thursday, Labor Temple, Everett.

LODGE 239 - BELLINGHAM

Regular Lodge Meeting - 7 p.m., 2nd Monday, Alger Community Center.

LODGE 282 - BREMERTON

Regular Lodge Meeting - 7:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday, 822 Park Avenue, Bremerton.

Local 282 Whidbey Island — 4:45 p.m., 2nd Wednesday, NAS Whidbey Island.

LODGE 289 - SEATTLE

Regular Lodge Meeting — 6:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday, 751 Meeting Hall 9135 – 15th Place South, Seattle.

Shop Stewards' Meeting — 6:00 p.m., 3rd Thursday, District 160 Conference Room, 9135 – 15th Place South, Seattle.

Executive Board Meeting — 5:30 p.m., prior to regular lodge meeting. District 160 Conference Room, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle.

LODGE 297 - TACOMA

Regular Lodge Meeting - 6:00 p.m., 1st Thursday, Firefighters Hall, 1109 South 50th Street, Tacoma.

Executive Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m., Tuesday preceding the Regular Lodge Meeting (1st Thursday), 3516 South 47th Street, Suite 105, Tacoma.

Retirees' Club Meeting - All Local 297 retirees are invited to attend meetings the 3rd Tuesday of month, 9 a.m. at Elks Allenmore Public Golf Course Restaurant, 2125 S. Cedar St., Tacoma. Breakfast followed by meeting. Occasional bus trips and potlucks. Join us!

LODGE 695 - OLYMPIA

Regular Lodge Meeting - 7 p.m., 2nd Wednesday, Labor Temple, 119 1/2 North Capitol Way, Olympia.

LODGE 1350 - LONGVIEW

Regular Lodge Meeting - 7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday, 536 Oregon Way, Longview.

LODGE 1690 - ANCHORAGE

Regular Lodge Meetings - 5:30 p.m., 2nd Wednesday at the Union Hall, 701 W. 41st, Suite 202, Anchorage.

LODGE 1735 - ANCHORAGE

Regular Lodge Meetings - 3:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday at the Union Hall, 701 W. 41st, Suite 202, Anchorage.

Executive Board Meeting - Monday prior to the Local Lodge meeting.

LODGE 2379

Regular Lodge Meetings - 7:00 p.m., 1st Thursday, Lodge office, 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale.

Executive Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m., Monday prior to Lodge meeting, Lodge office, 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale.

DISTRICT 160 OFFICERS

President

Robert James

Vice President

John Gehringer

Secretary-Treasurer

John Decker

Sgt. at Arms

David Middleton

Trustees

Jeff Eberle

Bobby Jo Murray

Don Zeth

Directing Business

Representative

Don Hursey

Assistant Directing

Business Representative

Dan Morgan

Business Representatives

Melody Coffman

Mike Goddard

Ron Harrell

Greg Heidal

Leif Jensen

Lance Risch

ASSISTANT DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

by Dan Morgan

"The only constant is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be."

— Isaac Asimov

September 2008 is here and many changes are on the horizon. The changes will come in many forms and areas; school, work, politics, family issues and in our own great Union. The Republican and Democratic conventions have come and gone. Those conventions have started changes in the political processes of both parties and our nation as a whole.

We may be in favor of some of these changes and in disdain of others. The fact remains change will occur. Concerning the political changes we will be facing, and I include our Union when I speak of political change, without exception the singularly most important item is democracy. What I mean is we are in control of the change. We control the coming changes in basic ways, either by our actions or by our inactions.

If we do nothing, we are still part of the process of change. We are part of that change by allowing other to decide for us. By staying at home we let the people



that attend the political caucuses make our decisions for us. The same is true if we don't vote. The process will continue with or without us. Our lack of participation will not stop the progression; it just lets it roll on without us or in some cases over us.

Are there things in our nation that anger you? The price of gas, the war in Iraq, the city closing a street, YOU can change these things. Some say one person can not make a difference; and they are right if that person stays home and never gets involved. I believe one person can make a difference. It has to start some where...why not with you or me.

Our Union's quadrennial convention convenes on September 7, 2008. The Local Lodges have elected delegates to attend the convention. The convention will be addressing many issues. Some very difficult and controversial issues will be decided. I am grateful for the delegates willing to participate and make a difference; but mostly for the Union's membership that faithfully attends the local lodge meetings to elect our delegates, discuss the issues, and participate in the process to move our Union forward.

"Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

—John F. Kennedy

MEET YOUR LABOR LEADERSHIP

Rick S. Bender, President of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Rick was elected President of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO in March 1993. Prior to that he had served as WSLC Vice President (1988-1993); Executive Secretary of the King County Labor Council (1991-1993); and Executive Secretary of the Seattle Building and Construction Trades Council (1987-1991). A member of Laborers Local 242 and Elevator Constructors Local 19, he began his long accomplished career with organized labor as an apprentice with Cement Masons Local 528 in 1966.

Rick also was a State Legislator from 1973 to 1991, serving 10 years in the House and eight in the Senate. Among his accomplishments in Olympia were serving as Senate Majority Whip, House Assistant Majority Leader and chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

He is on the Board of Directors of the Washington State Trade and Convention Center, the Washington Dental Service, the King County Housing Authority and Freedom House. He is a member of the Efficiency and Accountability



Rick S. Bender

Commission, the Employment Security Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee to the Economic Climate Council, the Governor's School-to-Work Transition, the Governor's Economic Forecast Council and the Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee.

Rick is former president of CoLab (the Coalition of Labor and Business), and has participated on the Health Services Commission's Stakeholders Committee, the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle, the Seattle Community College District Chancellor's Roundtable, the Long-Term Disability Task Force, United Way of King County and the American Red Cross.

A Vietnam War veteran, he majored in economics at the University of Puget Sound, and also attended the University of Washington and North Seattle Community College. Born in Fairbanks, Alaska, Rick was raised in Seattle's Shoreline area. He and his wife, Carla, and their two children now live in Bothell.

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IN MEMORIAM

Local Lodge 79

Krumins, Donars 8/12/2008
Rickels, J 6/15/2008

Local Lodge 282

Arena, John 6/30/2008

Local Lodge 297

Witt, Hellmuth 7/10/2008

SOCIAL SECURITY

Government Report Shows that Program is Healthy for Decades to Come

By Monique Morrissey

(Copyright © 2008 by The Economic Policy Institute)

The Congressional Budget Office, the agency charged with providing Congress with objective analyses of federal programs, released a new report today that shows the Social Security program is in good financial shape and will be for decades to come.

In fact, the CBO report says, "future Social Security beneficiaries will receive larger benefits in retirement...than current beneficiaries do, even after adjustments have been made for inflation."

The report, which forecasts out 75 years, finds that while the accumulating surpluses in the trust fund will be exhausted in 2049, ongoing revenues will still be sufficient to fund about 81% of promised benefits at the end of the 75-year period (in 2082). The reason for this is that wages and Social Security revenues will continue to grow as the economy grows. The trust fund will cushion the large baby boom retirement, as it was designed to do, but most benefits will continue to be funded by direct transfers from workers to retirees, as they are now.

The fact that future retirees will receive higher benefits than current retirees, even if no changes are made to the program, is common knowledge among Social Security experts, but may come as a surprise to the average American, and even to many policy makers. This may be why the CBO, headed by respected economist Peter Orszag, decided to make that point in the first page of the new report.

The report is a timely counter to the alarmism being peddled by Pete Peterson, a billionaire investment banker and Secretary of Commerce under President Nixon. The Peterson Foundation has bankrolled a new movie, I.O.U.S.A., billed as "An Inconvenient

Truth for the U.S. economy," to sell the message that the country is on the brink of a financial meltdown.

In a 60 Minutes episode that preceded the film, Peterson Foundation President David Walker raised the specter of an entitlements crisis brought on by the boomer retirement: "When those boomers start retiring en masse, then that will be a tsunami of spending that could swamp our ship of state if we don't get serious."

Yet, according to the CBO projections, Social Security is in decent shape. Without any changes at all, the projected long-term Social Security shortfall equals a mere 1% of taxable payroll.

The big problem facing Social Security isn't the boomer retirement—which was fully anticipated and is the reason there is a trust fund—but rather growing income inequality. Because the earnings of most workers have stagnated while those at the top have skyrocketed, the share of untaxed earnings above the taxable earnings cap (currently set at \$102,000) has grown from 10% in 1983, when the system was last in balance, to around 17% today. So a better way to address the modest shortfall than an across-the-board tax increase would be to raise or eliminate the cap on taxable earnings.

Even more importantly, we need to fix our national health care system, which, as the Peterson Foundation points out, spends twice as much as other developed countries with no appreciable difference in outcomes or longevity. Controlling costs through comprehensive health care reform would not only close the projected Medicare and Medicaid gaps (which, unlike Social Security's, are genuinely large), but would also give a boost to Social Security, because money spent on health benefits gets excluded from Social Security's tax base.

Local Lodge 297 Picnic Well Attended

As our summer draws to a close Local Lodge 297 held their annual members picnic at the Tacoma Sportsmen Club on August 17, 2008. We had a wonderful day, the weather was perfect, our day started off with the Horseshoe Pitching Contest followed by the fishing Derby.

Squeals of delight were heard coming from the parents of the children as they reeled in the trout, some weighing in at over 6 pounds. Next came the children's games where medals were awarded to future Olympians of the Machinists Union.

This year was our first year to have face painting for the children. It was a great success and we are sure it will all wash off before school starts. Cliff LaPlant of Local Lodge 79 was there with his donut and

shaved ice machines. He went through 80 pounds of batter and 150 pounds of block ice. To say the least, it was a tremendous hit with both parents and children.

The Cascade Regional Blood Services again brought their Blood Mobile to our picnic. There were 42 of our members and their families who signed up to give the gift of life. This exceeded our previous record. Lunch was catered by Kentucky Fried Chicken and served by the Local Lodge 297 Retirees Club. Without the support and hard work of the Retirees Club it would be impossible to manage such a large undertaking. We finished up the day with Bingo and Raffle for prizes. And as the day came to a close we all are looking forward to our next year's picnic.

WSLC CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

By Art Boulton

I attended the 2008 Constitutional Convention of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. It was held for the first time in Vancouver, Washington at the Hilton Hotel, which has recently been organized by the Hotel Workers Union. There were 358 Delegates present.

At the WSLC Executive Board meeting, President Rick Bender reported the AFL-CIO was targeting seventy-five Congressional seats, and twelve Senate seats nationwide. In the State of Washington, the re-election of Governor Chris Gregoire is very important to working people, and at this time is a very close race. Another important election for this State is in the eighth Congressional District where Darcy Burner a Democrat is running against the incumbent Congressman Dave Reichert, and this too is a very close race.

The Keynote Speaker was the 22nd Governor of the State of Washington, Chris Gregoire. Some of the Governor's accomplishments in her first term are; created 222,000 new jobs in the State, lowest unemployment in the country, highest minimum wage, every child in Washington State will have health care by 2010, supports public education with additional dollars to reduce class size and expand educational opportunities, and the investment of billions of dollars in much need transportation projects around the State. A particular favorite of mine is added emphasis to apprenticeship training with dollars, and the support to returning Veterans to re-employment and career opportunities in the civilian economy.

Other important speakers were Senator Patty Murray, Maria Elena

Durazo Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, and Congressman Brian Baird. Senator Murray talked about the Safe Ports Act, which will improve the security of United States ports and cargo. Durazo spoke on addressing the environmental, social, and economic problems of California's food system. Congressman Baird, spoke on the importance of investment in infrastructure. There were many more very good speakers.

The Convention offered a number workshop on a variety of subjects. One of the workshops I attended was titled "Let's Talk Cap & Trade: What it is and how it affects us". As I understand this issue, "Cap & Trade" is a system to level the playing field between fossil fuels, and clean energy such as solar, wind, bio-fuels and others to make them more competitive. It also provides a way for carbon emitting industries to offset their emissions by buying credits from cleaner industries. This makes carbon emission more expensive, so there is an economic incentive to clean up. This may not be a complete definition of the subject as it is very complex. One big question that was not answered and is of great importance to Machinists is how this system will effect manufacturing.

The 2008 WSLC Convention was excellent. There were good speakers on varied subjects that are of importance to working people. In addition it is always an opportunity to meet and talk with others on these important subjects.

The meetings of the District 160 Retirees Club are on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in a hall on the ground level of the Machinists Building located at 9135 15th Place South Seattle, Washington. Come join us and bring your spouse.

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE UNION SHOPS

Is it that time again? Time to purchase a new or used automobile? If it is please patronize one of District 160's shops listed below.

Name	Location
Bay Ford	1215 Bay Street E, Port Orchard
Blade Chevrolet	1100 Freeway Drive, Mt Vernon
Campbell Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep	217 West Main, Centralia
Campbell Nelson-Volkswagen	24329 Highway 99, Edmonds
Capital City Honda	2370 Carriage Loop SW, Olympia
Columbia Ford	700 7th Avenue, Longview
Diehl Ford	1820 James Street, Bellingham
Fugate Ford	526 Roosevelt Avenue, Enumclaw
McCann Motors	6411 20th Street East, Fife
McCord Brothers	990 Tennant Way, Longview
Milam Oldsmobile	608 River Road, Puyallup
Murray Motors	302 E First Street, Port Angeles
Saturn of Lynnwood	17305 Highway 99, Lynnwood
Saturn of Bellevue	13815 NE 24th Street, Bellevue
Saturn of Renton	555 SW Grady Way, Renton
Saturn of Burlington	1611 S Burlington Boulevard
Smith Kia Chevrolet	1118 Iowa Street, Bellingham
Smith, Jerry Chev-Buick	1246 Reservation Road, Anacortes
Sound Ford	750 Rainier Avenue S, Renton
South Tacoma Honda	7802 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma
Stirling Honda	1060 Vandercook Way, Longview
Renton Honda	200 SW Grady Way, Renton
Renton Kia	900 S Grady Way, Renton
Ulmann Motors	1500 NW State Street, Chehalis
Valley Oldsmobile	2400 Riverside Drive, Mt Vernon
Wilson Imports	405 E Champion Street, Bellingham

RETIREES

Local Lodge 79		
Lynch, Thomas	The Gear Works	6/30/2008
McCarty, Richard	Todd Pacific Shipyards	6/30/2008
Local Lodge 239		
Petrin, Leslie	Jerry Smith Chevy, Buick	8/31/2008
Local Lodge 289		
Hawkins, Glen	PMMC (Sealand)	7/31/2008
Krall, Vincent	Kenworth Truck Co.	6/30/2008
Maves, Dean	Fugate Ford-Mercury	7/31/2008
McKay, Bruce	Pacific Material Handling	7/31/2008
Rivera, Rafael	Port of Seattle	7/31/2008
Local Lodge 695		
Batten, William	Crown Cork & Seal	8/31/2008
Matthews, Allan	Capitol City Honda	6/30/2008
Local Lodge 2379		
Allen, Michael	Alcoa Intalco Works	6/30/2008

THE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

By Leif Jensen

I recently completed negotiations with Skagit Transit for a first time agreement for a new bargaining unit that includes Mechanics, Lubrication Technicians and Vehicle servicers. The shop of about nine new members voted to go with the IAM and District 160 last year and negotiations commenced in October. The newly ratified agreement gives them the protection of a Union Contract with grievance, arbitration and seniority provisions but the primary issue in the long and sometimes contentious negotiations was wages. The two year contract which became effective August 20th includes an immediate 10% wage increase followed by a 3% increase in the second year. We welcome these new members to the IAM and District 160.

Other contracts that I recently settled include new four year agreement with the City of Lynden Police Management



unit and a 3year agreement Acrowood. The Lynden agreement includes a wage increase of about 9% in year one followed by 4% increases in succeeding years. The Acrowood agreement includes a Journeyman base wage increase of \$2.50 per hour in year one followed by increases of \$1.00 per hour in each of the last two years as well improvement in medical coverage.

Contracts currently in negotiations include Fairhaven Shipyard, Wilson Motors, Federal Marine Shipyard, City of Ferndale, First Student (First Contract), Community Transit Supervisors, and Campbell Nelson Volkswagen.

With the presidential election less than two months away take the time to be informed and vote. As a Union member and citizen exercise this most basic and important right of a free people. If you can give support either by volunteering for or donating to candidates that support labor you should do so.

By Melody Coffman

It was a great year for the backpack drive. Everyone was a great help with either packing the packs or sending contributions from their lodges.

Due to everyone's generosity, I was able to give 150 backpacks to families who needed the help. It is always such a pleasure to help those who are having a bit of bad luck at this crucial time in their children's lives. It is hard enough to be a student with the pressure of today's society. It is so important to have the supplies that the others have and not be looked at any differently.

You can pat yourselves on the back, because you have helped many kids accomplish just that. Being able to go to school on the first day and not have to worry about not being equipped for the job.

I would like to make a special thanks

to the local lodges and the district delegates that donate funds each year for this project. It could not be done without you. In fact the whole project rests upon your shoulders. I am just a coordinator to the program and would be nothing without your generosity. So thanks again for a great thing that you do.

Please remember this project next year. We will be doing it again and the more I know in advance about the children that we are helping the better the contributions that are donated can be utilized. I would like to have the names, ages, grade, and sex of each child in advance so I could shop specifically for the needs of each individual. So in late June or early July (sales start the second week of July) get me the information of the participants and it will give me a great advantage. Thanks again for all your assistance.



by Mike Goddard

Our country is in the middle of big change. We have endured eight (8) years of George W. Bush and the USA has suffered for it. If you are a George W. Bush supporter then I am sure you disagree with me. However, I have not supported Bush from the beginning of his first term (I am also not a Democrat or Republican). I firmly believe that our country cannot take four (4) more years of the same policies and decisions that allow our jobs to be shipped overseas.

I am a veteran and think we have the most professional, dedicated and sharpest troops in the world. We need to support them in any way we can. They have given their all to do what is right and placed themselves willingly in harm's way. We all should reach out to any military troop or veteran and shake their hand. We must support any actions which will give them decent medical care at all times during their service and post service. We must also ensure that all veterans have good jobs,

with benefits when they return. It is a travesty to see that any veteran would be out of work and living in a ditch or back alley.

Unions do the best that can be done, under the current laws, to negotiate a living wage, benefits and good working conditions for families and returning veterans. It is amazing there is ever an argument with civil service contractors that military reservists deserve no loss of benefits or job regardless of how long they deploy. The IAM respects our military service members and in fact

is made up of many veterans whom have served this country with pride. District 160 has done well during these difficult times to ensure our membership continues to receive good wages, benefits and a higher standard of working conditions on the job. As the military return home we should make every effort to work with employers to put them to work in a Union Shop. To stay in stride this election year; God Bless you all and God Bless America!



by Ron Harrell

The 2004 election for Governor of Washington State was the closest gubernatorial election in State history, with Chris Gregoire ultimately besting opponent Dino Rossi by a mere 133 votes. Of the many lessons in that election, perhaps the most important one is that every vote really does count.

This was a lesson we learned in the 2000 presidential election through the mess that the State of Florida showed the nation, but our own governor's race in 2004 served as a solid refresher course.

2008 has presented us with a rematch, with Gregoire and Rossi going toe-to-toe once again. In the August primary, Gregoire finished ahead of Rossi by less than two percentage points, an indication that the State is still deeply divided.

In May of this year, delegates from all AFL-CIO affiliated unions across the state voted unanimously at the Washington State Labor Council COPE (Committee On Political Education) Convention to endorse Chris Gregoire's re-election bid.

Why?

In the simplest terms, Gregoire has been a very good Governor for working families.

Just a few of the reasons:

She signed a \$3 million initiative for a joint labor/management apprenticeship program for the IAM to train and educate workers in new composite technology and aerospace related fields.

Signed legislation authorizing construction for up to six new ferries for communities served by the Washington State Ferry system. The legislation also calls for the ferries to be built in Washington, with the goal of maintaining



and growing the maritime building industry, providing local family-wage jobs and maintaining Washington's ship-building infrastructure.

Signed collective bargaining agreements with over twenty state employee unions that provide significant overall salary increases and additional adjustments for many categories of state workers.

Requested legislation that began "Running Start to the Trades" to return the industrial arts education as a high-wage, high-demand profession to better inform and prepare students to receive college level education and earn while they learn.

Placed \$8 million in Safety Health and Innovative Programs grants to support Labor's increased safety awareness and health on the job.

Supported the "Helmets to Hardhats" program that provides returning service men and women with information and access to a training and education package to help them get started on a productive career in the building and construction trades.

Beyond the work Gregoire has done on behalf of working families, Gregoire has been recognized nationally for her effective leadership. Governing Magazine named her Public Official of the Year for 2007, quoting Republican House Minority Leader Richard DeBolt as saying, "We're not always ideologically aligned, but I think she's a good manager and that she's doing a good job of running the state."

I urge all IAM members to review the records and positions of both Gregoire and Rossi and to make the best choice at the polls in November.

by Greg Heidal

I find it hard to believe that summer is coming to a close and fall is coming at us fast. But the only constant is change and we are living in a time of change. As you all know Barack Obama is touting that message in his bid for the white house. John McCain has made a historic choice in selecting Sarah Palin to be his running mate for the same office. These times we are living in will be forever changed by the choices we make in November. As always, we will listen to the candidates and vote for the person whom we believe shares our values and goals for our country. In the state race for Governor, I bet we will have another nail biter between Governor Gregoire and Dino Rossi. Being an advocate of labor I will be keeping my eye on the candidate that stands up for the working families and our children's futures. I would encourage all to look to the candidate and party that stands for working families and throughout the years the Democratic Party has worked on our behalf to support working families.

By the time this goes to press Todd Shipyard will have taken their second ratification vote on a 5-year contract. The contract was turned down due to some new construction language the company was proposing. The company's desire for a 5-year agreement is to get bonding to build the ferries. They have won the 144 car ferry contract and will be bidding on the Island Home class or anything else the state can come up with. Sub Contracting was a huge issue and the



negotiating committee spent an enormous amount of time trying to make gains in this area, with the company unwilling to make any concessions in the way they do business stating high overhead costs in the yard. The committee did make some head way in work preservation and enhancement by getting the company to commit to a committee that will set an agenda and have the players at the table that can make the decisions with Labors input. It will be incumbent on the Metal Trades to keep the company's feet to the fire to make this committee work.

If you are not familiar with the Puget Sound Metal Trades Council they negotiate as a group with all crafts being represented by the business representative of the craft and their negotiating committee. Todd Shipyard was well represented with 30 or more B.R's and members attending the negotiations.

We have ongoing negotiations with Seattle Machine Works and Waste Management. Making progress in both, but the employers are taking a hard line in what they feel is a tough economy. They do not have to tell us how hard it is out there as we live it every day when we go to the gas pump or the grocery store.

Kenworth Truck continues to have slow sales and periodic shutdowns. High fuel prices again hit the worker in the pocket book. We are seeing layoffs in the sand and gravel companies as well with housing starts and construction slowing down.

Look forward to seeing you in the months ahead and hope everyone had a wonderful summer.