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IAM & AW District 160
9135 15th Place South
Seattle, WA 98108



EVERGREEN LEADER

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

Vol. No. 48



December 2009

DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT



Bidding Farewell to District 160 After 23 Years of Service

By Don Hursey

This will be the last article for the newsletter which I will compose as the Directing Business Representative of IAM District Lodge 160. I have announced my retirement as of January, 2010. After 23 years as a full-time Business Representative, and 12 of those years as the Director, I have made the difficult decision to retire.

This Union has been a part of my life for a total of 37 years. It has been an honor to represent you and lead this great District.

Over the last 23 years many things have changed including the type of work in the shops under District 160, the conditions the members work under, the benefit packages and the way we negotiate the contracts with the employers. The thing that remains the same is the importance of growing this Union. The more Union density the louder the voice of working families, and the easier it is to negotiate better contracts. That should be the goal of all of us. No one else will do it for us, it is all our hands.

The District is financially sound and my replacement is experienced and well respected in the business and labor community. Dan Morgan will take over the District on January 1st, 2010. Dan will need all of your assistance and involvement so that the IAM District 160 can continue be recognized as one of the great Districts in the International.

I thank you all for your support and help over the last 23 years. Farewell and Happy Holidays.

Tentative Power Deal for Alcoa Intalco Works

After eight-plus years of grass roots political initiative and lobbying efforts from Local 2379, District 160, the Western Territory, and the IAM Grand Lodge, Alcoa Intalco Works is on the brink of signing a power deal with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). There have been many ups and downs, close calls, disappointments, and dissolved deadlines. In the balance are 440 Union jobs as well as the many spin-off jobs created in the Whatcom County and beyond. With National unemployment rates reaching 10.2%, good news about jobs is a rarity.

The papers haven't been signed yet, and we've had so many disappointments, we're not ready to celebrate until the ink is on the page, but the prospect is good. The proposal was in the mail on December 7, 2009 and tentative plans are to sign on December 21st. Washington State political allies and various community members are setting aside times for the signing and we're all holding our breath.

This is a testament to the tenacity of American Labor. Not only the political initiative, but sacrifices made at the plant by the workers in addition to creative problem solving by management and the Union. American workers didn't create this financial mess the country and world is struggling with, but we are definitely part of the solution.

Henry Ford captured it a long time ago and it still holds true, "There is one rule for the industrialist and that is: Make the best quality of goods possible at the lowest cost possible, paying the highest wages possible."



Aluminum smelter at Alcoa's Intelco Works.

Thanks to the many Union members from District 160 and beyond that helped us through these tough times. A signing on December 21st will be a victory for all of us.

Alcoa Machinists Support Toys For Tots Program

It was a triple win at Alcoa Intalco Works when the Union and Company came together to support the United States Marine Corp Reserve in their yearly Toys for Tots program. The kids, the Marines, and employees were all winners.

Risk Notification (RN) cards were filled out by employees to identify hazards in the workplace. Each completed

RN card was worth a \$5 donation to Toys for Tots. The goal of \$10000 was reached and coupled with discounts provided by local merchants, a lot of kids will get presents this year that may not have otherwise been so fortunate.

We owe the Marines a lot. Toys for Tots is an opportunity for all of us to show our appreciation and help some families through the Christmas Season.

Machinists Support NMB Voting Rule Change

Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr. testified this week at the National Mediation Board's (NMB) public hearing on the agency's proposed change to rules governing union representation elections.

Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr. testified this week at the National Mediation Board's (NMB) public hearing on the agency's proposed change to rules governing union representation elections.

"Every employee should be allowed to choose for themselves whether to vote yes, no or to abstain in union elections," said Roach. "The government should not employ a process that assigns a viewpoint to voters who do not cast a ballot." The Machinists complete testimony is available at www.goiam.org/transportation.

"The new rule will not suddenly give unions an edge in elections, as some claim," said Roach. "It will only take the advantage away from the carriers who are opposed to air and rail voters' rights for the same reason people were opposed to guaranteeing voting rights for women and African Americans - they are afraid to upset the status quo and lose the advantages they enjoy at the expense of others."

Thousands of IAM members have already submitted comments to the NMB in favor of the rule change. The NMB is accepting comments until January 4, 2010.

LOCAL LODGE NOTICES

LOCAL LODGE 289 ELECTION RESULTS

Bill Robey was the winner against Robert James for the position of Local Lodge President at the election that was held on December 2nd, 2009. All other nominated positions from the November Local Lodge membership meeting were elected by a non-contested white ballot. Thank you to all that participated in the election process. Remember it is your Union.

- President: Bill Robey
- Vice-President: John Decker
- Recording Secretary: Jeff Eberle
- Secretary Treasurer: Roger Hundtoft
- Conductor-Sentinel: Dennis Wolff
- Trustee: Bud Schmitz
- Trustee: Mark Keith
- Trustee: Robert King

Please come and join Bill and the rest of the officers on January 6th, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hall. Come and witness the swearing in of the new leadership of our Local Lodge.

2010 LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUM DUE

Reminder to retired members from Local Lodges that have insurance!

Life insurance is now due in the amount of \$36.00

Mail this amount to:

Dues Office
IAM District Lodge 160
9135 -15th Place South
Seattle, WA 98108

(Please include your Social Security Number)

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IAM DISTRICT 160 OFFICE CLOSURE

All District 160 Offices will be closed for the holidays from Thursday, December 24th through New Year's Day. The offices will reopen on Monday, January 4th, 2010. Happy Holidays to you and yours from all of the staff at District 160.

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 - 4:30 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 RETIREES CLUB

Washington State's Budget Fix

By Art Boulton

On Tuesday, November 11, 2009 the Everett Herald announced "State budgets' \$2 billion hole will require deep cuts". Some say the deficit may be higher than \$2 billion. In the November 19, 2009 *Columbian* (Vancouver, Washington) it is suggested the way to fix the budget is to reduce State employees' wages and benefits. I would ask, however, is it a solution to reduce middle class Washingtonians income? It might be a short term fix, but if we are going to come out of this recession we need "more" family wage jobs not less.

In the same article in the *Columbian*, State Representative, Ed Orcutt, R-Kalama, said recently, "Until we get back to the priorities of government process and address the overspending of the last four years, we're going to find ourselves in a vicious cycle." I have no idea what Representative Orcutt means by "priorities". Recognized priorities for the State of Washington are a first class public education at both K -12 and higher learning, public transportation repairs and new projects where needed, police and fire protection, and parks to name a few. Also we need to provide support for those who are unemployed as a result of this recession. This is our government, funded by our tax dollars. This is what our State Government provides to ensure our economic security and well being.

The current revenue structure was

adopted for Washington State in 1935. Since 1935 our economy has changed historically. In the middle of the 20th century, jobs in the State of Washington were primarily in agriculture and manufacturing. Today services are the largest employer. Today's jobs demand that workers require a minimum of a high school education with an emphasis on math and communications.

The priorities I mentioned above are recognized as needed areas of investment by the State of Washington if we are going to be successful in the future global economy. To accomplish these priorities we need to maintain and increase revenue in the future. The Governor and the Legislators need to do what was done in "1935" and that is to develop revenue structure for the future. This new system should include an income tax which should be directed at top income earners and not at working families. "Pursuing policies now that both inject money into the State economy and bolster economic security for working families will help stop the erosion of the middle class and rebuild a sustainable economy for decades", Economic Opportunity Institute, February 2009.

The meetings of the District 160 Retirees Club are held 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.

Health Care Reform NOW!

Largely because of rising costs, 47 million people in this wealthy and powerful country—including 8.7 million children—have no health coverage at all.

More than one-third of people who have insurance worry about losing it. Even union workers, who have led the way in securing health benefits for working people, are in danger of losing secure health coverage because of out-of-control costs.

Meanwhile, insurance and drug companies are making stunning profits. Health insurance CEOs averaged \$8.7 million in 2006 compensation and pharmaceutical company CEOs pulled down an average of \$4.4 million.

Reality Check-Here Are the Facts:

Reform will make insurance more affordable, provide more options, and eliminate discrimination in purchasing health insurance so families won't be turned down if a parent or child has a pre-existing disability or other health condition.

Reform will forbid many forms of rationing that are currently being used by insurance companies.

The President's budget greatly expands coverage for veterans who have

been denied access in the past.

Reform will ease the burdens on small businesses and help level the playing field with big firms who pay much less to cover their employees on average.

Reform would eliminate waste and unnecessary subsidies to insurance companies. Reform would NOT cut Medicare benefits.

Reform will expand your choices, NOT force you out of your current insurance plan or force you to change doctors.

The AFL-CIO union movement is fighting for a unique American plan for secure, high-quality health care for all that:

- Builds on what's best about American health care.
- Controls costs.
- Makes sure everyone gets high-quality health care as good as or better than they have now.
- Covers preventive care.
- Lets people choose their own doctors and other providers.
- Government is watchdog on costs, quality and fairness and offers the choice of a public alternative to private insurance.
- Divides responsibility among employers, government and individuals.

DISTRICT 160 OFFICERS & STAFF

President
Robert James

Vice President
John Gehringer

Secretary-Treasurer
John Decker

Sgt. at Arms
David Middleton

Trustees
Jeff Eberle
Bobby Joe Murray

Don Zeth

Directing Business Representative
Don Hursey

Assistant Directing Business Representative
Dan Morgan

Business Representatives

Melody Coffman

Mike Goddard

Greg Heidal

Leif Jensen

Lance Risch

Bob Westbrook

EVERGREEN LEADER

Published by
IAM & AW District 160
9135 15th Place South
Seattle, WA 98108
206-762-7990

Directed by
D.B.R. Don Hursey

IN MEMORIAM

Local Lodge 79

Nygren, Robert9/13/2009
Wickham, L.9/7/2009

Local Lodge 289

Nogueria, Michael .11/29/2009
Jack, Selzler9/21/2009

Local Lodge 297

Druckrey, Harro8/13/2009

Local Lodge 2379

Boni, Leno11/4/2009
Jameyson, Melvin . .10/29/2009
Quinn, Mary9/10/2009

Support the IAM Voting Rights Campaign for Airline and Railroad Workers

The National Mediation Board (NMB) has proposed an historic change to the rules governing union representation elections for airline and railroad workers. It is very important to understand what this change means and how it can affect you.

Under the proposed change, union representation elections will be determined in the same way that American voters choose their presidents, senators and state legislators - by a majority of voters who choose to cast ballots.

Current NMB rules require a majority of all eligible employees to actually vote before an election is considered valid. Any eligible voter who does not cast a ballot in an election is automatically counted as casting a "no" vote. That means that if you want the union, but forget to vote, you will be registered as voting against the union. And if you are unsure so you decide not to vote and let your colleagues decide, the government won't let you make that decision. It will still register you as voting against the union. As a result, between 1996 and 2008, the NMB invalidated more than 200 elections, even though in every single one of those a majority of those voting wanted the union.

Airline executives and their corporate allies are mounting an intense campaign against the rule change, which would

close a loophole they have used for decades to successfully suppress union organizing drives.

To ensure the NMB understands how important this rule change is for current and future air and rail workers, we are urging you to immediately contact the NMB and express your support for the proposed rule change. Don't let the government tell you how you are voting. Tell the Board you support the proposed change so you get to decide if you are voting 'yes' or 'no'.

Deadline for comments in support of the proposed rule change is **Jan. 4, 2010**.

It is very important to include **Docket Number C-6964** in any correspondence with the NMB.

Two ways to contact the NMB:

- Pre-addressed cards will be available from your district for people to mail to the NMB.
- You can write your own personal comments to the NMB by emailing them directly at legal@nmb.gov. **This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.**

NMB Address:
National Mediation Board
1301 K Street NW
Suite 250 East
Washington, D.C. 20005-7011

Trumka: "America Needs Jobs Now"

AFL-CIO president to push 5-point plan at today's White House jobs summit

On December 3rd, 2009 AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and other national leaders will meet with President Barack Obama at the White House jobs summit, where they'll start a much-needed conversation about what to do for the 26 million workers who are unemployed or underemployed.

Across the country, union members and Working America members are joining the conversation by holding roundtable discussions in Ohio, New Mexico and Minnesota on the jobs crisis and the need for quick action.

Trumka will be joined by union leaders, academics, corporate heads and elected officials from across the country. They'll work to identify what we can do to create jobs and start turning our economy around.



Richard Trumka

At the summit, Trumka will present the AFL-CIO's five-point plan to create jobs:

1. Extending unemployment insurance, health assistance and food aid to struggling workers, to inject cash into the economy and help struggling families maintain their homes and communities.
2. Investing in jobs in transportation, school construction, energy efficiency and green technology, to put people to work and build our country for the long term.
3. Aid to state and local governments, to protect vital services like schools and public safety and prevent layoffs that can undermine recovery.

4. Directly funding public-sector jobs, targeted at meeting the needs of struggling communities. These must be full-time, good jobs that add to, not replace, existing public jobs.

5. Re-directing funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) away from big banks and toward direct loans from community banks to small and medium-sized businesses in need of credit.

The failure to address this enormous problem won't just mean continued unacceptable levels of unemployment. Long-term unemployment can damage the long-term prospects not just for workers without jobs, but for their children, as well. We cannot wait and assume an eventual recovery is inevitable -- our families and communities need jobs now to get our country

back on track.

A new report by the Congressional Budget Office indicates that at least 600,000 jobs -- and possibly as many as 1.6 million jobs -- exist today that wouldn't have existed without the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, but, with the economy still weak and a big gap between available jobs and the millions who need them, we need more investment in direct job creation.

John Nichols, writing at The Nation, notes that jobs are the top issue for millions and millions, and that the summit is the biggest news of the week. The jobs crisis needs a strong, decisive response.

Stay tuned at the AFL-CIO Now blog and on Twitter for updates on the summit, the worker roundtables and the AFL-CIO's plan for job creation.

The Knights of Labor

By John Carter, LL 282

The Knights of Labor was a federation of Labor Organizations founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1869. It was the first large scale national Union within the United States and grouped its workers by industry without regard for their specific skills. The reason this organization was created was to provide and maintain the Economic and Social well-being of its members as well as the community at large.

Their mantra was, "An Injury to One is the Concern of All".

The Knights of Labor spearheaded many causes that have become the basis for our Labor Laws in this country. They called for equal pay for equal work by men or women. They labored for an eight hour work day. They were instrumental in ending child labor under the age of fourteen and introduced the use of arbitration to settle disputes.

As you can see these associations were created or grew out of the oppression of the common man and woman. Our first Union Mothers and Fathers maintained their strength and their ability to prosper by common beliefs and community. By choosing to stand together, for what they believed was the common right of all, they created the first Union families and started to define the American Dream. They established and defined what our business and trades are. They began to eliminate the horrid living conditions and poverty within our cities

and began to create a middle class of people, who were by no means rich but farther from being wretchedly poor and preyed upon. The combined strength of the new unionized workforce started and supported an economic journey that inspired great invention and technology that has brought us to a new precipice in the economic world of today.

We are the Sons and the Daughters of our continuing Union Family. We are the ones who must endeavor to fill our ranks with all those who feel the need to continue to ensure the prosperity and well-being of our Brothers and Sisters and our communities at large. It falls on us to continue this never ending journey for freedom as well as to affix the true and honest face upon the Union body. It also demands that we cultivate those true fruits and blessings of the American Dream and pass them freely to our growing ranks of future sons and daughters.

Be proud of who you are and what your membership in your Affiliated Family stands for. For those who forget, or may be despondent or simply choose not to believe, remind them we have a choice in this great nation, as well as a right to aspire to anything and everything we can dream of. As the descendants of the Knights of Labor and all those who fought and gave their lives for the many benefits and entitlements we share in today, we shall continue to build this nation on a solid Union foundation. We shall always oppose those who choose only to prey on the backs of our labor.

Tell Congress America Needs Jobs NOW!

Millions of unemployed Americans need help. The recession will only get worse unless more is done to stimulate the economy. JOBS Now! is a comprehensive strategy for getting millions of unemployed Americans immediately back to work by rebuilding America's industrial foundation. JOBS Now! calls for a second stimulus package, one

focused on investing more in the manufacturing and transportation sectors of our economy and providing more skills training. The American people need jobs - and they need those JOBS now!

Send a message to your Representative and Senators to support JOBS Now! and adopt a second stimulus package

RETIREES

Local Lodge 79

Adkins, Michael	The Gear Works	9/30/2009
Bumanglag, Rodolfo	Belshaw Bros. Inc.	11/30/2009
Collins, Jack	Todd Pacific Shipyard	9/30/2009
Ordonia JR., Fel	Marco Seattle	11/30/2009

Local Lodge 282

Yette, Kenneth	City of Bainbridge Island	10/31/2009
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Local Lodge 289

Gendron, Jack	Tacoma-Seattle Trailer	10/31/2009
Harrell, Ron	IAM District 160	11/30/2009
Lindell, Wayne	PMMC (Sealand)	9/30/2009
Locke, Ella	PMMC (Sealand)	9/30/2009
Schwab, Steve	Sea Star Stevedoring	9/30/2009
Teakles, John	Kenworth Truck Co.	10/31/2009
Wilper, Michael	PMMC (Sealand)	11/30/2009

Local Lodge 297

Hight Jr., George	Local Lodge 297	9/30/2009
Kim, Duk	Precision Machine Works	10/31/2009
Siemers, James	Streich Bros. Inc.	9/30/2009

Local Lodge 695

Issacson, John	Crown Cork & Seal Plant 76	10/31/2009
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Local Lodge 1350

Gross, Douglas	Wayron, Inc.	11/30/2009
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THE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

ASSISTANT DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

By Dan Morgan

Retirements mark the end of 2009, and the beginning of 2010, for District 160. Business Representative Ron Harrell retired the end of November. I invite you to join me in wishing Brother Harrell a long and happy retirement. Ron has done a Journeyman's job for the District since day one. Thank you!

Directing Business Representative Don Hursey will be retiring at the end of January 2010. Don began his career with District 160 in 1987 and has led the District as its Director for more than a decade. Under Don's leadership the District has come through some tough issues and he has brought District 160 to the top in many areas including organizing, MNPL and Guide Dogs fund raising. Don has been a true trade unionist and we wish him the best in his well deserved retirement.

District 160 requested authorization from the Grand Lodge to fill the openings left by Brothers Hursey and Harrell. After General Vice President, Gary Allen, advocated on behalf of District 160, the Grand Lodge Executive Council granted authorization to fill the open positions.



Please join me in congratulating Brother Bob Westbrook and Brother Glenn Farmer, who have been selected to fill the openings. Brother Westbrook brings an extensive background in the federal sector and many years as chief steward. He started his new position in November. Brother Farmer has been the chief steward at Intalco for a number of years and will come on board in January.

The filling of the open Business Representative positions is just the beginnings of the changes coming to District 160; with the retirement of Brother Hursey I will be assuming the position of Directing Business Representative.

Since shop assignments are unavoidable the District is taking the opportunity to try and reassign Representatives in the most efficient manner, taking into consideration work load, industry type, and geographic location. Major changes have or will be made to many of the Business Representative's assignments including mine own. It is our hope these reassignments will facilitate better service to the membership.

In closing, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The "Faithfull Servant" is 500 feet long and 130 feet wide.

By Leif Jensen

Fairhaven Shipyard in Bellingham has completed the refurbishment and installation of a submersible dry-dock named the "Faithfull Servant". Fairhaven recently utilized the "Faithfull Servant" for the first time to dry-dock the AMHS Kennicott (shown in the accompanying pictures). The "Faithfull Servant" is 500 feet long and 130 feet wide with a 27000 ton capacity. The increased capacity will give Fairhaven the ability to handle much larger vessels, including all vessels in both the Washington State and Alaska State Ferry systems, Coast Guard (Ice Breaker Class, New Security Cutters), Navy (Surface Combatants) as well as a greatly increased capacity for commercial and marine construction work. Eventually this could mean as many as 128 new jobs, most of them



Union jobs.

Fairhaven is to be congratulated for its commitment to bring this project to fruition despite what at times were some difficult obstacles. The benefits it represents to the community and company's workforce are immeasurable. Our IAM represented workforce are to be congratulated as well for their dedication and continuing hard work without which it would not have been possible for the Company to expand in this way.

The Company often uses a motto that is worth repeating here: "The Reward For A Job Well Done Is The Opportunity To Do More!"

P.S. As the Holiday season is quickly approaching I want to take this opportunity to wish all of my brothers and sisters in District 160 a very happy holiday season and a wonderful new year filled with Peace, Solidarity and Prosperity.

By Melody Coffman

It has been a busy year with all the negotiations and the difficulties of bargaining in such an horrible economic environment. Many members have seen their contracts being frozen in wages, rolled over for a year, even going backwards with concessions, and worst of all laid off without replacement jobs available.



From my perspective it is very hard to watch all this happening and not be able to do more to support those in need. The Back Pack drive was a success with all your help, and it helped many of our laid off members, but even that is not enough. In hopes of coming up with other ways to

support our members, I have elected to enroll in classes offered at the William W. Winpisinger Center for an Employee Assistance Program class in February and March. I believe there is never enough information to pass on to our members when they are struggling, so hopefully this will give me an even better understanding of what is available when a need is out there.

I wish for the best of holiday cheer for our members of District 160. It has been a difficult year and it is time to sit back and enjoy the spirit of the holidays. Let's keep up the good will towards our brothers and sisters and show the world what UNIONISM is all about.

Merry Christmas...

By Robert Westbrook

Let me introduce myself. My name is Robert Westbrook and I am a new Business Representative for IAM District 160. First, I want to thank District 160 and all of you members for allowing me to serve you in the capacity as an IAM&AW Business Representative. I feel that it is a calling and a place of service that is rewarding since I realize the opportunities to assist my brothers and sisters of this Union is greatly increased.

I am presently involved in the opening salvos of negotiations with King County. The members working for Belshaw Bros, Inc. have just ratified their new contract and we have several grievances from members of Hexcel that are ongoing, including one heading into arbitration and two into mediation. Agreement was reached with the Seattle Times Company, the contract was signed and contracts will be given to members soon. There are great Stewards in all the places I've been visiting and I look forward to a long successful future representing them and the members.

So far I have been privileged to attend Local Lodge 79 and Local Lodge 289 general membership meetings and am impressed with the gung-ho attitude of their membership and conduct of business. I am looking forward to frequent visits to these Local Lodges as well as future plans to visit Local Lodge 297 and, of course, heading back to Local Lodge 282 to catch up with my brothers and sisters there. Local Lodge 282 was my mentor as well as Business Representatives Mike Goddard and Lance Risch. It is exciting to be learning the ropes from the experience of the other Business Representatives as well.



Three issues of national importance are on my mind right now. One is the proposed change to the National Mediation Board (NMB) to overhauling the representation rules for air and rail workers. Fortunately, the NMB is "proposing to change the participation threshold for a successful union election from a majority of eligible voters in a classification to a majority of voters who actually participate in the election." I urge all of you to contact the NMB to support the change (Docket Number C-6964). The IAMAW Transportation Department has postage paid cards available that are being distributed among all Districts and Locals. I encourage you to pick one up, fill it out and return it to the IAM Representative that is distributing them.

The second issue is the Employee Free Choice Act. I am sure you are all aware of how this act will change the landscape across the USA by allowing employees to organize for better wages and benefits. If you have not done so already, please contact your elected Representatives. You can do this easily by using the IAM Activist Center located on the link goiam.org.

Thirdly, as I go about my business in this new role I am always on the watch for contacts to organize other employees so they too can enjoy the benefits provided by the representation of the IAM&AW. It is of national importance because as we work to organize locally it becomes part of an overall movement. Contact me or any of the other Business Representatives if you have any leads and we will follow them up.

Lastly, I wish everyone happy and peaceful holidays as we near Christmas and New Years. I hope that 2010 will bring a much better economy and more jobs for all of us.

By Greg Heidal

After ten meetings with four of the Sand and Gravel Companies we proceeded to a ratification vote and three of the proposals passed Cadman, Stoneway and Salmon Bay. Glacier NW negotiations continue as I write this article. We have concluded negotiations with Cleanscapes and I feel confident that proposal will be accepted as the Company stepped up to the plate with a decent proposal.

Here at the District we are experiencing many changes with the retirement of Directing Business Representative Don Hursey and the retirement of Ron Harrell. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Don for all he has done here at District 160 over the last 20 years. He set the standards high and served our Union with integrity and will be greatly missed. Ron Harrell you cannot say enough about. He was our political director here at the District as well as a great Business Representative, we will miss him also. I will take this opportunity to welcome Bob Westbrook and Glen Farmer to the ranks. Dan Morgan will be the new Directing Business Representative and I am looking forward to watching him take the reins as it can be a challenging job and I know Dan is up to the task.

There will be a shuffling of shop assignments and I am being reassigned to the Tacoma Office so I bid farewell to my 289 and 130 shops that which I have had the opportunity to represent. I will retain the Shipyards and have picked up the Washington State Ferries along with the shipyards in Tacoma so that fits well



with the Metal trades assignments I will keep. I have been assigned other shops from Longview to Seattle. At the first of the year we will be getting into our new shops and handing off our old so it is going to be a very busy January.

We have a new General Vice President for the Western Territories Gary Allen. Mr. Allen's top priority is organizing and we have all been tasked with stepping up the plate and bringing new members into our organization. Here is a small sample of the message from the International web page.

"Unions help many working men and women make it to the middle class. It's no coincidence that when union membership declines, so do living wage jobs.

That's why organizing is a top priority in the IAM. Organizing brings the benefits of union membership to more working families. Organizing benefits current members, too? more union members means greater clout at the bargaining table and in legislative halls.

IAM organizers blend the old fashioned techniques of hand billing and house calls with the latest advances in videos, computers and research".

As you can see our organization is progressive but we know that as members. If you have any leads that would allow us to share this great Union please contact your business representative.

The holiday seasons can be a very stressful time even in the best of times so I would ask everyone that can please help our members who are out of work.

In closing I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas or Happy Holiday as the case may be and a very Happy and more prosperous New Year.