

The Washington State

LETTER CARRIER

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LABOR CONVENTION HEATS UP WENATCHEE

Executive Board Member Mike Poff

First I would like to thank the WSALC for sending me to the Washington State Labor Council Convention in Wenatchee. Letter Carriers had a good showing there. From Branch 79 there was Brooks Bennett, Jo Ann Pyle, Mark Myers, Rick Horner and Don Bennett. From Branch 130 were Ric Wolf, F. David Dugan and James Hubbard. From Branch 442 were Sharee Eschenbacher, Bill Bauder and Mike Rapp. Jeff Bollinger of Branch 852 was representing Yakima Labor Council. Kevin Ernest from Branch 450 was representing Northwest Washington Labor Council. Maleah Smitham (130) and myself (442) attended representing the WSALC.

On the first day of the convention a class was held for members who were attending for the very first time; this class is held an hour before the general session. They covered how the convention works and introduced the staff and allowed for the members to ask questions. During the same time the new delegates' class was going on, meetings for the different trade union sections were taking place. Letter carriers fall under the Miscellaneous Trades Section. During this time is when each Section elects its officers. Ric Wolf was elected as president and Bill Bauder was elected as vice president, I would like to congratulate both of them on being elected, and know that they will do a great job.

TTP Trade is a good thing when it is done the right way, meaning it protects union jobs and wages. TTP was done up in a way that it would not do either of these things. TTP was made of 28 committees that only represented big corporations that want to break the unions, by paying lower wages and move jobs out of the country. These committees had direct contact with the negotiators, and were able to convince them that it was a good deal; none of the unions were allowed to have anyone on the committees. Senator Warren from Massachusetts has asked people to sign a petition that she has started to not allow TTP to pass.

Richard Trumka, the national president of the AFL-CIO spoke about many things at the convention, but there was one that really hit home

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AFL-CIO President Trumka
addresses the delegates



THANK YOU!

Dave Heiszler, Branch 79

Sometimes in life things occur that completely catch you by surprise. This occurred to me recently when at this year's Washington State Letter Carriers convention it was announced that I had received the Robert J. Morley Steward of the Year Award. Unfortunately I was not in attendance due to my son returning home from college and prior family commitments. The first notification I got came from Mats Julin (a fellow Branch 79 member who was at convention) he texted me "you won the Morley award, steward of the year!" Knowing Mats, my first reaction after I stopped laughing was; I must have won the lottery and solved world

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UNDER THE BIG TOP

Jack Hayes, Branch 79

The bashful morning sun was hiding behind a backlit curtain of puffy gray clouds as my wife Barbara and I arrived at YMCA Camp Seymour in Gig Harbor. It was 9:30 a.m. on June 30th, VIP Day in the week of the MDA summer camp. Nearly 90 grateful youngsters from western Washington are set free from the restraints of daily life, and their parents, for one exciting week and can experience many of the joys of childhood. New adventures and activities fill their days and nights with happy memories. With assistance they can, many for the first time, experience the sensation of buoyancy in a swimming pool, feel the tug of a fish on the line while fishing from a row boat, hear the rumble and feel the power with the wind in their face when riding on the back of a Harley motorcycle, or shyly take part in a modified dance with a partner. Just being with friends, laughing and talking together...PRICE-LESS!

We entered the spacious activities building and began setting up tables. Soon others arrived and we helped unload more tables, banners, boxes and

plastic tubs containing toys and games. Branch 130 of Tacoma and Auxiliary Branch 202 pulled out all the stops this year to bring smiles to the faces of the campers. This year's 'Carnival Theme' came to life as brother Brian Lindgren, Cathy Dye and many of the volunteers created their version of 'The Greatest Show On Earth'. Dark blue plastic tablecloths were draped over each table and bright red and white wide vertical-striped paper skirts ran the length of the front of the tables adding vibrant circus flair to our area. Brian had purchased two small do-it-yourself tubular framed building structures. A bright red and white fitted cloth was pulled across the peaked frame to create a colorful roof. These were placed on two of the tables and added a lot of 'circusness' to our project. Brian provided several delightful props including a colorful 6-foot high cardboard ticket booth with a large opening. After it was assembled and the carnival began I would direct each camper to the ticket counter and Brian's son Eric would hand the child a large goody bag containing a *Batman* 'punch-out character' construction set

and a variety of sweet treats to enjoy.

Brother Art Hailey offered campers a small fishing pole set up to 'hook' plastic fish in a barrel, while Rick Wolfe managed the duck pond and also helped with the 'Toss The Ring On The Monkey Tail' game whenever Roger Shadlow stepped away to give out temporary tattoos to expectant hands. Sister Julie Flann challenged the children with the penny coin toss. Brother James Watkins encouraged the kids to try their luck at the 'Spin a Prize' wheel of chance. Barbara handed out chips for the pegged board vertical 'Disk Drop' game. Emily Treese tested the skill of the campers with the 'Toss a Coin On The Ledge' skill game (just for trying each camper would 'win' a prize). One of the many things Cathy Dye took part in was the beanbag toss board. (She created an open mouth clown face on her computer and transferred it to an easel.) Any youngster who attempted to toss the bean bag through the clown's mouth won a prize. Doris Yusko helped out at several games and also worked with Cathy and Doris dressing up campers in a clown costume with big yellow feet; their pictures were taken to later proudly show their parents. Brian invited campers to a table where children could write a number on a slip of paper to guess how much money was in a small collection box. The closest answer won all the money in the box (about \$25) at the end of the carnival. Kylie Lindgren gave out 'slap bracelets' (they wrap around your wrist) and offered red noses free for the asking from a large basket. A young man named Chiron Susee also helped give away slap bracelets.

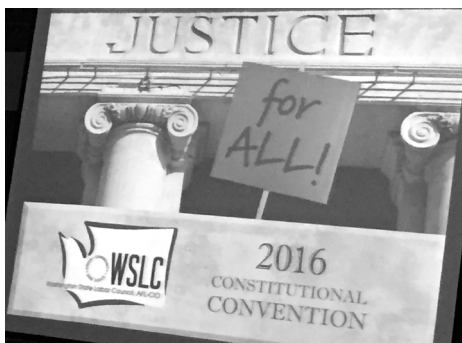
Terry Norris seemed to be everywhere that day. She was walking around in a yellow, red and blue clown



The NALC circus family assembles before the big show.

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Poff from Front Page



for me, is that big companies are being give huge tax breaks in return for keeping jobs in the US and paying higher wages. The problem is that the CEO's of these big companies are pocketing the money. This allows them to pay lower wages and send jobs out of the US. Richard went on to say that we the people, must stand up and fight to have that money for the tax breaks, returned to the tax payers if these companies are just going to pocket the money.

Social Justice There was discussion of social justice which might include hiring someone who has been incarcerated. These people need jobs when they are released, there are programs set to help them get the skills to get good paying union jobs. We as unions need to come up more of these programs. The number one reason why someone is likely to reoffend is because they cannot get a job. When they can't get a job they end up returning to the community where they were arrested to begin with.

Also at the WSLC Convention there was a lot said about racism. Racism has no place in the workplace; if you or someone you know are being treated differently because of your race you need to stand up and fight it. Sometimes you may be able to stop it on your own, but if not, you need to get the union officers involved. Whether it is at the local level, state level or going to the national level; union officials at all of these levels need to be talking about racism in the workplace on an ongoing basis.

Heiszler from Front Page

hunger as well. A short time later I received a text of congratulations from Kevin Gottlieb who is also from Branch 79 and was at convention. In my mind this cemented the hoax that I was convinced my fellow branch-mates were perpetrating upon me. It wasn't until much later that I received a congratulation text from Mary Bartley, a retired Branch 79 member who I have known and worked with for years. It was at this point I knew what I had thought to be a prank at my expense was in fact true.

I am very humbled and honored to have been nominated and selected for the Morley award. I have never considered myself as award worthy with so many fellow brothers and sisters in this great union who do yeoman's work day in and day out. First I would like to thank Cathy Brandt from my station who nominated me for this honor. Cathy wrote a glowing narrative about me that J.K. Rowling would be proud of. Second I would like to thank Curtis Mathew, my fellow steward at Riverton Station who has stepped up without complaint to shoulder extra work at our station whenever I have been called upon by our Branch or Regional Office to help out. Third I would like to thank my local Branch officers and staff who have always been available over the years whenever help has been needed. I never take for granted the amazing resources we have as a Union when we all come together for a common cause. Lastly and most importantly I would like to thank my wife and family who have put up with me for all these years whenever I am gone for a meeting, training, travel or just working on "one more grievance" at the kitchen table.

It has truly been an honor to represent letter carriers in our common struggles with the company we work for. While I have had a handful of good and decent managers over the years, unfortunately the large majority I have dealt with have been dishon-

est and untrustworthy at best. Not a good combination for labor/management relations. I shudder to think what the daily life of a letter carrier would be like if not for the presence of the NALC to act on our behalf.

Occasionally when someone asks me why I choose to be a union representative I find the answer very simple. The satisfaction of fighting the good fight outweighs everything else. I always encourage every member to participate at some level whether it is as a steward, officer, mentor or as a supporting presence in your station. There is nothing management fears more than a group of carriers in solidarity. The old motto of "*united we stand, divided we fall*" is alive and well in the Post Office.

Something that I have always been very appreciative of with the NALC is the amount of training and resources that are available to us as members. For anyone considering getting active I say go for it. If you are willing to commit your time and effort, this Union will support you with the training, resources and contacts to help you take on any situation that arises. I still remember how daunting a task it appeared when I pursued my first grievance years ago, but with the help of those who went before me it led to many successful battles to follow. Thank you!



AUXILIARY CONNECTION

WSALCA State Organizer Cathy Dye

At the 2016 State Convention, the State Auxiliary accomplished many things, in many different ways. Linda Davis from Yakima was our National Officer this year and did a good job of presenting information important to our organization and our partnership with the NALC. I want to thank all the Auxiliary and NALC members who represented the Letter Carriers and their families throughout the year and continue to support our efforts in political activism, community contributions, and participation in Branch activities. A special thank you to Barbara Bussa and Jan Clemons for their efforts with our Convention Raffle. Goals for sales were met and surpassed because of their extra efforts.

This year, Brianna Deam (Ed Johnson), Seattle Auxiliary #99, was elected to serve as our WSALCA Vice President. Brianna is a dynamic and personable individual who understands the importance of family interaction and being a part of our Carriers' interests in our communities, our NALC Branches, and in the political arena. Brianna was formerly a member with Tacoma Auxiliary #202 for many years, having served as Trustee and Secretary. She was instrumental in auxiliary activities right from the start, demonstrating her creative ability to plan and execute plans for group activities and community services. Brianna has an innate ability to generate enthusiasm, bring people together towards a common goal, and presents herself well through her dedication and commitment towards achieving goals. I look forward to working with her and wish her the best in all endeavors she seeks. I am confident she will prove to be an asset to the Auxiliary.

The 2016 WSALCA Officers are Rick Baird, President; Brianna Deam,

Vice President; Patti Jones, Secretary; Jennifer Silvers, Treasurer; and Cathy Dye, State Organizer. Linda Davis, Yakima Auxiliary #194, is still serving as our National Assistant Secretary and is looking forward to her first National Convention in Los Angeles.

This year the WSALCA will be sending three Delegates to the National Convention. Rick Baird, WSALCA President, will be going as a Joint Delegate with Tacoma Branch 130, Brianna Deam, WSALCA Vice President and Amparo Granger, Yakima Auxiliary #194. Rick is a longstanding convention delegate and knowledgeable of his duties to represent us well. Brianna and Amparo both possess energy and commitment to their families and their auxiliary membership and positively reinforce the importance of the auxiliaries. Both have hit the ground running since they joined and we all greatly appreciate their enthusiasm.

Throughout the year, the auxiliary participates in the political "Calls for Action", as well as several community projects in conjunction with Branch activities, where applicable. We participate in many fundraising events for MDA like the Bowl-a-thons, Bingo Nights, and Raffles. The United Way Back to School Program involves collecting backpacks and school supplies for children who need our help. If you are interested in helping with a donation for this very needed supply drive, whether individually or as a station collection, we would be happy to assist you in delivering the supplies to your local United Way. This program benefits children across our State. Please contact a State Auxiliary Officer for more information. Donations are needed before the start of the school year for distribution.

Additionally, while not the most

important activity, it is the most fun. The MDA Summer Camp VIP Day at Camp Seymour has been an annual event for many years. Each year the children choose a different theme; in the past Super Heroes, Hollywood, Camp Adventures, and this year was Carnival. Each year, it seems to be more rewarding. We are even receiving special requests from the kids for prizes for the next year. The VIP Day is one day of the camp for sponsors or vendors to come out to the camp and provide some kind of activity for the kids. The local fire department provides a BBQ lunch and then the fun begins.

NALC Branch 130, the State Association, and the State Auxiliary have joined together to provide a fun-filled day for the kids. We set up a mini carnival, complete with ticket booth for bracelet day, red noses for all, a carnival gift bag filled with snacks and toys, numerous carnival games to test their skills, and loads of carnival prizes. Additionally, Jack Hayes donated toys for the gift bags.

Don't forget the Balloon Maker who dons her cart and costume, and does a fantastic job making balloon hats for the kids, just as they ordered. This year, we had several clowns join us for the event. I have included a few photos of our enthusiastic members who helped with the event, as well as a few of the members who went the extra mile to interject a little more joy in the life of others.

Branch and Auxiliary Members who participated this year were Jack and Barbara Hayes, Brian, Kylie and son Eric Lindgren, Ric Wolfe, James Watkins, Roger Shadlow, Art Hailley, Emily Treese, Julie Flann, Doris Yusko, Terry Norris, Christy Douglas, Cathy Dye and her grandson Chiron

Continued on Page 6

Dye from Page 5

Susee. It was very much a family affair in so many different ways.

Brian and Kylie Lindgren and their son Eric, deserve a great deal of credit for planning this event. Most people are unaware of the time commitment that goes into being an Event Coordinator. It's not just about purchasing what is needed, it is a long thought process that can sometimes be very stressful, though you wouldn't know that with this family. So thank you to the Lindgren family for a job well done in planning this event and to all those who helped to provide a fun filled day for these kids. I feel privileged to have been a part of this activity and encourage others to experience it as well. Some people deal with adversity or limitations in their life and their world falls apart. The positive attitudes and extreme levels of inspiration these kids exude, is truly inspiring. I have learned through my participation with this event to appreciate every minute of my day and every breath I take, to help others whenever I can, and to always have a positive attitude.

We continue to welcome new members and are eager to help Branches start their own auxiliary, and mentor family members in activities to participate in, as their time allows. We are always open to suggestions and welcome any input you might have in expanding our organization. If there is anything the Auxiliary can do to help with an activity, a Branch Visit, convention, or Call to Action, please don't hesitate to call one of our State Auxiliary Officers.

Always here when you need us!

Photos this issue:

Jack Hayes,
Dave Heiszler,
Brian Lindgren,
Jo Ann Pyle

Hayes from Page 3

outfit with gigantic yellow shoes! She wore a multicolored wig with a dark blue bowler hat and sported a bright red nose. I observed Christie, Doris and Terry interacting with several children and the kids would smile and laugh in amusement. Terry was cracking everybody up with her zany antics! She would suddenly throw her arms in the air or the next moment kick up her yellow-shoed legs. Christie Daniels was dressed in a delightful polka-dot clown costume and wore a bright red wig and bright red clown shoes. She looked like a happy clown. I also wore a multi-colored clown outfit. I painted my face white using just my index finger to apply the greasy makeup! I managed to haphazardly smear on a red nose, a large red mouth and big red cheeks. It was a mess! My hair was flaming orange. I looked very scary. I know that face would have even given 'The Master of Horror,' Steven King, nightmares!



Above: James Watkins, Terry Norris
Left: Jack, the Very Scary Clown

Dizzy D', the balloon lady with the cheerful personality, was very busy throughout the afternoon. She created a balloon hat, any kind of animal or long swords in just minutes among other things. She made every child feel special as they waited in a long line for her creations to come to life. Brian, Cathy, Doris and all the volunteers strive to make sure the kids have an enchanting and captivating fun afternoon. The main thing was the campers enjoyed themselves. It is always a 'Labor of Love!' Everyone leaves happy.

Each year Branch 130 and Auxiliary Branch 202 really show how much they care for *Jerry's Kids* by their enthusiasm and dedication to the MDA cause. **These selfless seeds of kindness blossom into bouquets of fond memories in the hearts of these deserving children. My hat (and orange wig) are off to everyone who played a part in this event.**

WSALCA CONVENTION MINUTES

WSALCA Secretary Patricia Jones

Friday, May 20, 2016

Our meeting was called to order by President Rick Baird after confirmation that a quorum was in attendance. The Collect was repeated. We had two guests including National Assistant-Secretary Linda Davis from Yakima and Cathy Willis from Spokane. They were both introduced. The state officers were introduced. Roll call was answered by State Officers and our National Officer.

Rick spoke to us about an idea to have a person (who cannot be fired) available to write letters to the local newspaper editor. This would give us another way to get our issues out to the public.

Linda read us a message from National President Cynthesis Lang. She wished us a great weekend, and was sorry to not be with us. She gave thanks to Cathy Dye for all her help. Linda then mentioned an idea that Cynthesis spoke to us about last convention: the idea of Auxiliary Family & Friends. A proposed by-law change will be brought up at National Convention regarding friends of letter carriers being allowed to join the Auxiliary. Linda let us know, she has a weekly conference call with other offers. If we have anything to bring up to them, please let her know. She thanked us for having her.

All were reminded about the Auxiliary Breakfast on Saturday morning at 8 am, in the hotel restaurant.

Committee assignments were given out and the meeting was adjourned for those who wanted to hear the guest speaker for the Branches.

When we reconvened, Sharlene Bowes spoke to us. We reminded people to fill out the member profile. Most of us had filled them out last year. We agreed to adjourn for lunch and reconvene at 1230 for a session of card making presented by Doris Arndt.

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Rick called the meeting to order and confirmed we had a quorum.

Standing rules were read.

It was m/s to accept the minutes as printed in the state newspaper.

It was m/s to pay our bills.

After discussion, it was m/s to allow Jennifer and Patti to purchase rolling bags to carry their supplies.

The treasurer's report was given. A copy of the report was handed out. It was m/s to accept the report at this time.

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Checking acct. | \$1803.63 |
| Savings acct. | <u>2104.04</u> |
| Total | \$3907.67 |

Linda informed us that the theme at National convention in LA would be "We Are Family". Luncheon money will go to Linda; registration money goes to George Ann. Linda has been collecting food drive shirts to be used in a quilt for her to take to LA. Cathy has information on the accommodations for anyone who is interested. Cathy expressed interest in take some of our 50-year members to convention.

It was m/s to pay expenses for Cathy Dye to go to convention. It was m/s to cover registration and luncheon costs for unpaid delegates (up to 6 delegates) going to convention, up to \$65.00. A letter needs to be provided regarding who will be going and accepting these funds.

Jo Ann Pyle came in to speak to us.

At this time Rick stepped out and Alice stepped in to continue the meeting. Committee reports were given.

Resolutions: Resolutions were presented for the host branch, State Officers and our National Officer.

Amendments: There were no amendments presented at this time.

Raffle: At this time we have \$601.00 from ticket sales.

Credentials:

| | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 5 | State Officers |
| 1 | National Officer |
| 23 | Delegates |
| 2 | Guests |
| 6 | Auxiliaries represented |

Mileage & per diem: It was recommended to pay 4 state officers per diem of \$20.00 per day.

Audit: The committee declared the books to be accurate and recommended we accept their report.

It was m/s to accept all reports when given and Alice thanked all committees. Committee photos were taken at this time.

We adjourned for lunch, and reconvened with Rick back.

The Nominating Committee presented their recommendations for the slate of officers for the upcoming 2-year term. It was m/s to accept those nominated by acclamation, as there was no opposition.

The current officers are:

President-Rick Baird

Vice President-Brianna Deam

Secretary-Patti Jones

Treasurer-Jennifer Silvers

State Organizer-Cathy Dye

Trustees-Barbra Bussa, Christy Douglas, and Doris Arndt.

Jennifer gave a legislation presentation. She reminded us that joining E-Activist is very important and the Auxiliary was created for the purpose of making calls and writing letters to aid the Letter Carriers in legislative matters.

It was m/s to donate \$50.00 to the organization previously known as We Care We Share. It was m/s to reimburse Cathy for 1 day parking, \$21.00. It was m/s to continue making baskets to raffle off at Statewide Training with a cumulative value of up to \$200.00.

Rick presented Brianna with her Vice President pin.

Cathy brought up the idea of an Auxiliary newsletter. Doris Arndt volunteered to take this project on. She will need pictures and info to include. This newsletter will be quarterly. It was m/s to give her up to \$100.00 to start this project. Cathy also reminded us that we have an auxiliary email: WSALCAuxiliary@gmail.com

Cathy reported that she filed with the IRS this year. The secretary has all the information.

The meeting was adjourned until 2017 in Pasco.

The Washington State **LETTER CARRIER**

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FOOD DRIVE WRAP UP

*Washington State
Food Drive Coordinator
Chris Kelly*

Hello Washington. Well the Food Drive results are in. We had 35 branches submit their totals to the National contest. Our state collected 1,487,958 pounds of food. Over a million pounds, way to go Washington State!

Congratulations to Tacoma Branch 130, who placed 4th in their category, and to Snohomish County Branch 791 who was 4th in their category.

Next year's Food Drive is on Saturday, May 13, 2017. It will be our 25th year of helping our communities fill their Food Bank pantries. Be ready for another exciting year. Until then... Thank you!

STATE CONVENTION MDA RAFFLE A BIG SUCCESS

Brian Lindgren, Branch 130

We had a great MDA raffle at our state convention in Seatac, WA. We raised \$1416.00 for our local MDA Western area chapter. I want to thank Dave Dugan for stepping up to take my place while I was out having surgery. Also everyone else who helped sell tickets and helped out at the convention, thank you! The winner of our raffle of a VIZIO 55" TV was Jay Burrill from Branch 1104, Vancouver, who was really excited to win. Congratulations to Jay!



Important NALC Dates

Regional Assembly, Coeur d'Alene, ID ... October 30-November 4, 2016

Basic Shop Steward College, Gold Bar February 12-16, 2017

Statewide Training Weekend, Wenatchee March 24-26, 2017

Regional Steward College (Year 3), Gold Bar April 9-13, 2017

WSALC State Convention, Pasco May 19-21, 2017

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