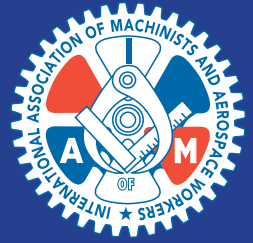


# Eastern Washington Machinists News



Volume 4, No. 3 June-July 2012

## Eastern Locals Raise More than \$7,000 for Guide Dogs

District 751's Eastern Washington locals have raised a record amount of money for Guide Dogs of America – with more money on the way.

Locals 86, 1123 and 1951 have so far

raised a total of \$6,936 with their annual raffle drawings, said Staff Assistant Ken Howard.

That includes some \$2,200 collected over three days with a booth set up outside the Ranch & Homes store in Kennewick. Machinists Union members sold Guide Dogs raffle tickets and handed out information about the benefits of belonging to a union.

“We gave away a lot of union packets,” Howard said. “It was a good organizing tool that helped educate the public on the benefits of union membership.”

The Ranch & Homes stores in the Tri-Cities are traditional sponsors of the Guide Dogs fundrais-



Local 1951 President Craig Smoot (l) presented Fred Rumsey of Pasco with the \$1,000 Ranch & Home gift certificate.



L to R: Craig Smoot, Jim Henle, and Brad Davis were three of the members who volunteered at the IAM booth at the Ranch & Home event to raise money for Guide Dogs.

ers in Eastern Washington. This year's top prize in the drawing was a \$1,000 Ranch & Home gift certificate, which was won by Fred Rumsey of Pasco.

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## Local 1123 Officers Examine Workers' Comp Changes

Officers from Local Lodge 1123 in Wenatchee took advantage of a seminar in May that explained the dramatic changes in Washington State's workers' compensation system.

Local 1123 Conductor/Sentinel Adam Focht and Bailey Olin, the Lodge's Recording Secretary and delegate to the Wenatchee Aluminum Trades Council, attended the seminar on behalf of the local.

“It was great that Local 1123 took the initiative to send some officers to the seminar,” said Eastern Washington Business Rep Steve Warren, who also attended. “The changes are pretty significant, and it's important for us as union officers to understand them, so we can help the general membership.”

The Washington State Labor Council and Project Help sponsored the Wenatchee

seminar.

Speakers spent a lot of time focused on the new “structured settlements,” Warren said.

Last year, lawmakers in Olympia passed legislation that dramatically changed Washington's comp system.

The biggest change was the legalization of structured settlements, also known as “compromise-and-release” buyouts.

Under these settlements, employers can negotiate with injured workers to pay a series of lump-sum benefits to settle claims. This is an alternative to the traditional settlement that pays injured workers ongoing benefits. Structured settlements are only for injured workers who are over threshold ages that are spelled



Adam Focht and Bailey Olin, both officers from Local 1123, learn about changes to Washington's workers' compensation laws.

out in the law.

The seminar explained in detail the process for negotiating a structured settlement, should workers opt for the lump sum payment.

Organized labor in Washington aggressively opposed the legislation that allowed for structured settlements. However, now that it has become the law, it's in the best interests of unions to learn how this new

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**If you need help with a workers' comp claim, you can call Project Help at (800) 255-9752.**

# Machinists Part of Annual Bloomsday Run

Labor is an integral part of the Spokane community, and Local 86 members played a highly visible role in Spokane's biggest event – the annual Lilac Bloomsday Run.

A total of 38 Machinists Union members – including two officially sponsored teams racing in the Bloomsday Corporate Cup – ran in the race. One of the Machinists Union teams finished second in its division; the other finished 20th.

But it might have been the group of union members at the top of the infamous “Doomsday Hill” – cheering for racers and brandishing a banner reading “Machinists Support Bloomsday Runners” – who made the biggest impact, said District 751 Business Rep Steve Warren.

“We wanted to let people know that we’re part of the community and we’re there for them,” said Allen Eveland, a union steward at ASC Machine in Spokane who was one of the lead organizers for the Local 86 Bloomsday effort. “It was a lot of fun.”

“They got a lot of positive feedback from runners,” Warren said. “It’s a good way for us to be more visible in the community.”

This is the second year in a row that District 751 and Local 86 have participated in Bloomsday.

More than 53,000 people took part in this



Joe Marek, Local 86 Team Runner from Durham School with volunteer Jodi Swartz.



Mckenzie Hawkins and Allen Eveland were two of the volunteers who handed out thousands of Machinists Union bags to the runners.



L to R: Business Rep Steve Warren, Local 1951 President Craig Smoot, Jodi Swartz and Gary Swartz were among the volunteers staffing the Machinists booth at the annual Bloomsday event.

year’s Bloomsday run. Typically, twice as many people wait in Riverfront Park in downtown Spokane to greet the runners after they finish. It’s one of the three largest timed foot races in North America, and it’s a huge part of the Spokane community.

“A lot of our members run Bloomsday,” Warren said. “The membership wanted to see more of a union presence at Bloomsday, because so many of them were already participating.”

So last year, District 751 sponsored one team in the race, and a group of volunteers handed out Machinists Union information at the finish line in Riverfront.

T h i s

year, the effort grew. A volunteer committee spent six months preparing for the day. Local 86 sponsored a second team of runners. “They all wore IAM tee shirts,” Warren said. “We supplied them.”

The “Machinists” team – Pete Armstrong, Deb Bauer, Nick Bauer, Joe Marek and John Warren – finished second in its division and 22nd overall in the Corporate Cup race. The “Machinists 86” team – Jim Mode, Cheryl Ann Nalls, Mark Quick, Darrin Truitt and Jim Wilson – finished 20th in the same Corporate Cup division and 229th overall.

And this year more volunteers took part, handing out more than 5,000 packets of information about the benefits of joining a union. Curious runners snapped them up

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Machinists cheered racers on at the infamous Doomsday Hill on the run. L to R: Local 86 volunteer Kenya Conway with her son, Dale Ronquille, John Kofol, Bob Six and Mckenzie Hawkins.

# Inslee: We Won't Be Another Wisconsin

Why did the Machinists Union ENTHUSIASTICALLY endorse Jay Inslee for Governor? Why does our union STRONGLY recommend you mark your ballot for Inslee when your Primary Election ballot arrives within the next couple of weeks? Inslee's comments reported by The Tri-Cities Herald as he met Hanford workers are a strong indicator why we support him for Governor.

In a speech to union officers, Jay Inslee vowed Washington won't be infected with the Wisconsin virus. Inslee met with members of the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council on June 19. The Council represents members of 15 different unions that represent workers at the Hanford site, including District 751 Machinists who belong to Local 1951.

Inslee, according to the newspaper, said there are two competing theories about how to jump-start our nation's economy. Some Republicans — like his opponent, Rob McKenna — believe that America will somehow be more prosperous if you cut workers' wages, take away their retirement and health benefits and curtail their rights to bargain with employers for something better.

That's what Gov. Scott Walker did in Wisconsin, and it's a blueprint followed by certain Republican governors from Maine to Florida to Idaho, where states have launched attacks against working people and their rights under federal and state laws to be part of a labor union. Workers' pensions and right to collective bargaining have been under attack when the wrong person is elected governor.

Inslee rejects that approach, saying that Washington needs a governor who will stand up for its hard-working middle class.

Whether supporting the Hanford workforce in Tri-Cities, aerospace and aluminum workers throughout the state, woodwork-



Inslee talked with Union members at the Hanford Atomic Metals Trades Council on June 19.

ers, shipyard or municipal workers, Inslee has been a constant and effective advocate. That is why without exceptions, unions from across the state and in every sector of the economy have endorsed and are working to elect Inslee.

Instead of attacking union workers, Inslee said he will leverage the skills of Hanford workers in eastern Washington and Boeing employees in Puget Sound to make Washington a world leader in clean energy and aerospace.

Inslee told the Herald he wants to launch a biofuels center of excellence at Washington State University to partner with industry in an effort to produce enough clean fuel to be commercially viable. This will be vital to ensuring adequate fuel capacity for the air transport sector.

After the speech, Fred Rumsey — the political director for the Atomic Trades Council — thanked Inslee for standing up for Hanford worker pensions and for fighting against Republican attempts in Congress to lower worker safety standards in the nuclear industry.

It's easy to see why Inslee has the support of organized labor in Washington state, said Larry Brown, District 751's legislative director.

"Jay Inslee gets it," Brown said. "He understands that unions aren't the problem, and that the Wall Street meltdown and housing market collapse didn't happen because teachers have retirement plans. He doesn't think the solution to high unemployment is to fire all the people who fix our roads, run our courts and keep our water safe to drink."

Inslee also has been a strong supporter of causes dear to most District 751 Machinists, Brown said. "Jay was one of our biggest allies in Congress when it came to fighting for the Boeing tanker deal, and he also stood up for the National Labor Relations Board when it was under attack for taking on our case against Boeing last year." The resolution of that case led to securing the 737-MAX.

Having Inslee as governor would be "good for Washington working people in general, and great for us as Machinists," Brown said. "That's why our Union supports him. He believes that investing in people is the right way to go."

## Union Members Gather in Wenatchee for Annual Convention

The 2012 Constitutional Convention of the Washington State Labor Council, the state's largest union organization, will be Monday through Thursday, Aug. 6-9 at the Coast Wenatchee Hotel and Convention Center.

Under the theme "Stronger Together," the convention agenda will feature AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, labor-endorsed candidates including U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell and Jay Inslee, and many other distinguished guest speakers who will focus on working together to

strengthen families and rebuild America's middle class. In addition, there will be panels on Jobs and the Economy; Trade, Immigrant Workers and Trafficking; Union Organizing; and much more.

The Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders (WA YELL) will host its first annual convention at the Coast Wenatchee Hotel and Convention Center beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 5. Over the past year, WA YELL has been engaging the young and young-at-heart in the political process, in leadership development

and in civic engagement. Its mission is to develop future leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to strengthen their roles in their union and in the progressive community. Sunday's convention will conclude at 2 p.m. when participants will join in a Labor Neighbor canvass in Wenatchee.

The \$20 registration fee includes lunch. For more information about WA YELL, its convention and activities, visit its Facebook page or contact Shaunie Sallee via email or at 206-290-2590.



# Machinists and Alcoa Celebrate 60 Years Together in Wenatchee

The first aluminum plant to open after World War II – Alcoa's Wenatchee Works — is one of the last ones standing.

The plant, which employees nearly 50 members of District 751, celebrated its 60th anniversary in June with an open house for family, friends and neighbors.

"Just about everybody in Wenatchee has some connection to Alcoa," Bob Wilt, the former vice president and manager at the plant, told the Wenatchee World. "I think it's great for the community to get a chance to see it."

The Wenatchee Works was a pioneer in what was once one of the Pacific Northwest's premiere industries.

At one time, nearly 40 percent of all aluminum smelted in the United States came out of plants in Washington state. The cheap and abundant electricity provided by Columbia River dams powered the industry. In their heyday in the 1980s, the 10 largest plants consumed as much electricity as three cities the size of Seattle, the Associated Press reported.

But undercut by cheap imports – particularly from Russia and China – the industry has contracted. Today, only two plants remain: the Wenatchee Works and Alcoa's Intalco Works north of Bellingham.

The Wenatchee Works shut down for 40 months, starting in 2001, after the spike in

electricity prices caused by Enron Corp. and its attempts to manipulate the West Coast energy market. Alcoa kept 400 workers on the payroll to either maintain the plant or work as volunteers in the community.

Today, about 450 people work at the Wenatchee works. About 275 of them are union members, belonging to the Machinists Union or four other unions that are part of the Wenatchee Aluminum trades Council.

The Machinists Union represents workers at both surviving aluminum smelters. Wenatchee workers are part of Local 1123, a District 751 affiliate. Intalco workers are part of IAM District Lodge 160.

The fact that those two plants have survived is a testament to the skills and dedications of the Machinists and other union workers who have labored there for decades, said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski.

"Our members from Local 1123 are some of the highest-skilled manufacturing workers east of the Cascades," Wroblewski said. "The Wenatchee plant is the most-efficient, lowest-cost plant that Alcoa operates anywhere, and that's because of its union workforce."

The Local 1123 workers at Alcoa are "also some of the most resilient workers anywhere, considering all that they've been through," he added. "They make us all proud to be their fellow Machinists."

## Wall Congratulated on Retirement

Local 1123 offered good wishes as member Elmer Wall retired from Alcoa's Wenatchee Works on June 1st. Elmer has been a Machinists Union member since hiring into the plant in January, 1985.

Elmer also has been active in the Union and served as an officer for Local 1123 for more than two decades.

Local 1123 President Jim O'Brien and Staff Assistant Ken Howard were on hand to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement and presented him with an IAM watch.



Local 1123 President Jim O'Brien (r) congratulates Elmer Wall on his recent retirement from Alcoa.

## Local 1123 Officers Examine Workers' Comp Changes

*Continued from page 1*

system will work, so that union officers can help preserve the rights and protect the interests of union members injured on the job.

The seminar featured presentations from various perspectives and gave participants an overall picture of the new structured settlement options.

Organizations that made presentations on the conference included:

- The Washington State Labor Council;
- The state's Self-Insured Ombudsman's Office;
- The state's Department of Labor & Industries;
- The state's Board of Industrial Insurance;
- The Wash State Association for Justice;
- Project Help.

Project Help is a cooperative effort between the Washington State Labor Council, the business community and the state's Labor & Industries department. Its goal is facilitating early and successful resolution of workers' comp claims.

If you need help with a workers' comp claim, you can call Project Help at (800) 255-9752.

## Machinists Part of Annual Bloomsday Run

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in about two hours, Eveland said.

The response was everything the Local 86 volunteers had hoped for, Warren said.

Union workers from across Spokane came up to the Machinists Union booth to say "it's really nice to see labor in the park, being part of this event," he said. "It's good to have a presence in the park, and be visible, for union and non-union people to see that we're part of their community."

It's important for the union to remind their neighbors of that fact, Eveland said.

"The more we're out there, the more we're seen, the more we try to organize here on the east side of the state, the better it will be," he said. "If we're more in the community, more people will be attracted to come be part of the union and be part of what we do."

### Monthly Meeting Schedule

- All members are welcome

**Local 1951** - Richland - 1st Tuesday of month  
7:30 pm, 1305 Knight St.

**Local 1123** - Wenatchee - 1st Thursday of month  
7 pm, Aluminum Trades Council, 180 Rock Island Rd, E. Wenatchee

**Local 86** - Spokane - 2nd Thursday of month  
6 pm, Spokane Hall, 4226 E. Mission Ave.

# Eastern Locals Raise More Than \$7,000 for Guide Dogs

*Continued from front*

Other winners in the drawing were:

- Ed Leverich of Goldendale, who won a Mariners' baseball weekend in Seattle, including hotel and air fare;
- Nyles Wilson of Kennewick, who won a night's lodging at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane; and
- Larry Burrow of Spokane, who won a \$30 gift certificate at Texas Roadhouse restaurant.

With almost \$7,000 raised for Guide Dogs, 2012 is already a record fundraising year for the Eastern Washington locals. However, union members at Pexco and

other Yakima-area sites still have their own prize drawing to conduct, Howard noted. That could add hundreds more dollars to the total.

At the same time, the Guide Dogs fundraising efforts are helping build solidarity among members and raise the union's profile in their communities, Howard said.

"We're trying to get people in the community to realize there's more to our union than union dues," he said. "We're having fun, and we're doing something that helps people."

*Ed Leverich of Golden-dale won the second prize of Mariners tickets, round trip air, and one night at the SeaTac Red Lion.*



*Larry Burrow, Local 86 member at Triumph Composites, won the \$30 dinner gift certificate to Texas Roadhouse.*



*Local 1951 President Craig Smoot (l) presented Nyles Wilson of Kennewick with the third place gift of one night at The Davenport Hotel and a \$50 dinner certificate.*

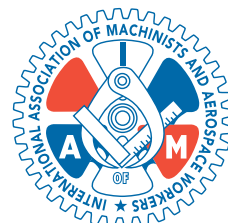


*Brad Davis draws the winning tickets at the 1951 meeting*



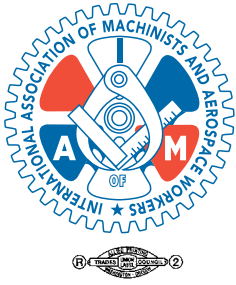
*Ken Howard's grandsons Dylan, Zack and Mason helped sell tickets to raise money for Guide Dogs. Zack even sold \$20 worth of tickets to Ranch & Home owner Bill Dress (pictured above).*

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## Machinists Perform Repairs on Union Trailer

When the Machinists Union trailer that is used throughout Eastern Washington needed some maintenance work, Staff Assistant Ken Howard knew the skills to perform the repairs were available within our membership ranks.

With the union representing so many talented Machinists, many who service commercial vehicles and trailers, it was a talent pool waiting to be tapped and Ken knew who to ask.

Local 1951 Vice President Steve Ely works at Lee & Eastes Tank Lines in Pasco and volunteered his services. He enlisted help from fellow union member Dale Powell.

These two members welded the fenders so they will be sound for years to come. In addition, they serviced the wheel bearings and inspected the trailer for other possible repairs.

“Steve and Dale were great and ensured the trailer is safe and good as new. They saw it as an opportunity to give back to the Union. Steve is an officer and Steward and was happy for the chance to help out the Union using their skills and expertise,” said Ken Howard. “The Union appreciated their efforts and workmanship.”

The trailer is again in top condition and safe to travel to the various sites around the Eastern side of the state for barbecues and events.

Thanks Steve and Dale for your efforts!



*Local 1951 members Dale Powell (l) and Steve Ely performed repairs and inspected the Union trailer. Both work at Lee & Eastes Tank Lines in Pasco and put their extensive skills to work to help out the Union. Steve is a Steward and Vice President of the Local.*