

...Washington AFL-CIO

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the end, the proposal was modified — delegates resolved to ask the national AFL-CIO to organize a nationwide rally highlighting those issues.

Delegates also made additional endorsements for political office, including support for the incumbent superintendent of public instruction, Terry Bergeson. Bergeson was unable to get the required two-thirds support in May, when WSLC last considered endorsements. Her challenger, Randy Dorn, is a former leader of an unaffiliated union. Key to Bergeson's endorsement, said Groves, was her support of linking the public K-12 school system with union apprenticeship programs.

"She's a big reason we've doubled the number of apprentices and apprenticeship opportunities," Groves said.

For a complete list of endorsements, go to wslc.org.

UNITE HERE Executive Vice President Maria Elena Durazo, widow and successor of Los Angeles County Federation of Labor leader Miguel Contreras, brought greetings from Los Angeles, and ticked off a list of recent successes: a commitment that public works projects will sign project labor agreements to employ union workers; a first union contract for 4,000 newly-organized security officers; and a first-in-

the-nation "Clean Truck Program," which will help with clean-air retrofits of diesel trucks at the Port of Los Angeles to reduce premature air pollution related deaths among workers and residents. The Clean Truck Program may also improve the prospects for an on-going campaign to organize port truckers.

The labor federation is also helping a United Steelworkers push to organize car wash workers, and a UNITE HERE fight to unionize a string of 13 hotels just outside LAX (five of them have gone union thus far.) In nearly every case, union-backed elected leaders are playing a part in the victories.

"It's not that we like politicians, it's that politicians make decisions that affect us," Durazo said.

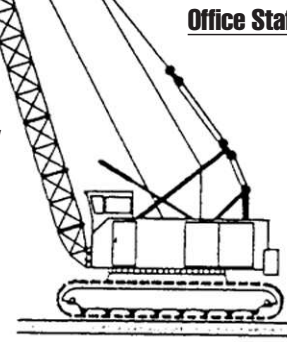
"When we're out there voting, no one can beat us," Jim Sinclair, president of the British Columbia Labor Federation, told delegates. Sinclair said a recent poll found that the most popular politician in Canada is ... Barack Obama.

"It's not only working people in the United States that need a better America," Sinclair said, "all of us around the world need a better America, too."

"We, the labor movement, must do our part in this election," said Bender. "We must engage our members. If we do our part, we will make history!"



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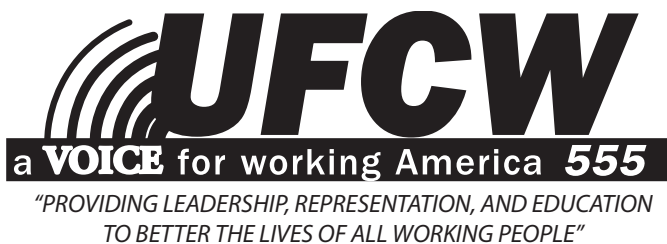
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Have a Happy and Safe Labor Day!



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