



JIM JOHNSON



LYNNE DODSON

AFL-CIO in Washington elects two new leaders

Jeff Johnson and Lynne Dodson have been elected to lead the Washington State Labor Council — the state-level AFL-CIO body that represents about 400,000 union members in roughly 500 affiliated union locals.

Votes from affiliated locals were tallied Dec. 9. Johnson was elected WSLC president, and Dodson was elected secretary-treasurer. They will succeed outgoing president Rick Bender and secretary-treasurer Al Link, both of whom are retiring.

Johnson ran unopposed. He is currently special assistant to the WSLC president, and has been a WSLC staff member since 1986, where he has worked as research and organizing director and lead lobbyist. He is a member of the Washington Federation of State Employees Local 443 and Office and Professional Employees Local 8.

“As a labor movement, we have our work cut out for us,” Johnson said in a written statement. “Not since the ‘Gilded Age’ have we faced such inequality of income and wealth ... We are facing a moral crisis, and we have a choice to make. Are we going to rebuild our economy with family-wage jobs based on a vision of shared prosperity and a sense of economic and social justice? Or are we going to continue to turn a blind eye to the excesses of Wall Street and corporate America?”

Dodson, WSLC’s first woman executive officer, is a professor at Seattle Central Community College, and president of American Federation of Teachers Local 1789. She outpolled Karen White, administrative assistant to the current secretary-treasurer, to win the post.

Dodson also issued a statement: “The labor movement in Washington state is our best hope for building the kind of state and country we want and need,” Dodson said, “one where social, economic, and racial justice prevail.”

WSLC’s president and secretary-treasurer manage the organization’s day-to-day operations. Also elected were 19 vice presidents who represent districts around the state, plus several vice presidents representing officially

recognized AFL-CIO constituency groups. Together, they comprise the Executive Board, which meets quarterly to establish WSLC policies and programs between annual conventions. WSLC’s Third District, which covers Southwest Washington, elected Bob Guenther of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Tim Pfeiffer of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers, and Shannon Walker of United Food and Commer-

cial Workers (and president of the Southwest Washington Central Labor Council) to serve on the WSLC Executive Board.

All the new officers will serve four-year terms that begin Jan. 5, 2011.

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