

...WSLC convention resolutions

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Reps. Mike Sells (D-Everett) and Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle). WSLC also gave special legislative awards to eight freshman Democratic state representatives who earned 100 percent voting records from the council: Andy Billig of Spokane, Joe Fitzgibbon of Seattle, Connie Ladenburg of Tacoma, Kris Lytton of Bellingham, Luis Moscoso of Everett, Chris Reykdal of Olympia, Cindy Ryu of Shoreline, and Derek Stanford of Everett.

Several Democratic allies in Congress also attended the convention with words of support for organized labor, including Washington Senator Maria Cantwell and representatives Jay Inslee and Jim McDermott, as well as Con-

gressman Dennis Kucinich of Ohio. Kucinich, a crowd favorite, is considering running for Congress in Washington if his home district is eliminated in redistricting. Inslee, also well-received, is running for Washington governor in 2012.

Delegates also heard from Mary Beth Maxwell, former head of American Rights at Work who is now a senior adviser to U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis.

On Aug. 5, delegates joined the hotel's workers to rally 400-strong outside the hotel calling for a decent contract; members of UNITE HERE at the SeaTac Doubletree are working under an expired contract as bargaining continues for a new one.

Delegates also debate and pass resolutions that set policy for the labor federation. Resolutions passed at the 2011 convention include:

- Opposition to a new Costco-backed ballot initiative to privatize liquor sales; Washington voters soundly rejected two such measures on the 2010 ballot.
- Calling for speedy end to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, redirection of military spending toward human needs, and raise taxes on millionaires and multinational corporations.
- Calling on all friends of organized

labor to boycott all events celebrating restoration of the Elwha River. [Removal of the Elwha Dam is a major federal project for the Olympic peninsula, but is moving forward without a project labor agreement (PLA) to ensure that the work be done by union contractors. The resolution also calls on Washington's Congressional delegation to send a letter of protest to President Obama about the lack of a PLA.]

- Supporting International Longshore and Warehouse Union in its effort to assert jurisdiction at a Longview grain terminal owned by EGT.
- Supporting the creation of a Washington state investment trust, similar to the Bank of North Dakota.
- Supporting proposals to establish "clawback" rules for tax breaks — if companies that get tax breaks don't create the promised jobs or benefits, they'd have to repay the money.
- Supporting construction of a new port terminal in Bellingham that would be used to export coal; the project is opposed by environmental groups that decry coal's contribution to global warming.
- Supporting a campaign to generate revenue for transportation infrastructure.
- Calling for a jobs summit to be held in November.

Travis Eri elected to third term at IBEW Local 125

Members of Portland-headquartered International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 125 elected Travis Eri to a third three-year term as business manager, in mail ballots counted June 21. Eri outpolled challenger John Gervais, a meter relay technician for Pacific Power in Bend, Oregon.



Business manager is the top elected office in the 3,600-member local, which represents electric linemen and utility workers in a territory that covers parts of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Nevada. The business manager oversees a staff of 14, including eight union business representatives who help bargain contracts and defend members on the job.

Also re-elected were President Larry Browning, Recording Secretary Raymond Cowell, and Treasurer Douglas Shaffer. For vice president, Paul Dietrich and Brian Williams (the incumbent) were the two top vote-getters; Dietrich won the office in a July 13 run-off. Joseph Gass, Jim Sweet, and Patrick Winter were re-elected to the Executive Board, where they will be joined by a newly-elected member, John Yates. And Jeffery Davis, Ryan Hagel, Rick Larson, Clay Perth, and Joe

Spears were elected to the Examining Board, which evaluates applicants for membership in the union.

Members also elected delegates to the upcoming IBEW convention, which will be held Sept. 19-23 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Eri and Browning will be delegates by virtue of their office; in addition, members elected Randy Bryson, Joseph Gass, Shane Hester, Rick Main, Donald Rose, Douglas Shaffer, Jim Sweet, Patrick Winter, Rod Derting, Tim Titus, and Byron Babka to serve as delegates.

For Eri, 40, it looks likely to be a busy third term. Members at Pacific Power voted Aug. 10 to reject their employer's contract offer and thus go on strike Sept. 6 if no settlement is reached by then. PGE's contract will be up for renegotiation in late fall. So will contracts at Bonneville Power Administration and several other employers.

Members will need to show unprecedented unity in order to prevail in those contests, Eri said. Fostering that unity will be a priority.

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