

Washington AFL-CIO re-elects leadership

SEATTLE — Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, announced the results of leadership elections Dec. 8. The state labor federation has over 600 local union affiliates, totaling about 400,000 rank-and-file union members. Leadership elections occur every four years. This year there were no contested seats, so all candidates ran unopposed.

Incumbent WSLC President Jeff Johnson, a member of Office and Professional Employees Local 8, and Secretary-Treasurer Lynne Dodson, a member of the American

Federation of Teachers, were re-elected, and so were 14 of the 18 Executive Board members. The WSLC Executive Board is divided into six geographic districts, which at one time corresponded to Washington's Congressional districts. (Because of population growth and redistricting, the state today has 10 Congressional Districts.) To be a candidate for WSLC office, an individual must be nominated by five affiliated unions. In Northwest Washington's Second District, only one candidate met that requirement, so there are two vacant seats that will be filled by appointments. There were also two



Johnson



Dodson

new Executive Board members: David Myers and Paul Parmley.

For District 3 in Southwest Washington (Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties), the vice presidents are: Bob Guenther, lobbyist for SeaTac-headquartered IBEW Local 77; David Myers, international representative for IBEW Ninth District (replacing organizer Tim Pfeiffer of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers); and Shannon Walker, member, Machinists Lodge W56.

AFSCME's Dharmarajah appointed to Oregon Council on Civil Rights

Yaju Dharmarajah, a union representative for Oregon AFSCME Council 75, has been appointed by Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian to the Oregon Council on



Civil Rights, the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries announced Dec. 9.

The Council advises the labor commissioner on civil rights enforcement. During the 2013 legislative session, it supported the passage of legislation protecting the civil rights of unpaid interns.

Dharmarajah, who is from Sri Lanka, has a master's degree and law degree from University of Oregon. He was active with the UO Graduate Teaching Fellows union, worked as an organizer for Service Employees International Union in Massachusetts and Oregon, and has worked in Oregon AFSCME's Bend office since 2010. He chairs Central Oregon Jobs with Justice, and helped set up the Central Oregon Social Justice Center, an office space shared by JwJ, Oregon AFSCME, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, and several community social justice groups and immigration law firms.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

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From the Faculty and Staff of the Labor Education and Research Center University of Oregon

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