

WORKER SAFETY

Longview dock worker killed

Longview longshore worker Byron Jacobs was killed early in the morning June 28 when he was struck by a vessel line that snapped in half and recoiled. At 2:40 a.m., the Panama-flagged bulk cargo ship MV ANSAC Splendor was moving from one loading hatch to another along the dock at the Port of Longview when a braided maritime-grade line snapped and flew back toward the dock and the ship.

Three others were hurt. Chief Mate Pingshan Li of China, 41, was taken to the hospital and died later in the day of his injuries. A second longshoreman and a security guard suffered minor injuries.

Jacobs, 34, was a third-generation longshoreman, and had worked at the Port of Longview



Byron Jacobs, with his children and union gear

for 16 years. An active member of ILWU Local 21, he formerly served as secretary of the local. He left behind a wife and three young children.

A fund has been set up to benefit the family. Contributions can be sent to the Lower Columbia Longshoremen's Federal Credit Union, Attn: Byron Jacobs Family Fund, 629 14th Ave., Longview, WA 98632.

UNION DEMOCRACY

Block slate re-elected at ATU Local 757

In union election results announced June 13, members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 757 re-elected a slate of incumbent officers to top positions.

Incumbent president and business representative **Shirley Block** was re-elected with 55 percent of the vote, outpolling four challengers: former president Bruce Hansen got 22 percent, followed by Henry Beasley, 16 percent, Christopher Day, 5 percent; and Heidi Shelton, 2 percent.

In the race for vice president and assistant business representative, incumbent **Jon Hunt** won with 52 percent against challengers Gordon Duncan and John Wold.

And incumbent financial secretary-treasurer and recording secretary **Mary Longoria** outpolling challenger Ryan Viken 66 to 34 percent.

All three of the top offices are full-time paid positions.

All told over 2,200 ballots were cast.

Local 757 represents 5,584 bus drivers, mechanics, dispatchers and others at public transit agencies and school districts in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Members also elected 25 members to serve as liaison officers, as well as 14 members of the union executive board:

C-TRAN James Bennett

Lane Transit District Bill Bradley

Portland Public Schools Jimmy Appelhanz

Portland Public Schools (First Student) Anna M. Tompte



Re-elected ATU Local 757 top officers, from left: vice president Jon Hunt, treasurer Mary Longoria and president Shirley Block.

Salem-Keizer Transit District Mikel Burke

TriMet Center Street Transportation Darin Hagey

TriMet Center Street Maintenance Kevin Kinoshita

TriMet Merlo Transportation Michael McCurry

TriMet Merlo Maintenance Kerry Montgomery

TriMet Powell Transportation Khris Alexander

TriMet Powell Maintenance Mike Francois

TriMet Light Rail Transportation Terrance Howard

TriMet Light Rail Maintenance Joe E. Ruffin III

TriMet Represented Staff Frederick Casey

COMPLETE ELECTION RESULTS

<http://www.atu757.org/atu-election-results/>

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Roofers Local 49 re-elects Russ Garnett to third term



Russ Garnett

Russ Garnett was re-elected to a third term as business manager of Roofers Local 49. He ran unopposed. Garnett has held the post since April 2011, when he was appointed on an interim basis. He won election in a 5-person race in August. He previously served two terms as president in the late '90s and early 2000s, and one term as vice president.

Also re-elected by acclamation were Travis Hopkins, president; Ray Carpenter, vice president; Darrell Hopkins Sr., recording secretary; and James Breneman, warden.

Elected to Local 49's Executive Board were: Ray Carpenter- chair, Travis Hopkins, James Breneman, James Dittmore, Sean Maybee, Jason Barthel, and Ryan Hoover.

Washington AFL-CIO president Jeff Johnson to retire

Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) president Jeff Johnson announced June 13 that he'll retire at the end of the year and won't seek re-election.

WSLC is the state-level body of the AFL-CIO union federation, and helps coordinate the political and legislative efforts of roughly 600 affiliated local unions with 450,000 members in all.

Johnson, 66, has worked for WSLC since 1986. Before becoming WSLC president in 2011, he served as WSLC's lead lobbyist and as its research and organizing director.

During his years there,

WSLC helped to win major improvements for working Washingtonians. Washington became the first state to index its minimum wage to inflation, and today has the highest minimum wage in the country. WSLC also helped pass legislation expanding public sector collective bargaining rights, and it fought successfully to pass a ballot initiative mandating paid sick leave.

Johnson got his start in the union movement in 1979 as a labor educator at Empire State College Center for Labor Studies in New York City, where he was a member of American Federation of Teachers (AFT)



Jeff Johnson

Local 2190.

In a tweet reacting to news of Johnson's retirement, Washington Governor Jay Inslee called him "a true champion for all workers and their families," and a leader on minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, and clean energy jobs.

To replace him, Johnson said he'll support WSLC secretary-treasurer Lynne Dodson, and WSLC Political and Strategic Campaign Director April Sims is running to succeed Dodson. The election will take place this fall. At least one other candidate is considering running for WSLC president: Machinists District Lodge 751 Legislative and Political Director Larry Brown, who's also a member of Auburn City Council.