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NEWS IN BRIEF

Deadline for scholarship is July 1

Deadline for submitting applications for the Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship is July 1.

One scholarship for \$10,000 is awarded annually to a sophomore student who will major in political science in the junior or senior year, who has a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and whose parents are AFSCME members. The scholarship can be extended into a second year for a junior and a summer internship is included.



Jerry Clark

The scholarship is presented in memory of Clark, who served AFSCME for nearly two decades as Director of the International Union's Political Action Department.

The winner will be selected by lottery on or before July 15. The winner will be named by August 1.

Details and application forms are available at <http://www.afscme.org/about/scholarj.htm> or by emailing education@afscme.org.

Attention Local officers

New Member Informational Kits are available from Council 2 to distribute to all new members of your Local. If you need a fresh supply of the kits, please contact your Staff Representative. New Members Kits also will be available at the WSCCCE State Convention in June.

350 to attend June convention

Some 350 delegates from more than 140 local government jurisdictions will attend the 45th biennial convention to be held by Council 2 at the WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel from June 1 to 3.

The convention, which meets every other year, sets the direction of the union for the next two years.

International President Bill McEntee and newly elected US Senator Maria Cantwell are tentatively scheduled to give keynote addresses at the convention.

A meeting of the State Executive Board will be held during the weekend.



Book room by May 1 - Page 2

Delegates will discuss a variety of topics that affect the union, including health benefits, current trends in bargaining and the impact of federal legislation on labor.

In addition, the campaign to stop Initiative 747 will be featured during the convention.

"Our conventions continue to grow and be a focal point of the union every two years now that our membership is topping 15,000," says Chris Dugovich, Council 2 President and Executive Direc-

See CONVENTION, Page 2 →

Initiative threatens Council 2 members

A new initiative endangers your pay-check — and perhaps even your job.

County and city employees are right in the firing line of Ini-

- NO on Initiative 747 -

tiative 747, which its sponsors hope to put on the ballot in November. The threat is more direct and greater than that posed by any preceding recent initiative, including I-695.

I-747 would require state and local governments to place a limit of 1 percent on property taxes each year, unless an increase greater than this limit is approved by voters in an election. Right now these government bodies can raise their revenues by 6 percent a year by a super majority vote.

See I-747, Page 3 →



Legislative weekend attendees meeting in Olympia

Quake damage fails to dampen spirits

Talk about a delayed reaction. Council 2 members who attended this year's Legislative Weekend in Olympia were disrupted by the 6.8 magnitude earthquake that hit the Puget Sound region — even though the temblor had occurred more than a week earlier.

The attendees were unable to tour the Capitol building as planned and could not meet with legislators at a reception there because the quake damage had forced the building's closure.

The Council 2 organizers of the March 8-10 event did not know of the closure until a day or two before the event. Until that time, state authori-

ties said the building could be used. Provision was quickly made to meet with the legislators in an adjacent building.

A record number of legislators attended the reception, which was held on the Thursday evening.

"We made the best of it and we appreciate everybody's cooperation," says Pat Thompson, Council 2's head of Legislation/Political Action.

"Despite it all, we were still able to get our message out regarding the issues that are important to our members," Thompson says. The issues include pension reform, contracting out,

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INSIDE

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- 4 Corrections officers join protest rally

Council 2 gains 63 new members

Sixty-three employees of the Spokane International Airport's parking division are Council 2's newest members.

The employees, responsible for the management of parking facilities at the airport, voted December 22 to join the Union. They will form Local 1135-AP.

Dean Vercruyse, Staff Representative in Spokane, said the bargaining committee has submitted the draft of a new contract to the airport management as a basis

for negotiations to start.

A union clarification hearing is scheduled for May 3 and 4 on a dispute over whether the holders of six full-time positions should be included in the bargaining committee.

The new Local have elected Gina Amo as president, Jerry Carlos as vice president, and Tracy Lois Wilson, John Burrows and Dorothy Baker as shop stewards.

Spokane Airport maintenance employees already are Council 2 members.

Local 2089, which consists of Columbia River Mental Health employees in Vancouver have successfully completed their first contract, which was ratified by the members on November 14.

The City of Longview Police Support Staff, Local 1262-CL have successfully negotiated a contract which was ratified November 28.



ARBITRATION HEARING

Chris Dugovich



Letter from the president

Grays Harbor County

County violated agreement's seniority provision, arbitrator finds

The Engineering Division of the Grays Harbor County Department of Public Services violated the seniority provision of the collective bargaining agreement, according to a finding in a recent arbitration hearing.

The Arbitrator, Joseph W. Duffy, ruled that the division violated the agreement when it awarded an assignment to a less senior person than John Sheldon, the grievant.

He ordered the department to stop violating the seniority position of the agreement and directed the employer to compensate Sheldon for the overtime hours he would have worked if he had received the assignment.

The hearing was told that in April 2000, a work assignment, which included overtime, became available for a scale shack operator on a bridge construction project referred to as the "Joe Creek" job. The employer assigned the job to an Engineering Technician III employee who had been working on the same survey crew as Sheldon.

Sheldon, who is an Engineering Technician V in the department, holds a more senior position than the engineering technician assigned to

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Language of
the section
was clear
’

awarded by seniority and he had never been advised that a different system for assigning overtime existed.

Sheldon said he wanted his seniority recognized and could have earned additional money in the scale shack job.

Roger Stein, the Deputy Director of Engineering, said he had concluded that Sheldon was not available for the scale shack job because he was needed by the Department in his then current assignment.

The employer argued that the practice in the Grays Harbor County Engineering Department has been to consider availability and qualifications in addition to seniority when assigning jobs. Council 2 contended that the Agreement contains a "strict seniority" provision that gives the employer no latitude in deviating from the seniority list.

The arbitrator ruled that the clear language of the relevant section in the Agreement leaves no room for interpretation. He found that past practice had not modified the seniority provision and the employer must follow the Agreement.

David Kanigel represented Council 2 at the hearing.

the job.

When Sheldon heard that the scale job had been awarded without anyone asking him whether he wanted it, he called the Union. The Union filed a grievance. The matter was discussed with the department, but the parties could not reach a resolution.

John Kirkwood, the Union's Chapter President, told the arbitration hearing that in awarding the scale job in this case, the employer did not follow the seniority provision of the 1999-2001 collective bargaining agreement. He said in the past extra work always has been

Book by May 1

The cutoff to book blocked hotel rooms for the 45th biennial Convention at the WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel and the Wenatchee Red Lion Hotel is May 1. After that date, rooms are subject to availability and higher rates will be charged.

All events will be held at the WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, but two free shuttle buses will run between the hotels.

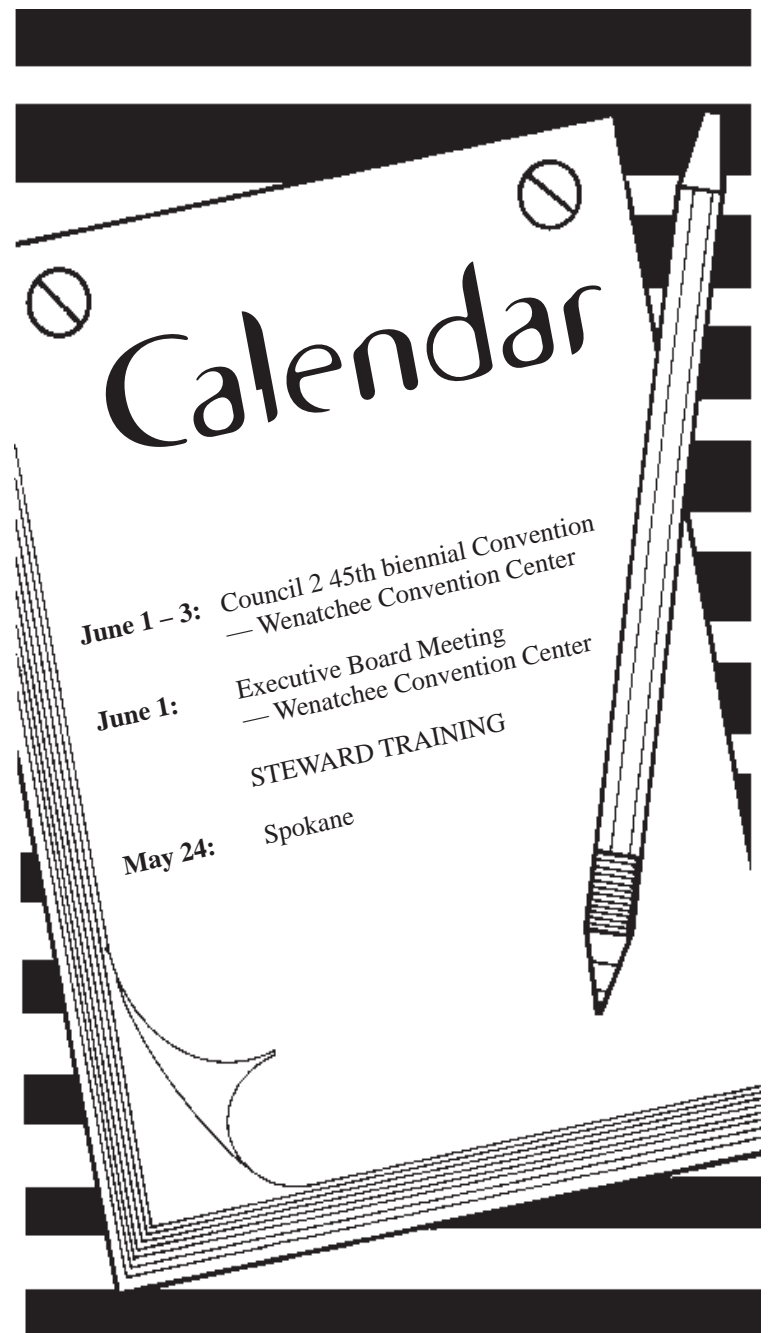
CONVENTION, from Page 1

tor. "It becomes a larger and larger event.

The traditional golf tournament will precede the convention on Friday afternoon. It will be held at the Three Lakes Public Golf Club. Council 2's executive board meeting will be held on the Friday evening and the convention will convene, after the PEOPLE breakfast, on Saturday morning.

Council 2 General Counsel Audrey Eide will be a featured speaker at the Women's Committee Breakfast on Sunday. The recipient of the Mary Hersey Award will be announced at the event.

The convention will reconvene on Sunday. Among the workshops to be held during the convention will be those on new delegate orientation, labor history, deferred compensation, federal legislation and initiatives.



New initiative follows failure of I-722

How much I-747 would cost local government

According to the Washington State Department of Revenue, I-747 would result in losses of over \$1.4 billion to local governments and special taxing districts such as libraries, fire districts, ports, and even emergency medical services. Below is a detailed breakdown of losses to basic services over a 6-year period:

District Name	Losses in 2001-2003	Losses in 2003-2005	Losses in 2005-2007	Totals
Cities General	\$60,445,500	\$153,670,300	\$260,784,400	\$474,900,200
Counties General	\$43,072,500	\$103,521,200	\$172,315,500	\$318,909,200
County Roads	\$20,167,300	\$49,593,500	\$79,337,000	\$149,097,800
Libraries	\$10,709,800	\$29,718,900	\$49,697,600	\$90,126,300
Hospitals	\$4,247,400	\$10,765,200	\$18,581,800	\$33,594,400
Fire Districts	\$24,754,500	\$60,623,400	\$102,077,900	\$187,455,800
Metro Park	\$995,700	\$2,532,400	\$4,351,800	\$7,879,900
Emergency Medical Services	\$5,964,700	\$16,193,300	\$29,224,100	\$51,382,100
Ports	\$12,490,300	\$31,338,700	\$52,908,200	\$96,737,200
Other Districts	\$2,047,200	\$5,246,500	\$8,869,100	\$16,162,800
Total	\$184,894,900	\$463,203,400	\$778,147,400	\$1,426,245,700

Source: Washington Department of Revenue 3/05/01

In addition, over \$400,000,000 would be lost to State coffers:

	Losses in 2001-2003	Losses in 2003-2005	Losses in 2005-2007	Totals
State Levies	\$34,700,000	\$122,274,000	\$247,773,000	\$404,747,000

Source: Washington Department of Revenue 2/12/01

In order to offset these losses, under Initiative 747, local and state governments, as well as special taxing districts, would be forced to submit dozens of revenue measures each year to a vote of the people, a costly and inefficient means to maintain basic services.

The launching of a campaign by Mukilteo businessman Tim Eyman to get Initiative 747 on the ballot in November follows the failure of Initiative 722, which he sponsored last year.

The initiative was approved by Washington voters in November, but it was thrown out by a Thurston County judge in February.

I-722 ordered local governments to refund tax and fee increases they imposed in the second half of 1999. It also limited increases in property taxes to 2 percent a year or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. Cities and counties, however, largely ignored the measure because of the pending lawsuit.

They were aware that in October last year another initiative that Eyman had sponsored, 695, was struck down by the state Supreme Court. I-695 replaced the motor vehicle tax with a flat fee and required voter approval of all tax and fee increases.

State budget analysts had estimated that the initiative would have cost state and local governments \$376 million in lost revenue over two years.

In striking down I-722, Thurston County Superior Court Judge Christine Pomeroy ruled that changes in the tax system would have violated a constitutional requirement that property taxes be applied uniformly; that it would amount to an illegal gift of public funds to voters; and that it violated the full-disclosure law because it did not explain its full effects.

The ruling had no impact on local governments because it never was implemented. Also, a few weeks after the election, at the request of the local governments, Pomeroy had issued an injunction blocking four counties and nine cities from enforcing I-722. In December she gave it class action which meant that it applied to nearly all Washington counties and cities.

Now I-747 goes even further than I-722 did. Rather than limiting property tax increases to 2 percent without a special vote, it limits them to 1 percent unless a special vote is taken.

The result is that I-747 would result in losses of more than \$1.4 billion to local governments and special taxing districts, according to Washington State Department of Revenue figures. (See table at left.)

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I-747 goes even further than I-722 did

I-747, from Page 1

The cap of 1 percent means that local government will not be able to keep up with inflation, now running at 4 percent. And even inflation does not take into account the needs of growing municipalities which face new demands from expanding jurisdictions.

"If our employers cannot keep up with inflation, then our paychecks will not be able to do so either," says Pat Thompson, Council 2's Legislation/Political Action Director.

Led by Eyman, signature gatherers, some of them paid professionals, are working to gather the required 200,000 votes to put the measure on the November ballot.

Because of the threat the initiative poses to members, Council 2 is leading a major campaign to oppose I-747.

"The reason we are leading the campaign is that our members are so directly involved," says Thompson. "We are definitely the ones in his sights."

The campaign was unanimously approved by Council

2's Legislative Committee and the full Executive Board.

Thompson says the cam-

The reason we are leading the campaign is that our members are so directly involved

— Pat Thompson

campaign already is gaining support from other labor and business interests.

"The important thing about this campaign is that Eyman, a professional initiative sponsor, has abandoned his grass-roots efforts and appears to be making a living off of sponsoring initiatives," adds Thompson.

This is the third initiative to be sponsored by Eyman. Two were defeated in the courts and one was beaten at the ballot box.

"We want to make sure he goes 0-4," says Thompson.

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Legislative Weekend highlights



Members of Local 1849, San Juan County with Rep. Dave Quall, second from left, are: Tom Vinson, Barbara Lloyd, Deborah Parker, Lee Lehman and Larry Schulze



From left: Lois Clement, chair, Women's Action Committee; Sherry Bingman and Carol Travis, both of Local 874-HC



Rep. Bill Fromhold with Danny O'Neil, Local 307-VC, City of Vancouver and member of Council 2 Legislative Committee

Attendee speaks with Rep. Steve Conway



WEEKEND, from Page 1

and retiree medical coverage. After being held in Seattle last year for the first time, the popular event returned to Olympia this year.

About 200 people attended. Among the events were a Council 2 hosted lunch on Friday at which State Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler spoke and a workshop con-

ducted by Don Craig of AFSCME on "Developing a communications strategy."

The next Legislative Weekend will be held March 7,8 and 9, 2002



Randy Withrow, left, with Council 2 President and Executive Director Chris Dugovich

Randy Withrow retires from Council 2

After 21 years with Council 2, Randy Withrow, Staff Representative in Spokane, resigned on January 1.

Withrow has taken a position as Chief of Staff for the newly elected Mayor of Spokane, John Powers.

Withrow worked as a corrections officer for Spokane County sheriff's department from 1973 to 1979.

During that time he became shop steward and then president of Local 492, a position he held for four years.

The Local consisted of 30 members at that time. Today it is nearly 500.

Withrow was hired by Council 2 on January 1, 1980. During his time with

Randy always did his job well and with a sense of humor

Council 2, Withrow represented members throughout Eastern Washington. For the last 15 years he represented employees of the City of Spokane.

"Randy always did his job well and with a sense of humor," says Chris Dugovich, Council 2 President and Executive Director.

"It is always tough to lose someone with the level of experience and expertise that he brought to the position.

"Although he no longer is a member of the Union, at least he remains close by."

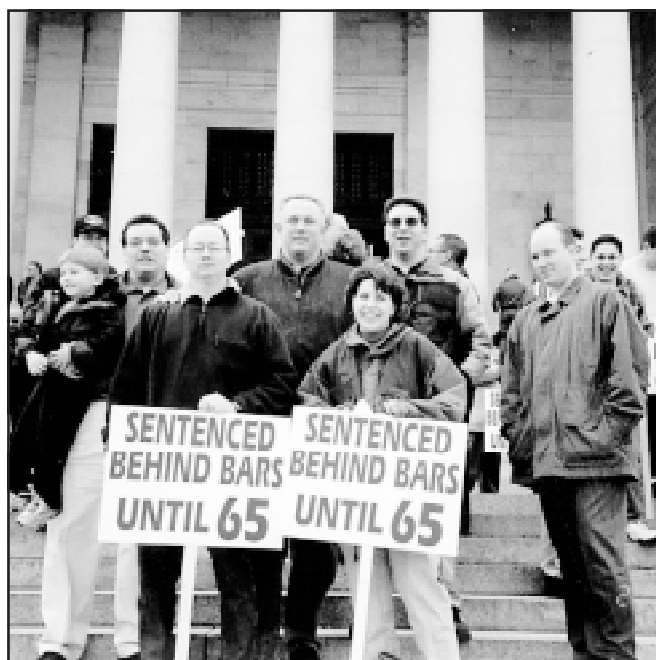
OLYMPIA

Correctional officers rally for pension reform

Several correctional officers who are members of Council 2 took part in a rally supporting pension reform held outside the state Capitol on February 1.

The rally, attended by about 100 people, was held to highlight the need for pension reform. Supporters believe that a retirement age of 65 is not practical for employees who perform physically-demanding work on a daily basis. PERS II sets a retirement age of 65.

A well-attended lunch sponsored by Council 2 was held after the rally.



Mike Smith, Staff Representative in Spokane, left, and Doug Malidone, president of Local 120-CD, Pierce County Corrections

Members of Local 120-CD are, from left: John King, Scott Burdick, Jeff Brateng, Kathy Miller, Lloyd Taylor and Craig Davidson

