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NEWS IN BRIEF

Dugovich re-elected International Vice President

Chris Dugovich, President and Executive Director of Council 2, has been re-elected International Vice President for the Northwest Region of AFSCME.

The region represents 60,000 members in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. Dugovich was first elected to the post in 1996. He was re-elected without opposition.

"In the last four years, we worked hard at bringing the region together," Dugovich said after his election. "We brought a full-time member of AFSCME's education staff to the region, our regional conference held every fall has proven to be a success, and our regional newsletter continues to be well received. In the next four years I will continue to bring the region together."

Council 75 president to serve on panel

Joe Devlaeminck, President of the 20,000-member strong Council 75 in Oregon, has been appointed by AFSCME President Gerald McEntee to serve on the International Judicial Panel.



Devlaeminck will bring the same common sense and integrity to the judicial panel that he has brought to Council 75. Congratulations to Joe on his new position.

Council 2 endorses Cantwell



Maria Cantwell poses with supporters from Council 2 during a recent visit to Spokane. They are (from left): Joanne Vaughn, Local 270 (City of Spokane); Amie Swenson, Local 1553 (Spokane County); Nancy Smith, Local 270 (City of Spokane); Cantwell; Michealanne O'Neill, Local 1553 (Spokane County); Gordon Smith, Council 2 Staff Representative; Art Krumm, Local 270A (City of Airway Heights).

Cantwell has solid pro-labor voting record

In January, Council 2 became the first major union to endorse Maria Cantwell in her bid for the U.S. Senate.

The reason for the support from the union is that Cantwell had a consistent pro-labor voting record when she served for six years in the State Legislature and two years in the U.S. Congress.

"What a great candidate she is," says Chris Dugovich, President/Executive Director of Council 2. "Maria Cantwell has been a friend of this union for more than 20 years, working for us in the State Legislature and then in Congress.

"We are pleased to see her back and, based on her past voting records, she is clearly the best pick for the U.S. Senate and we look forward to

working with her again."

For five years, she worked for Real Networks, which makes software that enables users to view video and hear sound over the Internet. Now she is seeking to return to office and will contest one of the state's two U.S. Senate seats in November.

Cantwell's lifetime AFL-CIO voting record is 93 percent pro-labor and her position on the issues that are important to our members has not changed during her five years in the private sector. Indeed, Cantwell has become even more secure in her knowledge that public employees are necessary and important to society.

Here is where she stands on sev-

See CANTWELL, Page 2 →

State contests are key

Washington will be a key battleground state in the November elections, both nationally and locally.

How voters cast their ballots here will be crucial in determining the make-up of

Election ^{the} 2000

U.S. Congress as well as the state Legislature.

"The fact that this is a presidential election year will have a big impact on voter turnout, making it higher and more partisan than usual," says Pat Thompson, Director of Legislation/Political Action for Council 2. Also, the way voters cast their ballots in the presidential race often determines how they vote in other contests, too, he says.

If Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore takes the state that will trickle down into the congressional and local races as well, Thompson adds.

"The most important thing we can tell our people is that they should exercise their voice."
See VOTE, Page 4 →

166 new members join Council 2

In recent months, 166 new members have been added to the ranks of Council 2 in areas from Klickitat County in the south to Mount Vernon in the north and Friday Harbor in the west.

Details:

• Skyline Hospital, White Salmon, Klickitat County

About 60 workers at Skyline Hospital in White Salmon, Klickitat County, are among the newest members to join the ranks of Council 2.

All the hospital employees, with the

See MEMBERS, Page 3 →

Convention inspires Council 2 delegates

After John Ohlson of Local 120 in Tacoma returned from the AFSCME International Convention in Philadelphia in late June, he changed the signature at the end of his e-mail to "AFSCME rocks."

"I thought it was great," said the senior database analyst for Tacoma Water. "It gave me a new perspective on the union movement. It showed me how it could be done."

Calling it inspiring, Ohlson said now

Convention pictures: Page 4

principles he learned at the convention with great success.

Other delegates, too, found that the convention was inspirational, informative and definitely worthwhile attending.

Some 4,000 delegates to the convention — including 150 from Council 2 — pledged renewed commitment to

that he is back home he has been applying the principles he learned at the convention with great success.

organizing the unorganized workers.

They also committed themselves to more effective political action and to greater attention to building a better employment life for AFSCME members across the country.

The convention featured speeches from President Clinton, Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore, and the next Speaker of the House, Richard Gephardt.

A number of workshops and educational seminars were held to help stewards and leaders of local unions be more effective.

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Why I'm voting for Al Gore

Chris Dugovich



During last year's Council 2 Convention held in Tacoma, Vice-President Al Gore made a call from Air Force 2 and spoke directly to the Executive Board of our Union and the many guests who attended our meeting.

The Vice-President outlined during his talk the many programs that had been put into place

by the Clinton/Gore Administration. The most important of these certainly is the excellent economic expansion that the country and the state of Washington continue to enjoy. This good fortune did not happen all by itself. It happened in large part as a result of the Clinton initiatives in 1993 and the political courage of both he and Al Gore. Many of us may have forgotten that in 1993 when Clinton proposed his first budget to Congress the other party in Congress did not supply one vote. The result was a 50-50 tie in the Senate. In those rare instances in which a tie occurs the Vice-President of the United States is allowed to cast a vote to break the tie. Al Gore cast that vote, passed that

It would have been unheard of eight years ago to even imagine the current scenario.

The Clinton-Gore Administration had a large hand in this success.

budget, and we all won.

Eight years later we now enjoy budget surpluses versus the yearly budget deficits that created a large national debt. It would have been unheard of eight years ago even to imagine the current scenario. The Clinton-Gore Administration had a large hand in this success. The opportunity is now there to protect social security, provide a meaningful prescription drug program, better schools — the list goes on!

Al Gore was endorsed by the delegates of Council 2 from across Washington, not only for his clear record of success but also for his stands against giving your jobs to the private sector and a strong support for collective bargaining. And make no mistake about it — your delegates to that convention did not take lightly their duty to recommend to you the best candidate for President. They based their decision on real pocket-book issues that affect all of us. The challenge now is to work hard to continue the good times, the best economic times all of us have known. Vote Al Gore for President.

Initiatives 722 and 745 would harm Council 2 members

Two initiatives proposed by Mukilteo businessman Tim Eyman and to be placed before voters in November both would be harmful to Council 2 members.

One, Initiative 722 — the so-called "Son of I-695" — would place a 2 percent annual limit on property-tax increases. If enacted, the measure would restrict governments' spending growth to no more than 2 percent.

That restriction, in turn, would restrict governments' ability to increase compensation for their employees.

"Obviously, if our employers cannot keep up with inflation, now

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running at about 3.5 percent, it is going to be difficult for public employees," says Pat Thompson, Director of Legislation/Political Action for Council 2.

By setting the cap at 2 percent, the initiative does not take into account general economic growth or the effects of inflation. It clearly will be difficult for members to keep up in terms of salary.

The other initiative, 745, is aimed at eliminating transit systems. It requires that 90 percent of all transportation funds go to roads, thereby reducing the money

available for mass-transit and pedestrian projects.

Both initiatives come at a time when local governments already are reeling under the effects of I-695, which was approved last year. That initiative is still caught up in the court system, but the revenue cuts it caused have been felt.

Local governments have maintained most of their services so far by using their reserves. Obviously, that resource will end soon.

"We don't yet know how deep a hole 695 created, but we do know that these two initiatives will make it much deeper," Thompson says.

CANTWELL, from Page 1

eral issues:

• Collective Bargaining

Cantwell consistently has voted for legislation protecting and expanding the rights of public employees to collectively bargain wages, hours and working conditions.

In her own words, "working in the public sector doesn't make you a second class citizen." She has voted for laws increasing NLRB coverage for private sector workers.

• Working Families

In the legislature and Congress, Cantwell voted for the Family and Medical Leave Act, providing workers the right to as many as 12 weeks leave for medical and family emergencies.

She has voted for many programs and benefits for working families, including strengthening and expanding unemployment and workers compensation benefits.

• Health Care

Cantwell believes that health-care decisions should be made by doctors and patients, not insurance company bureaucrats. She supports a strong Patients Bill of Rights and

has a long record of voting for expanded health-care coverage for working people, including the Basic Health Plan and High Risk Insurance Pool. She supports the president's efforts to control prescription drug prices and has committed to continue voting for

By helping elect Maria Cantwell, Council 2 members will have a strong voice for our concerns in the U.S. Senate.

programs to keep health care costs affordable.

• Minimum Wage

Cantwell has voted to raise

the minimum wage, believing that workers should not have to remain in poverty if they work 40 hours a week.

• Privatization/Contracting Out

In Cantwell's words, "Privatization is a code word for eliminating family-wage union jobs and replacing them with low wage non-union jobs." According to Cantwell, "I've been in the private sector and it is clear that it is no better than the public sector at eliminating bureaucracy. Privatization is not a cure for inefficiency. We need to give workers the technology and training they need to succeed."

Recent independent polls find Cantwell leading her primary opponent by 10 points, and place her within 8 points of Slade Gorton, her opponent in the general election.

By helping elect Maria Cantwell, Council 2 members will have a strong voice for our concerns in the U.S. Senate.

CALENDAR

September 19: Primary Election Day Remember to vote!	STEWARD TRAINING SCHEDULE
September 29-30: WSCCE Northwest Regional Conference, Best Western Hood River Inn, Hood River, Oregon	September 21: Beyond Basics - Vancouver
October 27-28: WSCCE Executive Board Meeting, WestCoast Cavanaugh's, Yakima	October 5: Beyond Basics - Spokane
November 7: Election Day Remember to vote!	October 12: Basic/Beyond - Tacoma
	October 17: Basic Steward - Kelso/Longview

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Local 120 wins postponement of contracting-out proposal

Members of AFSCME Local 120 have convinced the Tacoma Public Utilities Board to postpone a contracting-out proposal for at least four weeks.

The City was attempting to contract out work usually performed by information technology professionals represented by Local 120, all of whom are employees of the City of Tacoma. The \$300,000 contract was with New York-based Cap Gemini.

The \$300,000 contract was to be the second phase of a planned \$1.5 million

Local members proved the work could be done in-house for less

project. The contractor already has received \$25,000 to visit Tacoma, look at the Customer Information System, and submit a proposal to maintain it.

Local 120 members, led by City Policy Chair John Ohlson, demonstrated to the board that the work could be done in-house with Local 120 members for 58 percent less than the contract.

The union asked the Utilities Board to delay confirmation of the contract while it prepared an alternative proposal. The board unanimously agreed to hold the contract in abeyance for four weeks and directed Utilities managers to work with the union in an attempt to resolve the matter.

Scholarships awarded



Sarah Hughes



Sarah Featherly



Hallie Byfield

Nine scholarship awards have been presented by Council 2 for 2000.

The Dependant Scholarship Award, in memory of Valarie Davis, past member of Local 1811-CA, has been awarded to:

Forrest Hartford — dependant of Theresa Gemmer of Local 113, City of Everett

Sarah Featherly — dependant of Debra Featherly, Local 846B, Okanogan County Building Department

Jeremy R. Hunter — dependant of Russell W. Hunter, Local 1533, Klickitat County Road Department and Supervisors

Courtney M. Jones — dependant of Daniel C. Jones, Local 1845, Island County

The Continuing Education Award, in memory of Chris Fecht, past member of Local 109, and George Zelko, who worked for the City of Kelso for 25 years, has been awarded to:

Monica E. Sands, Local 3787, Pierce County Library

Sarah S. Hughes, Local 275, City of Hoquiam

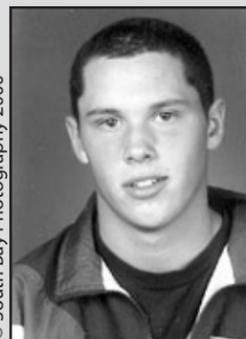
Hallie Byfield, Local 492J, Spokane County Juvenile

Duana Dotinga, Local 1581, Whatcom County Library

The Summer School for Union Women Award, named for Katie Bell Hall, has been awarded to:

Debra Kelly, Local 367C, Pacific County Courthouse Employees

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Forrest Hartford



Courtney Jones

MEMBERS, from Page 1

exception of the nurses, who have their own labor union, are now members.

Council 2 already represents employees for the city of White Salmon. With the addition of the hospital employees, the union has large representation in what is a relatively sparsely populated region of the state.

No election was necessary as more than 70 percent of the union-authorization cards were signed.

Washington state law allows for certification of the union without an election if the number of authorization cards that are signed is 70 percent or greater.

After checking the signatures of the employees against those on the payroll records, certification of Council 2 as the bargaining representative was approved on June 8.

The Skyline Hospital workers have elected officers and are now preparing to enter negotiations with the hospital district.

The new officers are: President – Craig Terry, Vice President – Barbara Woodbury; Recording Secretary – Rita Stephenson; Treasurer – Kathy Huntley; Shop Stewards – Susan Metz-Koontz, Pam Mitchell and Debbie Sexton.

“We had an excellent organizing committee that really did an outstanding job in getting out there and collecting those cards,” says Council 2 Organizing Director Bill Keenan. “All the cards were signed within four weeks.”

Council 2 Staff Representative Tom Barrington also worked hard on the project, Keenan adds.

• Skagit Transit Bus Drivers, Mount Vernon

About 50 fixed-route bus drivers and paratransit drivers at Skagit Transit in Mount Vernon were added to the rolls of

Council 2 on June 9.

Because more than 70 percent of the authorization cards were signed, the addition of the workers to Council 2 was approved in a cross-check election.

The decision by the workers to join Council 2 was preceded by what Keenan calls “an incredible opposition campaign” mounted by the Skagit executives.

“The employers went out of their way to visit each bus driver independently and to try to persuade them not to sign the union cards,” Keenan says. “They went even further and tried to convince those who had signed cards to withdraw them. In addition, they held mandatory meetings for the drivers to try to persuade them not to join the union.”

The employer had been successful twice before in persuading the workers not to unionize, but they failed on this third attempt. This time, Council 2, which was not involved in the previous two attempts, had three staff representatives working on the project at one time or another.

“The drivers told us that we put a far greater effort into keeping in contact with everyone,” says Keenan. “We held a lot of group meetings.”

At one stage, when the Transit executives called a mandatory meeting of all employees, Council 2 representatives handed out leaflets to the employees before the meeting, telling them what they would be told at the meeting and why Council 2 disputed the statements.

“It really surprised the employers that we would show up at the meeting and hand out flyers,” Keenan says.

“But we were obviously right on target. The Transit representatives really had nothing to say. The meeting lasted only two minutes.”

Jon Stables, who was instrumental in

organizing the workers, will serve as their Staff Representative.

The workers are now preparing for negotiations and have elected the following officers: President – Robert Sullivan; Vice President/Chief Steward – Joel Deese; Secretary/Treasurer – Joe MacDonald; Recording Secretary – Greg Rasmussen; and Trustees – Rich Searle, Jill Allen and Art Gallegos.

Tom Fuller, James Haapoja and Doug Zempel were appointed to the Executive Board.

• Township of Friday Harbor

All the employees of the Township of Friday Harbor have voted to join Council 2. The 30 workers are employed by the only township in the state of Washington. They essentially perform all the duties that normally are undertaken by city employees.

As in the case of Skyline Hospital and Skagit Transit drivers in Mount Vernon, more than 70 percent of the authorization cards were signed and the workers were certified July 5 in a cross-check election.

They are in the process of preparing for negotiations and have voted to become part of the larger San Juan County Local 1849. Roxanna Zalmanek was appointed to the vacant Recording Secretary position.

Council 2 Staff Representative Jon Stables undertook a major part of the organizing in this case, too.

• Southwest Suburban Sewer District

Twenty-six employees of the Southwest Suburban Sewer District in Burien who belonged to an employees’ association voted unanimously on June 6 to be affiliated with Council 2.

The workers have a contract that expires at the end of the year. Staff Rep-

resentative Clem Edwards will lead the negotiations for Council 2.

As soon as the vote of approval was taken, the District moved to contract out their sewer inspector positions to a private contractor, Keenan says. One of the three people who would lose their jobs as a result was on the main organizing committee for the union.

But Council 2 has succeeded in delaying the move to contract out the positions.

“We and the employees attended the last three Board of Commissioners meetings and we convinced them to hold off for now,” Keenan says.

The new Local, 21-S, has elected these officers: President – Bill Stephanie; Vice President – Ron Hall; Recording Secretary/Treasurer – Loree Johnson; Shop Steward – Darren Hill; and Trustee – Dee Van Dan Acker.

• Klickitat County

Never before has Keenan seen an employer procedurally drag its feet in opposing an organizing campaign as Klickitat County did.

The union filed with the Public Employees Relations Commission in March to represent 60 employees who work throughout the county in various departments.

“The County, led by labor relations consultant Tony Menke, challenged the makeup of the proposed bargaining unit. We proposed one big union and they wanted to split it four or five different ways,” says Keenan.

Finally, after a series of negotiations, an agreement was reached with the County to form two units, one for the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and one for all other departments. A mail-ballot election has been set for August 29.

VOTE, from Page 1

cise their right to vote," Thompson says. "Those who face problems getting to the polls on election day should look into the option of absentee voting, which has made it easier to cast your vote."

Here's a closer look at some races:

U.S. Congress

Rick Larsen, current Snohomish County Councilman and a strong supporter of Council 2, stands the best chance of gaining a seat for the Democrats, Thompson says. His opponent for the 2nd district seat is a staunch supporter of cutting and contracting out government services. It is essential that we retain the worker-friendly legislators we have, Thompson adds.

In addition to the seat being contested by Larsen, the seats that have challengers are those of Jay Inslee, 1st Congressional



Jay Inslee

Rick Larsen

district, and Adam Smith, 9th Congressional district.

"It is critical that we support these people as they have a good record of support for working families," Thompson says.

U.S. Senate

Democratic candidate Maria Cantwell

represents the strongest challenge against Republican Slade Gorton for one of the two Washington state seats in the U.S. Senate, Thompson says.

State Legislature

The challenge in the State Legislature is to maintain control in the Senate, which consists of 27 Democrats and 22 Repub-

licans, and to break the logjam in the House of Representatives, where there is a 49-49 tie.

"Both these tasks will require a lot of work and nothing should be taken for granted," adds Thompson.

In the race for Governor, incumbent Gary Locke faces a challenge from a candidate that supports privatizing most government services.

"It is important that we retain Governor Locke, as his veto pen is our insurance if the Legislature fails us," Thompson explains.

Philadelphia Scrapbook

Among the 4,000 delegates to AFSCME's 34th International Convention in Philadelphia at the end of June were 150 from Council 2.

Pictures on this page capture some of the action.



Jon Stables, Staff Representative(left) and John Ohlson, City of Tacoma, Local 120



Chuck Berlemann, Local 114 Bellingham



Dean Vercruysse, Local 492 Spokane Corrections



From left: Mike McGuire, Local 307-VC; Ron Fredin, Local 307-VC; and Clem Edwards, Staff Representative



Even Benjamin Franklin showed up to a joint event sponsored by Council 2, Indiana Council 62 and Oregon Council 75



From left: Rob Sprague, Staff Representative; Ed Steimler, Local 1811-PA; Tim Liddiard, Staff Representative; Roger Moller, Local 109; Randy Withrow, Staff Representative; and Art Krum, Local 270

