

# LOADLINE

IUOE LOCAL 302

SUMMER 2024



BUILDING ALASKA'S LONGEST  
**SINGLE-SPAN BRIDGE** p. 14



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## IUOE LOCAL 302 OFFICERS



**DAREN KONOPASKI**

Business Manager,  
First International Vice President



**SEAN JEFFRIES**

President



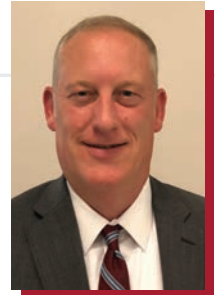
**JASON ALWARD**

Vice President



**LAKE WILLIAMS**

Treasurer



**JACOB H. BLACK**

Recording-Corresponding-  
Financial Secretary

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Corey Baxter, Shane Linse, Jeff Frazier



**OPERATING  
ENGINEERS**  
LOCAL 302

## ON THE COVER

Site of where the Juneau Creek Bridge will be built as part of the Cooper Landing Bypass Project in Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska, about 100 miles south of Anchorage; Photo courtesy of Vince Beltrami, Bean Creek Media

# OFFICE LOCATIONS

## **DISTRICT 1 – BOTHELL, WA**

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Dean Stoneburner, Field Representative

Dave Padon, Field Representative

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Levi Johnson, Dispatcher

## **DISTRICT 2 – BELLINGHAM, WA**

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Tony Zempel, Field Representative, Conductor

## **DISTRICT 3 – SILVERDALE, WA**

3525 NW Anderson Hill Rd Silverdale, WA 98383

Phone: 360-307-0557

Eric Arntson, District Representative

## **DISTRICT 4 – ELLENSBURG & WENATCHEE, WA**

403 S Water St Ellensburg, WA 98926

Phone: 509-933-3020

Sean Jeffries, District Representative, President

## **DISTRICT 5 – TRI-CITIES & SPOKANE, WA;**

### **POCATELLO & BOISE, ID**

2637 W Albany Ave Kennewick, WA 99336

Phone: 509-545-1811

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510 S Elm Spokane, WA 99201

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Shane Linse, Field Representative, Executive Board

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Ryen Young, Field Representative

Larry Kratz, Field Representative

Shelly Filippi, Field Representative

Jim Gower, Field Representative

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Dacia Burley, Field Representative

## **DISTRICT 6 – ANCHORAGE, AK**

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Nathan Hall, Field Representative

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## **DISTRICT 7 – FAIRBANKS, AK**

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Lake Williams, District Representative, Treasurer

Crystal Tidwell, Field Representative, Auditor

Ronnie Brunty, Field Representative

Connor Gerlach-Ryan, Field Representative

Christina McDermott, Dispatcher

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9309 Glacier Hwy Bldg A Suite 105 Juneau, AK 99801

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Corey Baxter, District Representative, Executive Board

Alison Dempsey-Hall, Public Relations and  
Communications Manager





## BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

One of the things I'm proudest of is the lifelong securities we provide to our members including better wages and benefits, personal protection, health, and safety.

In this edition of the Loadline, we honor our longest members, our retirees. They're a great example of members who have worked hard for years, investing in our pension, and are now enjoying the fruits of their labor. Read on to learn about reflections of individual retiree careers.

We also acknowledge the other side of the house, our signatory contractors, who employ Local 302 members and keep the projects rolling. Do you know a contractor who is ready for the most skilled and trained workforce in the field? Connect them with Local 302 to learn more. As always, encour-

age people in your network to hire our signatory contractors today. This is one of the many ways to support our union, and the local community and economy, to keep them strong.

On the topic of health, just like annual maintenance for equipment, we must be proactive about getting annual check-ups. IUOE Local 302 members and their eligible dependents are invited to 2024 Pacific Health Coalition fairs. Screening tests and flu shots are paid for 100 percent by your health plan at no out of pocket cost to you.

Let's continue to take care of ourselves and look out for each other.

In Solidarity,

**Daren Konopaski**

Business Manager and  
First International Vice President



Local 302 Business Manager Daren Konopaski, on the right, takes a photo with 50+ year members at the Bothell Hall





A Local 302 member and his wife at the Bothell Hall Retiree Luncheon



Local 302 Business Manager Daren Konopaski, on the right, recognizes a member for 50+ years of membership at the Bothell Hall meeting



IUOE Local 302 members and their eligible dependents are invited to participate in the 2024 Pacific Health Coalition fairs located across Washington and Alaska. Lab tests and flu shots are paid for 100 percent by your health plan at no cost to you. Pre-registration is required.

*"The lab test I did through the Pacific Health Coalition fair caught my early-stage cancer. Because I caught it in time, I am healthy today. I can't recommend strongly enough for members and their families to do these annual health check-ups." – Local 302 member, Washington state*

Register for health fairs here:




**OPERATING  
ENGINEERS**  
LOCAL 302




# DISTRICT REPORT

# 1




Local 302 member and longtime CR Construction employee Jared Johansen operates an excavator at the University of Washington Intercollegiate Athletics Basketball Training Facility project


## Signatory contractor CR Construction shares insight into women building construction careers




Left to right: Local 302 members and CR Construction mechanics Riley Bayn and Connor Olson maintain all equipment and vehicles at CR's shop and on site



CR Construction Local 302 member Cameron Heminger; in addition to being a proficient operator, Cameron currently oversees the crews and daily production of the University of Washington Intercollegiate Athletics Basketball Training Facility project



Left to right: CR Construction Local 302 members Dan Roesler, superintendent and Austin Warne, operator standing in front of the fire line installation work at the Woodland Park Zoo Forest Trailhead Exhibit in Seattle, Washington



Left to right: CR Construction Local 302 members Rocky Morgan, operations manager and Bill Ratzsch, superintendent; Rocky oversees all field operations and personnel and Bill oversees multiple projects; together they bring a combined 50+ years of construction industry experience





Sara Slatten, president, CR Construction

**S**ome people are surprised to hear about women working in the construction field, but it is a very open and lucrative career path for them.

As president of CR Construction based out of North Bend, Washington, Sara Slatten oversees operations of the company and its 47 employees. A certified women's business enterprise run by Sara and Rocky Morgan, CR Construction is signatory with Local 302 and focuses on sitework and utilities throughout the Puget Sound. Services include mass excavation, main line and site utilities, environmental restoration, retaining walls, and trucking. We connected with Sara to learn about her experience and what she believes are opportunities for people getting started in the construction industry.

### **How did you get your start in the construction industry?**

I graduated from Washington State University with a construction management degree. I got my professional start working for a builder/developer and was exposed to all aspects that go into building a project like land purchase, entitlement, infrastructure construction, home building, and sales. With seed money from this career and after the 2008 recession started to lift, I saw an opportunity to start CR Construction in 2012.

### **How have you grown your business?**

We started out doing mostly private, smaller jobs and began doing public sector work with prevailing wage projects. While public sector work comes with a new set of responsibilities it also leads to attracting key long-term employees. Subsequently, we received Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certifications in 2019. As our work evolved to larger projects requiring more employees, we saw an opportunity to join Local 302 and to employ union workers. Joining Local 302 has proved beneficial as we continue to attract employees with higher skill levels and experience.

**What do you wish you'd known when you started?** As a first-time business owner there's a steep

learning curve to navigate. There were many aspects of running day-to-day operations that I had to learn on the fly and with a lot of late nights. Over time, a team of great employees, trade partners, and consultants evolved and took CR from a small home office operation to where we are today. Asking for help is hard, especially when you're in the trenches. Looking back, I should have sought out more help and faster.

### **What steps should people take to excel in the construction trade?**

Construction can be a tough business and is never short of challenges. Anyone can complain about the problem. Be the person who brings ideas and solutions to the problem. The day-to-day work is important but always be thinking ahead towards the desired result. Show up and go the extra mile. Good work ethic will take you places. If you're starting out and considering a path in construction, seek out apprenticeship opportunities that Local 302 offers like heavy equipment operator, service oiler, and mechanic. Employers need project management and oversight. Your skilled experience gained through Local 302 can lead to these roles as well. Regardless of the career path, find mentors who are willing to teach, lend support, and encouragement.

# DISTRICT REPORT

# 2



## Members take pride working for Skookum Contract Services at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island

**N**aval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island is the premier naval aviation installation in the Pacific Northwest located in Island County, Washington.

It's home of all Navy tactical electronic attack squadrons flying the EA-18G Growler. Adding to the depth and capability of the air station are eight Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance squadrons flying the P-3 Orion, P-8 Poseidon, and EP-3E Aries.

Local 302 represents over 100 members employed by Skookum Contract Services who provide facilities, grounds, heavy equipment maintenance, wastewater treatment, environmental compliance and much more for NAS Whidbey Island, Smokey Point Naval Support Complex, and Naval Station Everett.

Skookum's mission is to provide jobs for Veterans. Over one third of their team are Veterans.



2



3



1. Skookum Contract Services Local 302 members complete a pre-trip inspection of a Vactor truck before leaving to clean out storm basins at NAS Whidbey; Left to right: Vince Edwards, Albert Hawkins, Nick Kaldy, Scott Sperry, and Shane Longozo
2. Local 302 member Andrew Gardner stands next to the pump truck he uses for hazardous material oil or fuel leak emergency clean up at NAS Whidbey
3. At the NAS Whidbey wastewater treatment plant Local 302 member Roger Byrn tests the water to make sure it has safe levels of oxygen and pH balance so can be released into the Pacific Ocean
4. Local 302 member Kevin Stonestreet, supervisor for the environmental department at NAS Whidbey, stands next to hazardous waste containers used to store waste prior to shipment off site for disposal
5. Local 302 member Dan Farage welding to modify a roll off dumpster at NAS Whidbey
6. NAS Whidbey mechanics fix all heavy equipment for the base from lawn-mowers to cranes, to Vactor trucks, and more; Left to right: Local 302 members Josh Carr, David Huff, Jason Laroue, Matt Denson, Cody Brock, and Mike Hammett



4



5



6



# DISTRICT REPORT

# 3

## Local 302 members: Let's keep our reputation strong to ensure privately funded projects

By Eric Arntson, District 3 Representative

**D**id you know approximately 60 percent of the construction work on the Olympic Peninsula is privately funded? The reality is non-union workers are usually cheaper to hire for private projects. This means Local 302 members must continue to prove themselves as the most skilled hands to get private jobs awarded to our union.

To do this each member must be dedicated to keeping up on certifications, taking courses at the training center during down time, and putting their best foot forward each day on the job. We also must support our apprentices out in the field as they are the future of Local 302.

As your District Representative I pledge to do my part, making it clear hiring union labor is the best way to ensure the job is completed efficiently, safely, and to the highest standards. With Local 302 you can count on:

**High-Quality Workmanship:** Union construction workers undergo rigorous training and apprenticeship programs, which means they bring a high level of skill and expertise to the job. These programs are often more comprehensive than non-union training. As a result, union workers are well-prepared to handle complex projects, ensuring the work is done correctly.

**Safety Standards:** Union training programs emphasize safety, which helps reduce the risk of accidents and injuries on the job. This protects workers and minimizes potential liabilities for the project owners.

**Reliability and Efficiency:** Union workers are known for their reliability and strong work ethic. Because they receive competitive wages and benefits, they are motivated to perform well and maintain their jobs. This often translates into higher productivity and efficiency on the job. Union workers are also part of a larger network, which can quickly supply additional labor if needed, ensuring that the project timeline is adhered to.

**Fair Wages and Benefits:** Hiring union workers ensures all employees receive fair wages and benefits, which is not only ethical but also promotes a stable workforce. Workers who are well-compensated are more likely to stay with a project from start to finish, reducing turnover and the associated costs of hiring and training new workers. This stability contributes to a smoother construction process and can help keep the project within budget.

Pictured above, Local 302 members move dirt at the Miles Resources project in Silverdale, Washington; this project is a great example of union private work; Local 302 hands are moving 1 million half yards of dirt for an upscale housing development; Miles Resources is putting 50 Local 302 hands to work with this project for approximately five years



# DISTRICT REPORT

# 4

## Welcome to Central Washington signatory contractor East Slope Earthworks

**E**stablished in 2019 by Krystal and Dustin Slimp, East Slope Earthworks is a family owned and operated excavation, marine, and environmental company based in Cle Elum and serving all of Washington state. They are a woman owned business with over 22 years of experience in heavy civil, marine, and upland excavation.

Let people in your network know of their services today.  
Welcome, East Slope Earthworks!



1. East Slope Earthworks team from left to right: Local 302 members Adam Bentz, Tyler Southworth, Zach Owen, Owner Krystal Slimp, General Manager Dustin Slimp, Kaylin Gray, and Timmy Legrande
2. The City of Pullman has contracted with East Slope Earthworks to construct a gravel trail from NW Canyon View Drive to NW Harrison Street; Local 302 operators lay down the base course for the gravel trail; Zach Owen operates the roller, Tyler Southworth operates the dozer, and Adam Bentz drives the truck
3. Local 302 operator Tyler Southworth grading and finishing the base course for the City of Pullman gravel trail from NW Canyon View Drive to NW Harrison Street





# DISTRICT REPORT

# 5

## Spokane County's Bigelow Gulch Corridor Safety and Mobility Project

1

**T**he Bigelow Gulch Corridor is an 8.2-mile rural road in Spokane County, Washington that provides a vital connection for regional goods and freight movement. Unfortunately, the corridor has a deadly crash history due to congestion, absence of passing lanes, poor sightlines, steep grades, and sharp curves.

The Bigelow Gulch Corridor Safety and Mobility Project will reconstruct and upgrade the corridor to a four-lane arterial. Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) fiber, cameras, signs and other components will be installed along the corridor, connecting to and supporting the

regional ITS systems. This nearly 30-year project started in 1997 and is expected to be complete in fall 2024.

This project has put many Local 302 members to work over the years. Currently, 14 Local 302 operating engineers are working to widen and straighten the road.

The corridor will serve to connect regional industries from northeast Spokane and east Spokane Valley, bypassing Interstate 90 through the congested downtown core. The project will improve safety and reliability of the existing corridor supporting the rapid-growing freight movements across the Inland Northwest.



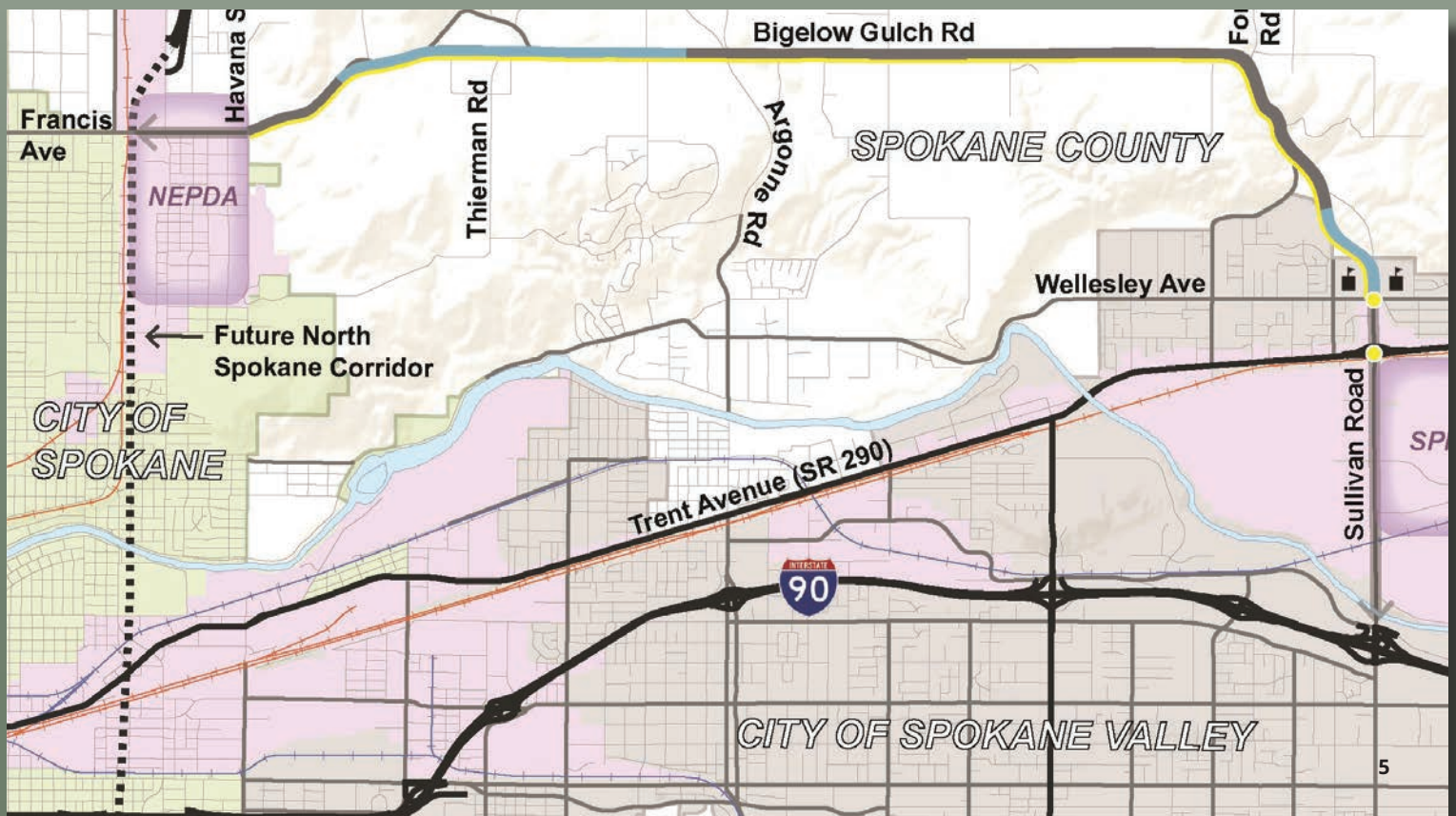
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1. Bigelow Gulch Corridor Safety and Mobility Project; Photo courtesy of Spokane County Public Works
2. Local 302 lead excavator operator Ben Carrol loads haul trucks with non-usable materials at the Bigelow Gulch Corridor Safety and Mobility project
3. Left to right: Local 302 members Wess Johnson, Mike Hamm, and Scott Bilte clean the radiator and try to remove the oil deposits from a failed oil cooler on a Caterpillar D10 dozer
4. Local 302 member Ben Armstrong compacts the west side of Bigelow Gulch Road preparing the base
5. Map courtesy of Spokane County Public Works






# DISTRICT REPORT

# 6



Site of where the Juneau Creek Bridge will be built as part of the Cooper Landing Bypass Project in Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska, about 100 miles south of Anchorage; photo courtesy of Vince Beltrami, Bean Creek Media

## Cooper Landing Bypass Project: Building Alaska's longest single-span bridge



Stream crossing and culvert installation for the Cooper Landing Bypass Project; photo courtesy of Vince Beltrami, Bean Creek Media



A project forty years in development, the Cooper Landing Bypass will build ten miles of new road north of Cooper Landing which is located on the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska, about 100 miles south of Anchorage.

This project will reconstruct existing road to widen shoulders and add passing lanes and wildlife crossings, and increase safety for drivers, pedestrians, and local animals. It will also improve access for residents and businesses, reduce risk to the Kenai River, and improve noise, air, and congestion in Cooper Landing.

Built in the 1940s, the highway as it exists today does not meet current design standards. The corners are too sharp and there are few to no shoulders to pull onto in case of emergency.

The project will be constructed in six phases. Construction began in 2020 and is expected to be completed by 2031, and open to traffic in 2032.

The Cooper Landing Bypass Project is a joint venture between Quality Asphalt and Paving (QAP) and Traylor Bros., Inc.

QAP currently employs around 50 Local 302 members on this project who are clearing the right of way, pioneering the road, placing the fill and drainage rock and culverts to maintain and protect the mountain streams that flow into Kenai Lake. Local 302 operators will per-

form the final grade paving once the project reaches stage. This is a challenging highway to build with more than one of the fills that are over 80 feet deep.

Traylor Bros., Inc. currently employs around eight Local 302 members on this project who are constructing the Juneau Creek Bridge which will be the longest single-span, and highest bridge in Alaska.

With a span of 928 feet and height of 285 feet the bridge will be the longest fully erected and launched bridge in the nation. It was developed through the Construction Manager/General Contractor, or CMGC, process with Quality Asphalt and Paving and Traylor Bros. Inc. which allowed the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to optimize the design.

To cantilever the bridge, the construction crew will build a hundred-foot-tall tower with cable stays tied to the ends of the bridge girders that will extend over the canyon.

Traffic analysts predict once the project is open, roughly 70 percent of traffic will use the bypass, making Cooper Landing less congested.

The project also includes five dedicated wildlife crossings, including the first wildlife overpass in the state of Alaska.

*More photos on the next page*



Map of the Cooper Landing Bypass Project courtesy of the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities



# DISTRICT 6 REPORT CONTINUED



Check out the Cooper Landing Bypass Project poster on page 20!

Quality Asphalt and Paving Local 302 excavator operators place a multi plate pipe on the Cooper Landing Bypass Project



Wildlife under-crossing; part of the Cooper Landing Bypass Project



Local 302 operators working for Traylor Bros. Inc. place crane mats to prepare for a pick at the Juneau Creek Bridge site for the Cooper Landing Bypass Project



# DISTRICT REPORT

# 7



An arctic sunrise from the perspective of a North Slope loader  
Local 302 operating engineer

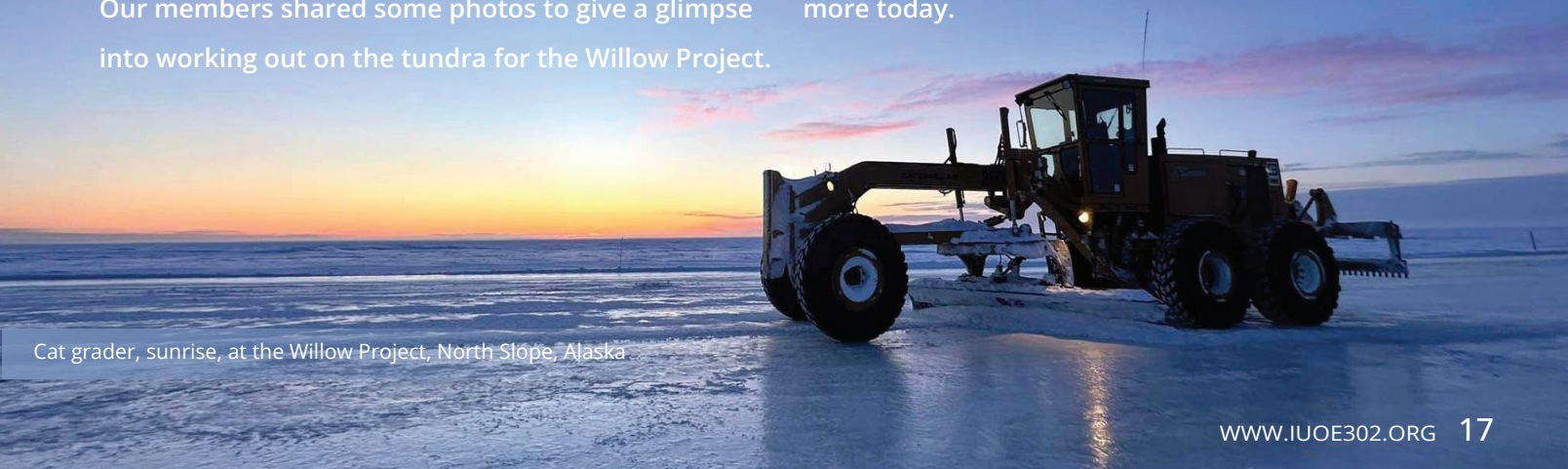
## Local 302 operators brave the elements at the Willow Project on Alaska's North Slope

**A**pproved by President Joe Biden as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Willow Project on Alaska's North Slope allows development of three oil drilling sites that will produce 180,000 barrels a day and has already put over 600 Local 302 members to work.

If you haven't been to the North Slope, it could be hard to imagine living and working in one of the world's most remote and challenging energy centers. Our members shared some photos to give a glimpse into working out on the tundra for the Willow Project.

Work is booming on the Slope and is expected to increase over the next 5-10 years not only for oil production, but maintenance of the roads that connect this vast area. There is a high demand for operators with skills of all types including NCCCO crane, side boom/Volvo pipelayers, Watson drillers, mechanics and service oilers, blade, excavator, and loader.

Local 302 is actively recruiting operators to fill these roles. Reach out to your field representative to learn more today.



Cat grader, sunrise, at the Willow Project, North Slope, Alaska



# DISTRICT 7 REPORT CONTINUED



Nanuq, Inc. trimmer prepping for Willow Project ice road construction on Alaska's North Slope



Nanuq, Inc. using an excavator to stage pipe for the Willow Project on Alaska's North Slope



# DISTRICT REPORT

# 8



Enjoying retirement, 50-year Local 302 member Ron Baxter and his son Corey Baxter, 28-year Local 302 member and District 8 Representative just upgraded to a 2018 23' Thunder Jet boat to use for deer hunting and trips to the cabin on Horse Island

## Getting ready for retirement

By Corey Baxter, District 8 Representative

**A**re you approaching retirement, or do you know someone who is? Some people plan years in advance for this life milestone, and others find it hard to think about the future.

Retirement anxiety is a common concern for Local 302 members. Feeling apprehensive about the financial, social, and personal adjustments that come with this transition is natural. As a second generation Local 302 member, I've learned a lot from my father, Ron Baxter who just celebrated 50 years of IUOE membership. Here are some tips for retirement:

**Financial Preparation:** Make sure you take the time to choose the correct financial plan and understand your financial situation post-retirement. Reach out to the Welfare & Pension Administration Service pension department with any questions you have.

**Explore Post-Retirement Options:** Embrace the opportunity to consider part-time work, volunteering, or pursuing hobbies to maintain a sense of purpose and structure. Go enjoy a well-deserved vacation.

**Social Support:** Stay connected with fellow members and retirees from Local 302 to build a robust support network and gain valuable insights from those who have already experienced retirement. Don't forget, we love seeing our retirees at monthly district meetings! Get involved in social groups in your community, and if there's a hobby you enjoy, join an organization that focuses on that hobby.

**Mental and Emotional Wellbeing:** Take proactive steps for your mental health during this transition. Focus on the positive aspects of retirement and seek out resources or professionals if you are experiencing heightened anxiety or stress.

**Plan for Health and Wellness:** Prioritize your physical health and consider pursuing activities or exercises to support your well-being during retirement.

Remember, many individuals experience retirement anxiety, and it's important to approach this transition with confidence and self-compassion. Seek support from your family or co-workers. You deserve a great retirement after working as an IUOE Local 302 member for many years.





**OPERATING  
ENGINEERS**  
LOCAL 302





COOPER LANDING  
BYPASS PROJECT ON  
THE KENAI PENINSULA  
BOROUGH, ALASKA

Photo courtesy of Vince Beltrami,  
Bean Creek Media



# DISTRICT REPORT

# 286

Local 302  
members  
make the City  
of Buckley,  
Washington a  
great place to  
live and work



**B**uckley is a charming city in Pierce County, Washington, founded in 1882. It sits below the majestic Mount Rainier and is known for hosting an annual log show.

With a population of 5,114 as of the 2020 census, Buckley offers a close-knit small-town feel while being close enough to the urban centers of Puget Sound to provide the best of both worlds. The community enjoys natural beauty and a welcoming atmosphere.

Local 302 is proud to represent 23 members who work for the Utility Department, Public Works Department, and clerical staff at City Hall and help make this city a great place to live and work.

Photo above left to right: Buckley City Hall Local 302 members Kylie Soler, finance assistant, Jessica Clark, deputy city clerk, and Michelle Wagner, finance assistant, stand in front of Buckley City Hall

Photo to the right: Local 302 member Ken Sutphin, community service officer







1



2

1. Local 302 member Ricky Rice works for the Public Works Department; here Ricky is picking up gravel to grade the city alleyways

2. Local 302 member Jim Doty is the Waste Water Treatment Plant manager; here he tests the water quality



3

3. On the left, Local 302 member Zach Lacy works for the Parks and Recreation Department; here he's helping set up a stage with seasonal help for the summer "Tunes on the Trail" concerts



4

4. Local 302 member and permit technician Charity Rohner

5. Local 302 member and mechanic Ron Summers fixing a brush cutter that's used to mow city ditches



5



# TRAINING CENTER UPDATES

## ELLENSBURG, WA TRAINING CENTER

Thanks to all who attended the annual Top Hand Competition June 22, 2024 at the Operating Engineers Regional Training Center in Ellensburg, Washington. Congratulations to the Top Hand winners!

## 2024 TOP HAND COMPETITION



Top Hands (left to right): Anthony Taylor, Todd Sprague, Jason Hurd, Darren Lewis, Jake LaVergne, Derek Lopez, Mark Foreman, Pat Beavers, Jon Mayerl, Matt Parker, Duncan Harkness

This is a great family friendly event with food, music, and fun events for the kids too. We look forward to seeing you there next year!

### Backhoe

1st: Duncan Harkness  
2nd: Mark Foreman  
3rd: Tim Perry

### Excavator

1st: Jon Mayerl  
2nd: Mark Foreman  
3rd: Jake LaVergne

### Dozer

1st: Jake LaVergne  
2nd: Ladd Wikander  
3rd: Mark Foreman

### Blade

1st: Duncan Harkness  
2nd: Darren Lewis  
3rd: Derek Lopez

### Loader

1st: Dakota Rust  
2nd: Matt Parker  
3rd: Jason Carlson

### Truck & Trailer

1st: Todd Sprague  
2nd: Anthony Taylor  
3rd: Jason Hurd

### Forklift

1st: Jake LaVergne  
2nd: Pat Beavers  
3rd: Dakota Rust

### Hydraulic Crane

1st: Anthony Taylor  
2nd: Jake LaVergne  
3rd: Curtis Murray

### Lattice Crane

1st: Pat Beavers  
2nd: Jake LaVergne  
3rd: Jason Hurd











The second half of the entry-level Spangle, Washington Operating Engineers Regional Training Program students in training from left to right: Everett Callihan, Ivan Cochran, Dalton Brown (sitting down), Deshaun Singleton, John Conrad, Travis Shands, Riley Meaders, Jonathan Fitch, and Chris Salinas



Entry Level Training Spangle, Washington apprentice Everett Callihan operates a front end loader



Entry Level Training Spangle, Washington apprentice Travis Shands operates an excavator





## APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

FREE TRAINING and a GREAT CAREER

**Heavy Equipment Operator  
and Service Oiler**  
applications available  
September 1 - 17, 2024

**Heavy Duty Mechanic**  
applications open  
year-round



Visit <https://aoeett.org/> or call 907-746-3117



Apprentice Steven Sparks in Doyon's Watson drill at Santos' Pikka project on the North Slope; Steven is drilling holes for Vertical Support Members (VSM); pipe is elevated instead of buried because the pipe would thaw the permanently frozen soils of the tundra; photo courtesy of Local 302 member Benjamin Johnson



Apprentice John Spelta running a skid steer for the Richardson Highway Project in Alaska for Granite Construction



### Customized training is available for stationary units — just ask your field representative

Did you know customized training is available for Local 302 stationary units?

Our union members take a lot of pride in being highly skilled, and this is a great example of our union's ability to support your success.

Let your field representative know what training your team is interested in.



Left to right: Local 302 Field Representative Dean Stoneburner, Local 302 CBRE Apple members Justin Verlinda, Kevin Brady, Lucas Husman, Tim Miller, Paul Huttner, and Local 302 Field Representative Larry Kratz at scissor lift training

### Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust takes CBRE Apple members to new heights

Often stationary operating engineers must use ladders to get their work done, and knowing how to operate a scissor lift allows members to accomplish bigger projects quickly. Previously CBRE Apple was paying for scissor lift training at approximately \$3,000 per session. Local 302 Field Representatives connected with the Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust who provided the training and certificates at no cost to the employer. It's also a big financial benefit to the employer to have projects requiring a scissor lift completed in house by skilled Local 302 operating engineers versus contracting the work out to a vendor.



Local 302 Field Representative Dean Stoneburner looks on as CBRE Apple member Justin Verlinda works through a basic operating system demonstration of a scissor lift



### Congratulations to our stationary engineers for completing the 4-year apprenticeship!

Photo to the left: Nick Fioretti, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Photo to the right: Humam Mohsin, Port of Seattle



# FROM THE DESK OF THE DISPATCHERS

**Washington Members: If applying for unemployment, it's CRITICAL to apply correctly so you don't owe money back**

- Always ensure you're on the Local 302 Out of Work List as soon as you leave employment, and your membership dues are in good standing.
- Choose "regular layoff" as opposed to the "stand-by" option. If you are at the training center do not check you are in "school".
- Always check the "union shop" training option and that you are available for work.

For more tips on Washington unemployment scan this QR code:



**All Members: Ensure your contact and qualifications are up to date with Local 302**

- It's part of each member's responsibility to ensure your mailing address and phone number are up to date with Local 302. If we can't get ahold of you, we can't dispatch you out to jobs.
- Ensure your qualifications are always up to date, and they're reported to Local 302. If your qualifications are expired, we can't dispatch you out to jobs.
- It's very important to re-register for the Out of Work List well in advance of when your registration expires. If you re-register late, you'll get dropped off the list. TIP: If registered for 90 days, re-register every 60 days.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## LARRY KRATZ

STATIONARY ENGINEER

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

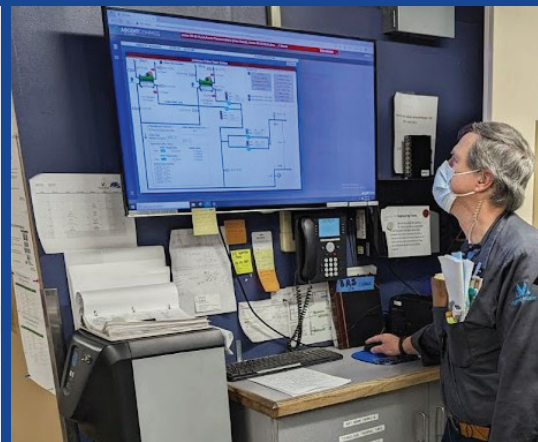


Photo top left: Virginia Mason Hospital Engineer Appreciation Week 1989; top right: Virginia Mason Hospital building automation system; bottom left: In the Virginia Mason Hospital shop; bottom right: grandpa and grandson Orion union strong

### Why did you join IUOE Local 302? How long have you been a member?

When I started at Virginia Mason Hospital in 1978, the chief engineer was Tom Rowen, who had been union his whole working life. But back then, the chief was considered management and had to withdraw from the union. Tom told me, "Larry, you need to keep this shop union strong if you want a fair deal from management." Tom was one of the people I admired most, and I've been union ever since.

### What are your favorite things about being a union member?

The feeling of camaraderie and a sense of shared

goals; that we all want to work in a safe, positive, and happy environment doing quality work that matters while being fairly compensated. Additionally, the union makes it possible to learn new skills through continuing education. Union members call one another brothers and sisters for a reason — it can be like family.

### What's your current job and what do you enjoy about it?

I retired in July 2024, but over the past 46 years I enjoyed seeing Virginia Mason grow from one building to a multi-block campus. It's been great working with an exceptional crew, accomplishing our shared goal of organizing a closed shop, and serving as both shop steward and chief engi-

neer when, back in the day, the chief couldn't belong to the union. I am forever proud of our union members for keeping the medical center running throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. They were everyday heroes.

### What are the top things you wish you would've known when you started your career?

I wish I would have realized how much I could — and would! — learn from those "old-timers" when I started. Looking back, I realize how powerful on-the-job experience is, and I wish I would have taken advantage of all that collective knowledge. One day in my first few weeks on the job, one of the veterans needed to weld

a broken frame. He asked if I knew how to weld, and when I said no, he said, "Come on, I'll show you."

### What advice would you give to people considering a career in the trades?

Look for the work and the workplace that makes you happy, find the fun, and follow your dreams. Find the best in your co-workers, ask them to share their knowledge, share yours whenever you can, and always look for the good. Don't be afraid to try new things, take advantage of union classes and training, and always stay union strong.

*Is there a Local 302 member you think we should feature in the Loadline? Email mainoffice@iuoe302.org.*





**OPERATING  
ENGINEERS**  
LOCAL 302

# WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST SIGNATORY CONTRACTORS!

- **VECTOR SERVICES** serving Western Washington
- **FLOWLINE** serving Western Washington
- **J.P. HOGAN CORING & SAWING CORP** serving Western Washington
- **EARTHWORK SOLUTIONS** serving Western Washington
- **EAST SLOPE EARTHWORKS** serving Western and Eastern Washington, and Northern Idaho
- **PROSPECT CONSTRUCTION** serving Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho
- **HASKELL CORPORATION** serving Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho
- **TRINITY LAND SURVEYING** serving Southern Idaho

SUPPORT UNION AND DO BUSINESS WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS TODAY.

Interested in becoming signatory with Local 302? Improve your bottom line: have access to a skilled and trained workforce which improves your overall market share. Call us today to learn more: (425) 806-0302



# FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IUOE LOCAL 302! THE UNION THAT KEEPS ON GROWING



Bucyrus Steam Shovel

On August 6, 1905, IUOE Local 302 began with a grand total of 29 members and has been growing ever since.

- In 1914, Local 302 employed its first full-time union representative.
- In 1917, Local 302 purchased its first car, a Model T Ford for \$417.
- In 1933, Local 302 expanded its jurisdiction as far east as Montana.
- In 1937, Local 302 further expanded its jurisdiction to include the State of Alaska.

Recently, under the leadership of Business Manager and First International Vice President Daren Konopaski, Local 302 has undergone an unprecedented era of growth.

- In 2016, Local 370, a construction Local representing workers in eastern Washington and Idaho merged into Local 302.
- In 2019, Local 286, a stationary local representing workers in Puget Sound merged into Local 302.
- In 2021, Local 609, a stationary local representing workers employed by Seattle Public Schools merged into Local 302.

## THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TO THE SHINE AND SHOW EVENT AT THE BOTHELL HALL

Local 302 members, their family, and friends enjoyed a BBQ, raffle prizes, and 40 vehicles on display.





## CLAYS CHARITY SHOOT — FUNDS RAISED ALMOST TRIPLED FOR CHARITY

Thanks to all our business partners and the organizations who sponsored the 9th annual Clays Charity Shoot! Through their generous support we got close to **TRIPLING** last year's money raised for charity with **\$38,472 total!**

We're proud to provide \$12,824 to EACH of the following charities: Local 302 Hope Fund, Sunrise for Children, and the Puget Sound Labor Agency Food Bank.

Team Sponsors:  
Siguler Guff,  
Entrust Global,  
GCM Grosvenor;  
Local 302 Field  
Representative  
Oumar Diallo,  
second from the  
left, and President/District  
Representative  
Sean Jeffries on  
the right



Team Sponsor:  
Welfare  
and Pension  
Administration  
Services  
(WPAS)



## WASHINGTON STATE PASSES THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

*This new law will be very helpful for organizing campaigns in Washington state*

Washington became the sixth state to implement legislation prohibiting employers from requiring employee attendance at meetings with the primary purpose of communicating the employer's opinion concerning religious or political matters.

The new law prohibits employers from disciplining or firing employees who refuse to attend "captive audience" meetings, which employers often use as a union-busting tactic.

The Employee Free Choice Act allows an employee to

keep working at their job rather than attend a "mandatory" meeting on political or religious matters. If an employer violates the law, an aggrieved employee may bring civil action within 90 days of the alleged violation.

The court may award a prevailing employee all appropriate relief, including injunctive relief, reinstatement, back pay and reestablishment of benefits, and any other appropriate relief considered necessary by the court.

Employers must post a notice of employee rights under the bill in a place normally reserved for employment-related notices and in a place commonly frequented by employees. The law became effective June 6, 2024.



# LOCAL 302 ACHIEVEMENTS

## MEMBER AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



**Congratulations to long time Local 302 member Vickie Brown for making the front cover of the June 2024 Alaska Economic Trends magazine published by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development!**

Women make up just 14 percent of Alaska's construction workers, and as demand for construction labor rises, hiring more women could help broaden the worker pool.



**We're proud of Local 302 member Misty Buckles, City of Fairbanks, Alaska mechanic who has been recognized by the Fairbanks Firefighters Union.**

Misty has been with the City of Fairbanks for 3.5 years and plays a vital role in keeping the ambulances and fire apparatus on the road in safe, working condition.



# HEALTH & WELFARE

## TIPS FROM THE WELFARE & PENSION ADMINISTRATION SERVICE, INC. (WPAS)

### ARE YOU A LOCAL 302 MEMBER WHO IS PART OF THE HEALTH & WELFARE AND PENSION PLAN ADMINISTERED BY THE WELFARE AND PENSION ADMINISTRATION SERVICE (WPAS)?

Get your questions answered by visiting the mobile friendly websites at:

- [www.engineerstrust.com](http://www.engineerstrust.com) (Western Washington and Alaska)
- [www.wa-idengineerstrustfunds.com](http://www.wa-idengineerstrustfunds.com) (Eastern Washington and Idaho)

You can view Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), enrollment forms, plan summary booklets, and other helpful information. Also, create an

account and password to access personal benefits and more!

### THROUGH THE WEBSITES MEMBERS CAN VERIFY:

- **Personal Information** — Ensure your current address, phone numbers, email, birth-date etc. are on file. WPAS mails updates regarding health/welfare/pension so it's particularly important to have your correct address on file.
- **Eligibility Information** — Do you have current eligibility? What is your current dollar bank and months of runout? Are all

your dependents listed on your insurance?

- **Hours and Contributions** — What hours are being reported to the plan on your behalf? Who reported those hours?
- **Retirement** — What is your normal retirement benefit amount? How many years and hours have you accrued towards your retirement?
- **Beneficiary** — Is your beneficiary current for your health and welfare and your pension?
- **Claims Paid** — You can view all your paid medical claims

### ENSURE YOUR CONTACT AND BENEFICIARY INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE WITH THE WELFARE AND PENSION ADMINISTRATION SERVICE (WPAS)

WPAS serves many members through the entirety of their Local 302 career, so it's no surprise there are changes throughout that time. People move, get married, have kids, and so on.

One of the most important things members can do is keep their contact and beneficiary information up to date with WPAS.

Given we mail most of their updates, you'll always need a correct mailing address on file. And having the correct beneficiary makes sure your pension goes to the person you intend now, not someone listed 20 years ago who's no longer in your life.

- **To update your contact information:** Fill out a new enrollment/beneficiary form and submit the request to the administration office via mail or email the form to [enrollment@wpas-inc.com](mailto:enrollment@wpas-inc.com)
- **To update your beneficiary information:** Fill out a new enrollment/benefi-

ciary form and submit the request via mail or email the form to [enrollment@wpas-inc.com](mailto:enrollment@wpas-inc.com)

The enrollment/beneficiary form can be found on the WPAS websites.

Important: Please complete the enrollment/beneficiary form in its entirety, listing all eligible dependents (spouse and/or children) and current beneficiary. This form will replace any other enrollment/beneficiary form on file at the WPAS office.



# SAFETY FIRST

## Prevent heat stroke and heat exhaustion on the job site

An estimated 2,302 heat-related deaths were recorded in the United States in 2023, up from 1,722 in 2022, and 1,602 in 2021. An average of 33 heat-related workplace deaths and 3,389 injuries and illnesses occurred each year from 1992 to 2020, although the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said those numbers are “likely vast underestimates”.

Activity in the construction industry is very high during summer, and working under extreme heat can be dangerous. It's important to understand heat risks, and the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe.

The two most significant summer risks for construction workers are heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Both conditions can have severe consequences if left unattended. It's important for members to know the symptoms and signs for each case, and how to react.

### Heat Stroke

Heat stroke occurs when the body has overheated to a point where it is unable to cool down by itself. If heat stroke is not treated on time, it can cause damage to the brain, kidneys, and heart, even leading to death in severe cases. The main symptoms are confusion, fever, nausea, vomiting, red skin, rapid heart rate, and headaches.

### Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion is a less extreme version of heat stroke. It also happens when the body overheats, but the symptoms are less severe. Heat exhaustion can

turn into heat stroke if untreated. The main symptoms are intense sweating, goosebumps, cool skin, fatigue, pulse alteration, nausea, headache, and low blood pressure.

These top summer safety practices can help keep construction workers safe when the heat is intense:

- **Avoid long periods of work in direct midday sunshine.** If possible, complete portions of work that must be performed out in the open early or late in the day.
- **Stay hydrated.** Do not wait until thirst sets in to drink fluids, drink them regularly throughout the day. Avoid caffeinated and sugary beverages as they can add to dehydration. Instead, focus on mainly drinking water.
- **Eat smart.** Eating a heavy meal can make the body sluggish, especially in the heat. Instead, try to choose a lighter and healthier option for lunch to keep you energized throughout the afternoon. In addition, salty snacks throughout the day can help to replenish sodium lost through sweat.
- **Wear sunscreen and lightweight breathable clothing, in lighter colors, and a hat.** Not only will this protect your skin from the sun's ultraviolet rays but it will also help keep your body temperature down.
- **Take regular breaks, preferably in shaded areas.** While resting, use that time to drink water, eat a small snack, and reapply sunscreen.
- **Be aware of signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.** If after excessive sweating you begin to feel dizzy, nauseous, confused or disoriented, have slurred speech, get a throbbing heading or worse, or you suddenly stop sweating altogether, you need to hydrate immediately. If you recognize these symptoms in yourself or anyone else, get immediate medical attention, as this can result in death or disability.



# Congratulations to stationary member, and previous field representative, Brian Beaudry-Council on his retirement after 41 years of service!

It's not uncommon to hear members start on a different career path, but once discovering the vast opportunities available through stationary engineering, they're hooked. Recently retired 41-year stationary engineer member Brian Beaudry-Council is a great example of this.

## ***Discovering stationary engineering***

Brian started studying legal assisting and business administration at community college, then took a summer job taking care of a community center in Seattle. A steam license was required to operate the 1930 horizontal return tube boilers (HRT), so he took the course, and was quickly drawn to the variety of work stationary engineering offered.

"I found it fascinating to work with so many pieces of equipment, troubleshooting, and seeing them come alive again," said Brian. "It was especially cool if the equipment hadn't run for a long time. For example, I helped replace the tubes and refractory to one of our HRT boilers along with installing a new dual-fired burner. We also rebuilt all the steam traps, auxiliary steam equipment, as well as all the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning components."

Brian joined Local 286 in 1983 and his career and training grew including studying at local community and technical colleges, the University of Washington School of Engineering, and under Peter Zandee, at "The Zandee School of Engineering", who was regarded as one of the best stationary engineering instructors.

## ***From stationary engineer to field representative and back***

After serving as a steward at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Brian was offered the position of field representative for Local 286, a position he held from October 1, 1993 to October 31, 2003.

With Jan Pelroy as the business manager, international vice president, and mentor, Brian primarily represented hospitals, industrial companies, and the public sector, and got to work with some of the best field representatives around.

"It was such a fun, and challenging role," said Brian. "It was eye opening to see how much work field representatives do behind the scenes like grievances, arbitrations, and contract negotiations. As a stationary member, I had no idea how much preparation and research field representatives did. They also work nights and weekends depending on their members' schedules and which contracts are up for negotiations."

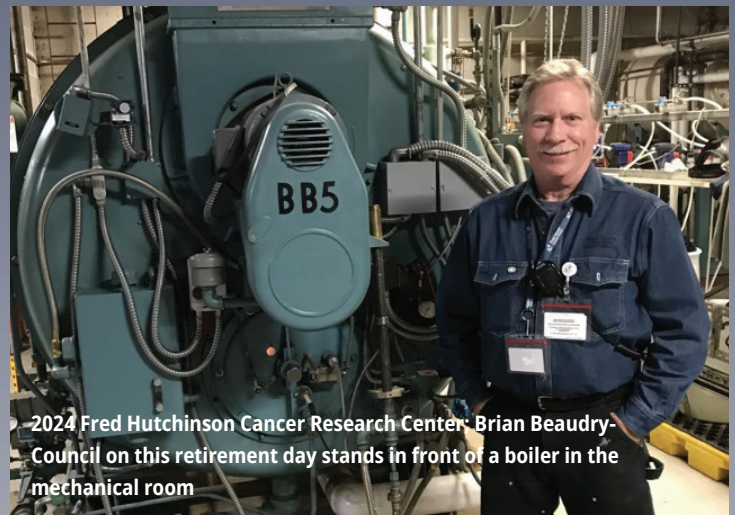
After 10 years as a field representative, the last two years also serving as president of Local 286, Brian decided it was time to return to the tools and spent the remainder of his career as an operating engineer 1 at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center from 2004 until he retired in February 2024.

*Note: Local 286 merged with Local 302 in 2019*

*Is there a retiree you'd like to recognize in the Loadline? Email [mainoffice@iuoe302.org](mailto:mainoffice@iuoe302.org).*



1993 Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center: on the left Brian Beaudry-Council and Lawrence Cleverdon atop boiler 5 washing down the internals and performing annual maintenance; the steam boilers provide process steam for sterilization, humidification, kitchen and laboratory equipment, lab, and domestic hot water



2024 Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center: Brian Beaudry-Council on this retirement day stands in front of a boiler in the mechanical room



# CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

MAY - JUNE 2024

BRUCE HUNTINGFORD - PORT LUDLOW, WA  
BRUCE ENGLE - SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA  
CARL RIZZO - RENTON, WA  
CURTIS DANA - SANDPOINT, ID  
DALE MININGER - BUCKLEY, WA  
DAVID HERRIN - KIRKLAND, WA  
DAVID MUSE - AUBURN, WA  
DONALD CLARK - EVERETT, WA  
EARNEST SNOWDEN - SNOHOMISH, WA  
GALEN KINDLE - KAPOWSIN, WA  
GARRY SCOTT - BUCKLEY, WA  
GUY FAUSSETT - SNOHOMISH, WA

HERBERT MCCORD - HOODSPORT, WA  
JACK LAMONT - EASTON, WA  
JAMES HAGEN - ROSS, ND  
JON SCHELDROP - ARLINGTON, WA  
KENNETH BRUCE - ENUMCLAW, WA  
LARRY PETERS - EDMONDS, WA  
LYLE SPARKS - COVINGTON, WA  
MARK DAVIS - CLEAR, AK  
MICHAEL PERYAM - WASILLA, AK  
MICHAEL DESROSIER - TONASKET, WA  
MIKE NICHOLAS - BUCKLEY, WA  
PATRICIA KINDY - DELTA JUNCTION, AK

RICHARD RONEY - EVERETT, WA  
RICHARD WILLIAMS - NORTH POLE, AK  
ROBERT WRIGHT - FAIRBANKS, AK  
RON JOHNSON - ANCHORAGE, AK  
RONALD AMMONS - SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA  
SAMUEL LOWDERMILK - WASILLA, AK  
STACEY HERRELL - WASILLA, AK  
STAN RATLIFF - WASILLA, AK  
TIM BAKER - BREMERTON, WA  
TIMOTHY MATHEWS - WAITSBURG, WA  
TODD WICKLUND - CLE ELUM, WA  
WILLIAM VANDERVOORDE - TROY, MT

LOCAL 302

## IN MEMORIAM — MAY - JUNE 2024

IUOE LOCAL 302 MOURNS THE PASSING OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS

ALEX SEWARD - TEMPLE, OK  
BOB MC CARTY - SAMMAMISH, WA  
CHRISTOPHER PEDERSEN - RENTON, WA  
DARROL SCHEFFER - FRIDAY HARBOR, WA  
DAVID HEFTY - SWEET HOME, OR  
DELBERT JUREY SR - PUYALLUP, WA  
DEWEY CHURLIN - EVERETT, WA  
FRANK JACKSON - OROVILLE, WA  
FREDERICK FLOWERS - L'ANCIENNE-LORETTE, QC  
GERALD GADD - TACOMA, WA  
GERALD DICKINSON - HEMET, CA  
GLENN UJIOKA - CORDOVA, AK

GREG LEADER - WASILLA, AK  
GREGORY BENNETT - RATHDRUM, ID  
JACKIE WEST - DEER PARK, WA  
LOUIS WATKINS - GRANDVIEW, WA  
MICHAEL CAMERON - SUMRALL, MS  
PAUL PADEN - FAIRBANKS, AK  
RICHARD BROOKFIELD - SPOKANE, WA  
ROMAN CHYKALYUK - PUYALLUP, WA  
ROSIE SILOS - SEATTLE, WA  
STEVE SEDGWICK - TUKWILA, WA  
THOMAS BROWN - HOMER, AK  
TOBY RICHARDSON - SUMNER, WA





# TRAINING CENTERS

## ELLENSBURG, WA TRAINING CENTER

[www.oetraining.com](http://www.oetraining.com) | 509-968-3203

## SPANGLE, WA TRAINING CENTER

[www.wsopen.org](http://www.wsopen.org) | 509-235-9393

## PALMER, AK TRAINING CENTER

<https://aoeett.org> | 907-746-3117

## AUBURN, WA STATIONARY TRAINING PROGRAM

[www.IUOE302.org](http://www.IUOE302.org) | 253-351-0184

## CALENDAR

### DISTRICT MEETINGS

ALL MEETINGS CONVENE AT 7 P.M.

#### DISTRICT 1 – BOTHELL

1st Thursday of each month  
Union Hall, 18701 120th Ave NE

#### DISTRICT 2 – BELLINGHAM

3rd Thursday of each month  
1700 North State St

#### DISTRICT 3 – HOQUIAM

2nd Thursday of each month  
Elks Club, 624 K St

#### DISTRICT 3 – SILVERDALE

3rd Wednesday of each month  
Union Hall, 3525  
NW Anderson Hill Rd

#### DISTRICT 3 – PORT ANGELES

3rd Thursday of each month  
Eagles Hall Aerie No. 483,  
2843 E Myrtle St

#### DISTRICT 4 – WENATCHEE

2nd Thursday of each month  
Veterans Hall,  
1206 N Wenatchee Ave

#### DISTRICT 4 – ELLENSBURG

2nd Wednesday of each month  
Union Hall, 403 S Water St

#### DISTRICT 5 – BOISE

4th Tuesday of each month  
IBEW Hall, 225 N 16th St

#### DISTRICT 5 – LEWISTON

2nd Wednesday of each month  
Central Labor Council,  
1618 Idaho St Suite 102

#### DISTRICT 5 – POCATELLO

4th Wednesday of each month  
Labor Temple, 456 N Arthur St

#### DISTRICT 5 – SPOKANE

2nd Monday of each month  
Union Hall, 510 S Elm St

#### DISTRICT 5 – KENNEWICK

2nd Tuesday of each month  
Union Hall, 2637 W Albany Ave

#### DISTRICT 6 – ANCHORAGE

4th Thursday of each month  
Union Hall, 4001 Denali St

#### DISTRICT 7 – FAIRBANKS

4th Wednesday of each month  
Union Hall, 3002 Lathrop St

#### DISTRICT 8 – JUNEAU

4th Tuesday of each month  
Union Hall, 9309 Glacier Hwy,  
Suite A-105

#### DISTRICT 286 – AUBURN

2nd Tuesday of each month  
Union Hall, 18 E St SW

## SEPTEMBER

2 Labor Day

1 - 17 Alaska Training Applications  
Pacific Health Coalition Fairs

## OCTOBER

Pacific Health Coalition Fairs

## NOVEMBER

5 General Election

11 Veterans Day







## INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 302

Daren Konopaski, Business Manager and First International Vice President  
18701 120th Avenue NE Bothell, Washington 98011-9514

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**A UNION BUILT ON SAFETY,  
RESPECT, AND SOLIDARITY**



Local 302 member Benjamin Johnson in a Cat 14 G maintaining Cruz Construction's Badami Ice Roads for mass excavation on Alaska's North Slope — check out the story on page 17

