Ballots mailed April 10

Tech members voting on contract offer

Ballots were mailed April 10 to members in the Technical Bargaining Unit to vote on the proposed contract amendment and extension with The Boeing Company. For those in the Tech bargaining unit who have not received a ballot by Monday, April 20, they can email terryh@speea.org for a replacement ballot (email only).

Replacement ballot requests need:
- First and last name
- BEMS ID
- Email address

Tech contract ballots are due at the SPEEA Post Office Box by 5 p.m., Monday, April 27. Due to the closure of the SPEEA Halls, there are no ballot boxes available for in-person delivery. Tellers begin counting ballots on Monday, April 27.

Contract information

The negotiations page at www.speea.org (drop-down menu: Bargaining Units/Current Negotiations) includes a presentation video of the contract offer. The highlight sheet and the redline showing the proposed changes to the contract are also posted.

Workplace safety is top priority as Boeing calls workers back

As members return to work at The Boeing Company, SPEEA reminds employees to remain focused on personal and workplace safety. The work on Boeing programs is important, but not nearly as important as the health and safety of ourselves, our co-workers and our families.

The company has assured SPEEA that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be supplied to employees. Additionally, distancing guidelines are in place to keep employees more than six feet apart. It is vital everyone use PPEs and follow the distancing guidelines. If PPEs are not available or distancing is not being followed, immediately report the lapse to management AND to your SPEEA Council Rep and/or the SPEEA office.

While we certainly hope all safety precautions are in place, experience tells us lapses will occur. This is human nature. The faster these lapses are reported and corrected, the safer the workplace becomes. The last thing Boeing and its employees need at this difficult time is a COVID-19 crisis created by someone not wearing proper PPEs or not following distancing guidelines.

SPEEA monitoring implementation of Spirit shortened workweek

WICHITA – With SPEEA-represented employees on a four-day workweek as of April 10 at Spirit AeroSystems, SPEEA is working with the company and carefully monitoring the situation to ensure our contracts are followed.

The shortened week brings with it a corresponding 20% impact on salaries. As was the case last summer, employees on military and defense programs are not on a shortened workweek.

Spirit emphasized the reduced workweek is temporary and necessary due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The company said this warrants the use of the Exceptions to Forgoing Procedures (Section 7.7). Use of this section is only allowed one time during the duration of the contract.

Last summer’s four-day workweek used Shortened Workweek (Section 7.6). SPEEA contracts restrict the company from using Shortened Workweek to one time in a 12-month period.

SPEEA and Spirit have reached out to the Kansas Department of Labor regarding the use of partial unemployment benefits to help make up for the lost work hours. SPEEA will follow up when an answer is received.

Monitoring

SPEEA will monitor the implementation of the shortened workweek and its impact on represented employees to ensure compliance with our contracts and agreements with Spirit.

See the SPEEA Wichita Engineering Unit (WEU) and the SPEEA Wichita Technical and Professional Unit (WTPU) contracts online at www.speea.org (drop-down menu: Bargaining Units/Contracts).

Stay informed

For the latest news and updates, go to www.speea.org.

Nurses’ union contract – P2  Apply for STEM grant – P3  Spirit open enrollment – P4
Resources for employees facing income loss during Boeing’s suspended operations

While SPEEA offices are closed, staff continues to work with Boeing and our publicly elected officials to push for additional resources to help impacted employees during Boeing’s partial shutdown.

For the SPEEA members who cannot work from home during the suspension of operations, SPEEA sent an email with information and links to resources on unemployment insurance benefits to help support affected members and their families.

Unemployment Insurance benefits

Boeing employees who are not able to work remotely and are not deemed an essential employee are eligible to apply for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits through the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD).

Individuals collecting UI during the extended suspension of operation will continue to receive benefits from Boeing, including medical insurance coverage.

Workplace safety is top priority as Boeing calls workers back

Help with workplace issues

While SPEEA offices remain closed, contract administrators and staff are working remotely to help with workplace issues and assist members.

In particular, SPEEA contract administrators will be following any safety issues that develop and immediately working them to help ensure SPEEA-represented employees and all Boeing employees who return to work have all the protective equipment they need, and the workplace environment is safe.

New information and updates will be posted on the SPEEA website.

Look for links for contact information at www.speea.org.

• Find your Council Rep
• SPEEA staff phone numbers

You can also email speea@speea.org. This email account is monitored, and messages are forwarded.

SEIU 1199NW members approve contract

Health care staff at Swedish Medical Center voted overwhelmingly to approve a contract April 6. The nurses and other staff, including counselors and social workers, are represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1199NW. Contentious negotiations led the union to rally members and the community for informational pickets and marches. Shown here Jan. 29, are SPEEA Area Rep Evan Wipf, left, and another community supporter, Doug Davis, and his son in Edmonds. The health care workers’ new contract addresses key issues related to wages, increased staffing levels and increased emphasis on safety in the workplace as well as benefits, recruitment, retention and other issues.

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Workplace safety is top priority as Boeing calls workers back

continued from page 1
Instructor switches in-person class to virtual

Peng Ho, a SPEEA member and Subject Matter Expert, is already thinking about what he can do better the next time he teaches a Python computer programming class for Ed Wells Partnership.

When he planned this course for March in Renton and April in Everett, he expected to teach in person to about 20 students at each site.

With shelter-in-place rules due to the coronavirus, he pivoted to teaching the course through Webex Training Center. His student list went from a total of 40 to about 90, including those on a waiting list.

“It offers an opportunity to break away from the traditional way of doing things,” he said. If he teaches this course online again, he’s considering setting up ‘office hours’ for the participants to ask questions in between the three weekly Saturday classes.

Ho, an engineer in propulsion technology, first taught the course as a one-day class for Boeing’s Propulsion University in 2018. He went to Ed Wells to bring the course to more engineers and has taught it twice last year.

His 30 years of experience include 19 years at Boeing, seven years as a university teacher and the rest as a computer programming manager for a consulting firm in the steam turbine industry.

He enjoys teaching what he’s learned to benefit others. “I wish I could have taken this class 30 years ago, it would have saved me all of that self-learning.” In his class, he aims to bring students an overview of Python computer programming, so they have a better idea of what is the best tool to solve a problem. “We are always impatient to implement a solution, but if we look around, there may already be a solution (computer code) instead of reinventing it.”

In addition to teaching for Ed Wells Partnership, Ho also takes Ed Wells classes. He recently attended a class on autonomous vehicles. “It’s good to be exposed to a lot of things so they have a better idea of what is the overview of Python computer programming.”

In his class, he aims to bring students an overview of Python computer programming, so they have a better idea of what is the best tool to solve a problem. “We are always impatient to implement a solution, but if we look around, there may already be a solution (computer code) instead of reinventing it.”

In addition to teaching for Ed Wells Partnership, Ho also takes Ed Wells classes. He recently attended a class on autonomous vehicles. “It’s good to be exposed to a lot of things that are not necessarily related to my day job.”

Ho became an Area Rep about three years ago when a former Council Rep recruited him.

What he values most about SPEEA is the collective bargaining, but also the Ed Wells conference grants and classes, including the SPEEA retirement seminar he recently attended. “A seminar like that requires a lot of research.”

COVID-19

Updates on work issues at www.speea.org

SPEEA elected officials and staff are attempting to enforce our contracts, assist members and stay on top of all the changes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic operations.

More information is at www.speea.org regarding Boeing time-charging and suspended operations. SPEEA is also working on QA for member issues, including Spirit AeroSystems, which will also be posted online.

Please reach out to your local Council Representative and appropriate staff to let them know what is happening in your areas.

Seeking photos of members in ‘new’ workplace

If you are working at home during suspension of operations, what does your ‘new’ workplace look like?

Send us a photo of yourself in your ‘shelter-in-place’ workspace to speca@speea.org.

Remember to avoid anything proprietary on your computer screen or workspace, because we’d like to share photos on our SPEEA Facebook and in publications.

Application online for STEM grants

Although local schools’ robotics competition season ended abruptly, the efforts to reach young people and engage them in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) continues.

Northwest members involved with a robotics team or other non-profit focused on STEM outreach can apply for the NW Council STEM grant.

The application is now online at www.speea.org. The deadline for applications is Aug. 15.

The NW Council STEM grants are for non-profit organizations or institutions, with at least one Northwest SPEEA member participating as a coach, mentor or parent.

Among the 53 grant recipients in 2019, many were robotics teams which are part of For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST). FIRST suspended its season and cancelled its championship due to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

NW STEM Grant Review Committee

Want to help with the application review process? Apply for the NW STEM Grant Review Committee.

The committee makes funding recommendations to the Northwest Council, which votes on the grant allocations in the fall.

If interested in this committee, email your name and school district to NW_STEM_grants@speea.org by noon, Monday, June 29.

Retirement seminars online reach several hundred

Adapting to shelter-in-place rules due to the coronavirus outbreak, SPEEA went virtual for the monthly retirement seminars.

More than 900 dialed into two webinar sessions held April 7 and April 8.

The webinar was recorded and can be viewed on demand. The webinar recording is online at www.speea.org. (drop-down menu: Medical & Retirement, select Retirement).
Open enrollment at Spirit AeroSystems

WICHITA – Open enrollment is scheduled for May 4-14 at Spirit AeroSystems.

SPEEA plans to provide more information about contract benefits in the May SPEEA Spotlite.

Open enrollment is the only time of the year to make routine changes to your health care plan, unless you have a qualified status change during the year.

Tellers needed for election committees

The SPEEA regional Teller committees in charge of elections need more help.

If you want to support your union and be among the first to know vote count news, consider applying.

The committee oversees union elections, contract votes and Council district delineation updates.

Executive Board mini-minutes – March 5

Attendees: Joel Funfar, Jimmie Mathis, Ryan Rule, Daniel Peters, Dan Nowlin, Mike Shea, Keith Covert

Council officers: Michelle Cooper, Doug Brazeal, R. Matthew Joyce, Jeffrey Forbes

Guests: Marjorie Blanco, David Fritz

Staff: Ray Goforth, Robin Fleming, BJ Moore, Rich Plunkett, Matt Kempf, Steve Spyridis, Pauline Tamblyn, Jason Collette, Bill Dugovich

At their regular meeting, the Board:

• Approved the Aircraft Safety and Certification Reform Act of 2020.
• Approved the fiscal year 2021 budget.
• Approved SEIU Healthcare 1199 NW

Executive Board election revote

Ballots go in the mail April 29 for the Executive Board election revote. The ballots are due at SPEEA by noon, May 13. Look for more information at www.speea.org.

Executive Board mini-minutes – March 5

Eligibility - Nominee must have been a regular SPEEA member in good standing for the preceding twelve-month period.

The petition and eligibility details are online, at www.speea.org (drop-down menu: Councils/Forms, Petitions, Delineations).

Pilots vote to retain SPEEA representation

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) on April 14 certified election results showing, that by a majority of nearly 4 to 1, employees in the SPEEA Pilot / Instructors Unit (SPIU) voted to remain union represented. The vote is the result of a petition filed in January.

With more than 96% of the members voting to remain in the union, SPEEA will continue to represent standards pilots, safety pilots, technical pilots, and simulator-only pilots/instructors. The recently ratified SPIU collective bargaining agreement remains in effect.

Prof and Tech salary charts delay

Salary charts reflecting 2020 raises for the SPEEA-represented Prof and Tech employees at The Boeing Company will be posted online at www.speea.org when the data becomes available.

The charts are typically posted by early May. This year, the data delay may push the chart timeline out a few more months.

Salary charts for SPEEA-represented employees at Spirit AeroSystems will be updated when the data is available (typically later in the summer).

New Council Reps

Two members submitted Council Rep petitions, which were validated, and a majority of nearly 4 to 1, employees in the SPEEA-represented Prof and Tech voted to remain union represented. The vote is the result of a petition filed in January.

Meetings are being held virtually and are subject to change/cancellations. See online regional calendars at www.speea.org for details.