**Trade Act**

**Successful union petition gains additional help for laid-off workers**

SPEEA’s effort to seek additional federal support paid off for Boeing laid-off workers in Washington state and Oregon.

SPEEA teamed up with the International Association of Machinists (IAM) 751 in filing for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), also known as Trade Act, with the U.S. Department of Labor.

“We are happy to see our joint petition to support laid-off SPEEA members was recently approved by federal administrators,” said Ryan Rule, SPEEA president. “We know SPEEA members continue to be displaced, in part, due to global trade pressures and international economic conditions. TAA is a critical tool to aid in their return to the workforce — and most importantly, provide their families an additional layer of resources to maintain their economic security.”

Under this petition, anyone laid off after May 5, 2019, is eligible to apply for benefits as can anyone laid off through June 23, 2022. This applies to non-union Boeing laid-off workers as well.

**About Trade Act**

Trade Act funding is designed to assist eligible laid-off workers impacted by increased imports or companies moving work to other countries. This additional funding is a direct result of the petition filed by SPEEA and the IAM with help from the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) Workforce Development team.

Members of Congress, including Sen. Maria Cantwell, offered support through a letter to the U.S. Department of Labor to seek timely consideration. This helped expedite the petition’s approval process to provide assistance to laid-off workers.

**Benefits include:**
- Out-of-area job search
- Relocation assistance

“The TAA program helps laid-off workers get career counseling and retraining. If they can’t quickly find new jobs, it provides extended unemployment benefits and helps maintain health-insurance coverage,” said Bill Messenger, Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), AFL-CIO, Workforce Development director. “For people who have lost jobs through no fault of their own, it may seem like a small consolation — and it is. But it’s an important one. TAA certification gives them access to all of the job retraining and re-employment program opportunities available.”

**New date for return to Wichita work site**

**Trade Act**

**Remind co-workers with WARNs about additional layoff benefits**

Renton Council Rep Deena Hougham made someone’s day. A non-union acquaintance she knew through her SPEEA work received a layoff notice, and Hougham encouraged her to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for additional job-search benefits.

That message made a big difference, Hougham said. “She wrote me back and said I just helped her with the layoff benefits way more than the company had done.”

Hougham urges everyone to spread the news about TAA, also known as Trade Act, which provides job retraining and re-location financial assistance along with other benefits.

**Why does she make a point to reach out to non-union as well as union members?**

“You’re about labor, and labor is about improving people’s lives,” she said. “It’s about making life better for everyone.”

Soon after hearing about the Trade Act petition, Hougham, a customer engineering account manager, went to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) website to learn more.

She was surprised to see that it started in 1974 as a result of work moving offshore. “I can’t believe outsourcing has been a drain on our country for more than 46 years.”

**SPEEA is on Facebook Like Us**

Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) Local 2001 • www.speea.org

**SPEEA NEWS / July 10, 2020 / No. 2355**

**Congress update – P2**

Spokane team – P3

Salary chart delay – P4
Congressman addresses economic and social justice


Leading with an update on the defense budget, which he called his primary job, he emphasized the need to address and maintain the “manufacturing base that allows corporations to employ people and for technology to grow.”

As he talked about what’s ahead, he acknowledged major challenges in social justice and the economic crisis. “There’s an overall feeling our system is unfair,” he said. To many, the system seems “rigged,” he said, adding, “a lot of that is legitimate.”

For the lower 80% of wage earners, their wages have stayed flat or rose only slightly, which are offset by the skyrocketing costs of housing and higher education, for example, he said.

“A lot of people are working hard and not getting results,” he said. “Even if COVID-19 was gone tomorrow, there would still be a long road to recovery.”

Noting systemic racism and the fight for social justice, he said “it’s all made much worse by the feeling our economy is not fair.”

In response to a question about Boeing outsourcing work to Russians and Ukrainians, Smith said the tax code makes it too easy for companies.

“We’ve not done anything because the people at the top are fine, and the stock market is not reflecting the economy,” for many Americans who are underpaid and underemployed.

In response to a SPEEA member’s question about getting the defense industrial base away from fossil fuels, he sounded optimistic, noting the decreasing cost for wind and solar fuel. “That has to be a cornerstone going forward.”

He would like to see stronger industrial policy. “We have not developed an aggressive policy in this country, and we need to,” he said.

Another SPEEA member questioned regulations regarding International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), which controls the export of military related technologies to safeguard national security. Smith encouraged SPEEA follow up with his staff who specialize in ITAR.

Smith is one of several federal and state lawmakers who met with members in recent weeks. SPEEA Legislative Director Brandon Anderson organizes the meetings for members to hear updates and ask questions. Anderson plans to host upcoming virtual meetings for members to hear from state and federal lawmakers. To learn more and sign up for future meetings, email brandona@speea.org.
Meet the Spokane negotiations team


About the team

Noah Bettin, a Numerical Control (NC) programmer level three, served on the 2013 SPEEA Negotiations Team at Triumph. “I wanted to represent the NC programming department,” he said about his experience with the previous negotiation team, “and bargain for better wages.”

He noted how contract negotiations make a difference. For example, the 2016 SPEEA Negotiations Team worked to improve the severance plan.

“That gain is worth thousands of dollars when they most need it,” Bettin said. “And the company is not going to hand it to us. We got it because we bargained for it.”

He started at Triumph 14 years ago and works with motion controllers (robots) and CNC software.

Prior to working at Triumph, Bettin was a systems engineer for a fuel cell startup.

Tim Conley, SPEEA Council Rep, served on the 2016 Negotiations Team. He recalled SPEEA’s efforts to make the collective bargaining a ‘win-win,’ because there were “definitely two sides.”

Conley learned more about that through Council Rep training. “We recognize the challenges of management, but they don’t get to pick just anything to solve a problem,” he said. “We’re using the collective bargaining influence of the union to find the balance between the business needs and the concerns of employees.”

Starting at Triumph 13 years ago, Conley, a design engineer, currently works on carbon fiber thermal plastics for brackets and clips to replace titanium and aluminum.

Prior to Triumph, he worked at smaller manufacturing firms as a mechanical engineer.

Joe Maher wanted to join the SPEEA Negotiations Team because he felt he could make a difference representing his co-workers.

“I’ve been wanting to be involved in negotiations since joining SPEEA five or six years ago,” he said. “I was really excited to be chosen,” Maher said.

Maher started at Triumph about 10 years ago as a maintenance mechanic. Although he loved the work, he pursued a training opportunity in Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) that led to SPEEA bargaining unit work in 2014.

“He instantly knew that was my next career move,” he said. Through on-the-job experience and training, he became an American Society Non-Destructive Testing (ASNT) certified level III in December.

Prior to Triumph, he worked at a company making machining tools.

Candidate for public office

WICHITA – SPEEA Area Rep Derek Milligan, a stress engineer at Spirit AeroSystems, is running for Kansas State House of Representatives, District 94.

Milligan is chair of the Midwest Legislative and Public Affairs (L&PA) Committee and a member of the SPEEA L&PA Committee in addition to his involvement as a SPEEA Area Rep.

His website is milliganforkansas.com.

The state primary is Aug. 4 and the general election is Nov. 3.

SPEEA provides this information as a service to members. SPEEA does not endorse nor provide political contributions to any candidate.

Youth writing contest in Wichita

Know a young person in the Wichita/Hutchinson area looking for something to do? Try entering a writing contest hosted by the Wichita Hutchinson Labor Federation.

The work must focus on the topic of “Why are labor unions important.”

Contest details

• Must be original work
• Under 500 words
• Essay, poetry or prose
• Must be a resident of Kansas
• Deadline: Saturday, Aug. 1

Prizes in two categories

• Under 15 years of age
• 15-21 years of age

Prize money ranges from $50 to $250 for each category.

Winners will have their work shared by Wichita/Hutchinson Labor Federation in celebration of Labor Day.

Email Jake@whlaborfed.org by Saturday, Aug. 1.

For more details, go to www.whlaborfed.org/youth.
Meetings are being held virtually and are subject to change/cancellations. See online regional calendars at [www.speea.org](http://www.speea.org) for details.

### UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULES

#### NORTHWEST MEETINGS (ALL TIMES PDT)

**Week of July 13, 2020**
- Wednesday, July 15 4:00 p.m. SPEEA Governing Documents
- Wednesday, July 15 5:00 p.m. NW Governing Documents
- Thursday, July 16 4:00 p.m. Executive Board

**Week of July 20, 2020**
- Monday, July 20 3:30 p.m. SPEEA Legislative and Public Affairs
- Tuesday, July 21 4:00 p.m. SPEEA Organizational Planning
- Wednesday, July 22 4:30 p.m. NW New Hire/Young Members
- Thursday, July 23 4:00 p.m. SPEEA Veterans

**Week of July 27, 2020**
- Monday, July 27 4:30 p.m. NW Legislative and Public Affairs
- Tuesday, July 28 4:30 p.m. NW Women's Advocacy

#### MIDWEST MEETINGS (ALL TIMES CDT)

**Week of July 13, 2020**
- Wednesday, July 15 6:00 p.m. SPEEA Governing Documents
- Thursday, July 16 6:00 p.m. Executive Board

**Week of July 20, 2020**
- Monday, July 20 4:30 p.m. MW Legislative and Public Affairs
- Monday, July 20 5:30 p.m. SPEEA Legislative and Public Affairs
- Tuesday, July 21 4:00 p.m. MW Governing Documents
- Tuesday, July 21 6:00 p.m. SPEEA Organizational Planning
- Thursday, July 23 6:00 p.m. SPEEA Veterans

**Week of July 27, 2020**
- No meetings scheduled

Meetings are being held virtually and are subject to change/cancellations. See online regional calendars at [www.speea.org](http://www.speea.org) for details.

### Council Rep election results

Congratulations to newly elected Council Rep Mike Pirone, in the Developmental Center District D-9.

The Northwest Tellers committee certified the election results July 8.

#### Candidates
- Mike Pirone (23)
- Alex Phillips (13)

Names in ballot order as determined by a random drawing by the tellers committee, which oversees union elections.

Pirone was seated at the July 9 NW Council meeting.

### Data delay for Prof and Tech salary charts

SPEEA is still waiting for Boeing to provide salary data. The data is required for SPEEA to post Prof and Tech salary charts online and publish a summary of the data in Spotlite.

When the data arrives, SPEEA staff need to prepare the salary charts for posting and publishing. More information will be provided when available.