Nabisco workers grateful to SPEEA

Union members working at Nabisco in five states have a new contract, ending a five-week strike Sept. 16. SPEEA sent $6,000 in grocery store gift cards to the 200-plus workers on strike in Portland, Oregon. The workers belong to the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 364.

The new contract secures workers’ health care plan from the previous contract, wage and 401(k) company matching pay increases and a signing bonus.

Workers went on strike over 12-plus hour workdays, no raises, loss of jobs to outsourcing and increased medical costs while Nabisco and its parent company, Mondelēz, were reaping record profits.

Executive Board changes

Cooper retires, Winton advances to treasurer

SPEEA Treasurer Michelle Cooper recently retired from The Boeing Company after 33 years of service and long list of union participation.

Shaunna Winton, previously SPEEA secretary, notified SPEEA Tellers she accepted the move to treasurer, leaving the secretary’s slot temporarily open.

Cooper’s SPEEA activism spanned many years and many roles. She was a former SPEEA Council officer, Council Rep, Area Rep, committee officer and member of multiple committees, including the Northwest Women’s Advocacy Committee (WAC).

Vacancy next steps

SPEEA Tellers are accepting nominations from the existing vice presidents to fill the now vacant secretary position on the Executive Board. The Board will then elect a secretary to fill the unexpired term which runs through March 22, 2022.

Gallup poll shows growing approval for unions

According to a recent Gallup poll, union approval rate is 68%, the highest point in more than half a century. Approval is even higher, 77%, among ages 18–34.

The record high was 75% in 1953 and again in 1955.

A total of 17% of Americans benefit from union collective bargaining. Union membership is at 9% and another 8% live in a household with a union member.

About the poll

The data is from Gallup’s annual Work and Education poll conducted Aug. 2-17.

Gallup started measuring the public’s rating of labor unions periodically since 1936 and annually since 2001.

The all-time low for unions, recorded in 2009, was 48%. This year’s rating brings union approval 20 points above this historical low.

The following Gallup poll results are union approval by political party this year compared to 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The information was taken from the Gallup website. See more at gallup.com.

Get email while working from home, sign up at www.speea.org
Area Reps are the voice of the membership

Renton Council Rep Dan Sergent makes a point of keeping Area Reps in the loop for two reasons.

“It gives people a point of contact, and it gives Council Reps a sounding board,” said Sergent. He is a former Area Rep who is also currently serving as secretary for the Northwest Action and Communication Taskforce (ACT).

Every October, ACT organizes Area Rep recognition. Area Reps help Council Reps share SPEEA news and connect with members.

Sergent makes sure to meet with Area Reps in his district on a regular basis. He also works on the quarterly Council Rep/Area Rep meetings for all districts in Renton.

“If you don’t hear the voices of the Area Reps, you don’t hear the voices of the membership,” Sergent said. “Instead of representing members, you end up representing yourself.”

Two-way communication

These are two-way meetings – with Council Reps providing updates from the Council meetings and motions, as well as reports on other relevant issues. The meetings are also an opportunity for Area Reps to share issues they are hearing from co-workers.

“It’s an opportunity to communicate and build community,” Sergent said.

Sergent’s seven Area Reps have smaller distribution lists for sharing SPEEA emails. Those targeted distribution lists connect the Area Reps to someone they likely already know through their work.

“People do go to Area Reps to get information. They direct the members to me when they need to,” he said. “It does give people a point of contact.”

Sergent is a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) delegate who manages certification projects. He became a dues-paying member of SPEEA as soon as he started working at Boeing in 1997. “I didn’t want to profit off other people paying the dues.”

However, he didn’t get involved until 2011, when he became an Area Rep and then joined the committee supporting negotiations outreach. He joined NW ACT in 2013, soon after becoming a Council Rep.

ACT, he noted, wants to recognize Area Reps, but also recruit more. The current number of Area Reps is at a historic low.

“So much of our membership feels disconnected,” Sergent said. “They do not understand the concept they are the union.”

COVID-19 photo policy

SPEEA publications and the website are only using group photographs if everyone in the photo is wearing a proper facial covering. Children under the age of two years and individuals in the same immediate family are exempt.

This policy remains in effect in compliance with public health guidelines and until the SPEEA Executive Board rescinds the policy.

Virtual game

NW Young Members host trivia event

The Northwest Young Members Committee is hosting a virtual trivia event from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 19. All are welcome. Prizes are planned for the top three winners.

For the event link, email meetings@speea.org.
Newly elected AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer

The AFL-CIO elected United Steelworkers (USW) International Vice President Fred Redmond to serve as secretary-treasurer. Redmond, the first African American in this role, previously served on the AFL-CIO’s Executive Council since 2008. He fills the interim vacancy of Liz Shuler who was elected president of AFL-CIO.

About his union involvement

Redmond became a labor union activist in 1973, when he went to work at Reynolds Metals Co. in Chicago and joined his union, the United Steelworkers. He became involved in his local union almost immediately, serving as shop steward before becoming vice president and president for three terms. In 1996, Redmond joined the USW staff, working with local unions in the Chicago area before accepting a position at the international union’s headquarters in Pittsburgh in 1998. For decades, Redmond served the USW in various staff and leadership roles, assisting local unions, developing and conducting training programs and negotiating contracts.

In 2006, he became USW international vice president for human affairs. Overseeing the union’s Civil and Human Rights Department, he worked across the country with USW allies responding to attacks on voting rights and combating economic inequality.

Redmond’s experience includes the board of directors of Working America, the TransAfrica Forum, the Workers Defense League, the National Endowment for Democracy, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and Interfaith Worker Justice.

Since 2007, he served as chair of the board of directors of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. In 2021, Redmond was elected president of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, a prestigious international post.

From his election speech

“When my dad got a union job at an aluminum mill outside of Chicago called Reynolds, it changed everything. We had more security...opportunity, prosperity. We stopped going to the free clinic. We got off of food stamps. And my mother no longer bought our school clothes from the Goodwill. This is personal to me.

I want every worker to have that chance. I want every family to feel that joy. That’s my goal as your secretary-treasurer.”

See more at www.aflcio.org.

SPEEA support for accountability

Federal aid saves jobs at Spirit AeroSystems

WASHINGTON – Through the U.S. Department of Transportation Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection program, Spirit was awarded $75.5 million to retain and re-hire its aerospace workforce.

In partnership with IFPTE, SPEEA played a significant role in securing strong job and wage protections language in the final bill. Under the Act, participating employers cannot:

• Outsource or lay off affected jobs
• Use funding for stock buybacks, dividends or senior-level pay
• Circumvent or abolish collective bargaining agreements

The award is expected to save 3,241 jobs at Spirit AeroSystems alone. The aid is part of a $3 billion program to help keep aviation manufacturing viable while airline travel recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program is part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which was signed into law in March.

Executive Board mini-minutes – Sept. 16

Attendees: Ryan Rule, Deena Hougham, John Dimas, Dan Nowlin, Chris Streckfus

Excused: Michelle Cooper, Shauna Winton

Council officers: R Matthew Joyce, Jeff Forbes, Peter Goodfellow, Byron Henderson

Guests: Jimmie Mathis, David Fritz, Mark Friesen, Tony Hickerson, Amanda Correll

Staff: Ray Goforth, Robin Fleming, BJ Moore, Steve Spyridis, Bill Doguvich, Rich Plunkett

At their regular meeting, the Board:

• Appointed the following to the designated labor councils as 2021-2023 SPEEA Labor Council delegates:

  o Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), AFL-CIO: Daniel Peters, Joel Funfar, Roger Aisaka, Benjamin Briles, Stan Sorscher, Jessica Bonebright, John Dimas
  o MLK Labor: Daniel Peters, Theryl Johnson, Lindsey Meling, Charles Cesmat, Stan Sorscher
  o Snohomish & Island County Labor Council: Benjamin Briles, John Dimas
  o Northwest Oregon Labor Council: Matt Carter

• Approved a letter of support and union grocery cards for a total of $6,000 to support BCTGM Local 364 in Portland, Oregon, to support union members in their ongoing strike, and inform SPEEA members of other ways to support affected union members on the strike.

• Approve adding a COVID-19 information link to the SPEEA website to include links for free testing.

The next meeting is Oct. 7.

Contract extension

Members approve Triumph offer

POKANE, Wash. – SPEEA members at Triumph Composite Systems voted to approve a contract extension offer.

Northwest Tellers counted email ballots Sept. 27.

This extends the current contract for the 10 SPEEA-represented employees remaining at Triumph, which plans to close its Spokane facility next year. The extension includes an incentive for employees to stay at Triumph for as long as needed.
Free Halloween event for kids

TUKWILA, Wash. – The SPEEA Northwest Membership Activities Committee (MAC) invites SPEEA members with younger children to drop by a free event at the Teamsters Hall in Tukwila, any time from 3 to 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 31. The NW MAC will be there with other unions handing out free treats and goodies from the trunks of the cars for this year’s “Trunk or Treat.” Volunteers are welcome.

Email kurts@speea.org to sign up to hand out candy. The event is hosted by the Teamsters National Black Caucus, MLK Labor and Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders.

The MAC is not planning a pumpkin decorating event due to the COVID-19 delta variant surge.

Agendas/Planning Committee

Step up for Everett Roundtable

The Everett Roundtable, a site-specific SPEEA-Boeing partnership, needs Council Reps’ help with agenda topics and planning.

About the Everett Roundtable

At the meetings, Everett site leaders and all Everett Council Reps are invited to address issues of mutual concern in the workplace. The goal is to collaborate for a better workplace through information sharing and discussion.

Roundtable Planning

The planning committee has a vacancy for one Everett Council Rep to help work on agendas for the quarterly meetings. To apply for the planning committee, email nikkiw@speea.org. The team consists of five Council Reps and five Boeing representatives, including managers, Human Resources and Employee Relations.

Reminder - if your suggestion is related to the contract, talk to your SPEEA contract administrator.

Email suggestions for topics or speakers to nikkiw@speea.org.

Everett Council Reps can help set agenda items based on what’s coming up in the workplace. Email suggestions for topics or speakers to nikkiw@speea.org.

Upcoming

All of the no-host social events start at 4 p.m., the second Friday of the month in the Wichita area.

• Friday, Oct. 8 – Central Standard Brewing
• Friday, Nov. 12 – Pumphouse
• Friday, Dec. 10 – Chicken N Pickle

Committee meetings

Members are also welcome to the Young Professionals committee meetings held virtually the third Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. For a link to the committee meeting, email vickim@speea.org. Refer to the Midwest calendar for up-to-date information online, at www.speea.org.

Committee officers include Macklin, Co-Chair Matt Pierucci and Secretary Derek Milligan.

SPEEA offices open on limited basis

Staff available via email – speea@speea.org

Staff working remote due to surge in COVID cases

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULES

Week of October 4, 2021

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