

PATROLbulletin

We're here for you

Shop stewards are employees just like you who have volunteered to help their coworkers with union-related matters. Stewards have received special training in member advising, member representation, contract enforcement and management relations, and they can be consulted confidentially on a variety of workplace issues.

Statewide WPEA Staff Representative

Patrick Neville: 206-388-7177

WPEA-certified stewards

Kirk Burress
Larry Pasco

Congratulations, Kirk!

Chief Shop Steward Kirk Burress, a senior telecommunications specialist in Bremerton, recently received the 2015 APCO/NENA* Technician of the Year Award for Washington state. (APCO provides training and support to public safety communication officers worldwide.) "I was nominated by my communication center in Bremerton for sustained superior performance during my 34 years with the WSP.

In the picture is my wife Karen who works with me in Bremerton as a Property Evidence Custodian."

**Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials/
National Emergency Number Association*



Unions continue to fight PRR

In April, the Freedom Foundation asked the state to release personal information about state employees. They submitted public records requests for WPEA members' names, dates of birth, and work email addresses. WPEA and other unions have fought this release in court.

On June 3, the Thurston County Superior Court granted a preliminary injunction against the release of names and birthdates but allowed the release of email addresses. Email addresses were released to the Freedom Foundation beginning June 6.

On July 29, the Thurston County Superior Court ruled against a permanent injunction of the Public Records Request. But on August 1, the Washington State Court of Appeals extended the preliminary injunction prohibiting the release of names and birthdates to the Freedom Foundation.

On August 16, the Court of Appeals ruled to extend a previous injunction that WPEA won protecting the release of your dates of birth to the Freedom Foundation. The union demonstrated a debatable issue as to whether the employees' dates of birth are exempt from disclosure under the privacy exemption, RCW 42.56.230(3), particularly in this era of cyber crime and the use of dates of birth as identity verification.

What this means is that the judge believes the union has made a point that is debatable; that the release of the birthdates could harm its members. A new hearing will soon be scheduled so the union can make that argument in front of the Appeals Court.

WPEA will continue to fight to prevent the release of your personal information and keep you up-to-date. We will inform you of that new date as soon as it is scheduled. So be sure to check the WPEA website and your email for updates as this case progresses.

We encourage you to check with your HR office for guidance on how to respond if you receive non-work related emails from the Freedom Foundation at work. If you are contacted by the Foundation on your work email, WPEA's advice is that you do not respond. Responding could put you in violation of Washington's ethics rules governing the use of the state email system for personal use. You could be subject to discipline and a fine by the Washington State Ethics Board.

Tell the Freedom Foundation you don't want to be contacted by them and you are angry that they are requesting your personal information. Join the other members already standing up against this violation. Call the Freedom Foundation at 360-956-3482 and demand your privacy.

Member Profile – AJ Cooper

Since 1997, AJ Cooper has worked in the District 7 Communications Center in Marysville. As a Communications Officer 3, she supervises six communications officers. She is very proud of her work helping lead the team that facilitates first response to public safety incidents. The District 7 Communications Center is the first such center in the state to have PC-based radios. AJ and her coworkers are responsible for dispatching not only WSP, but also the US Marshals, Fish & Wildlife, Gambling Commission, Parks, and Liquor & Cannabis Board officers.

When AJ joined the State Patrol more than 26 years ago, she brought communications experience from her service in the United States Air Force. Some of these skills include training on radio systems, troubleshooting computer systems, and incident management. AJ's military skills were put to good use on March 22, 2014, when she got the first call that there was a house in the middle of the road during the Oso landslide. The first emergency vehicle on the scene was WSP, as the Communications Center monitored the incident on aerial cameras in real-time. The magnitude of this disaster required the airspace to be closed. Snohomish County 911 was not equipped to work with the FCC to do this, but because of AJ's Air Force experience, she worked with the FCC to close the airspace. She received official recognition from WSP for her skillful and quick response.

AJ has also been recognized for her professionalism following the death of Trooper Sean O'Connell. AJ's husband, Jerry, also works at WSP as a Detective Sergeant with the Major Accident Investigation Team.



Policy update to duty weapons

Washington State Patrol General Order 16-002, section 3.00.010 updates policies for agency-issued duty weapons. The policy now includes all Washington State Patrol employees; previously, it only applied to WSP Officers. At this time, the policy only affects WPEA members working in Commercial Vehicle Enforcement who are issued duty weapons. The policy includes information on the use of duty weapons, training requirements, and other guidelines.

Reorganizing in the IT planning section

Eric Vonderscheer (ITD commander) states: *“The IT Planning section (ITPS) was adjusted in the area of supervision reporting structure. Also ITD transferred one ITS5 position in ITPS that was focused on disaster recovery and business continuity of operation to the security section. The supervision reporting change shifted supervision of the 4 project manager positions (two WMS2 project manager positions and two ITS5 project manager positions) to the ITPS WMS3 manager. The change made a more reasonable span of control for the supervisor and flattened the structure of the small group. Previously the 3 project managers (2 WMS PMs and 1 ITS5 PM) reported to a ITS5 project manager supervisor, who reported to the WMS3 position. The reassigned ITPS ITS5 position had previously focused on disaster recovery and business continuity of operation. Upon reassigned to the IT Security Section the focus of position was more narrowly defined to only disaster recovery. That was the extent of the reorganization.”*

Deconfliction procedure updates

Deconfliction is the process or system used to determine whether multiple law enforcement agencies are investigating the same person, place, or crime that provides notification to each agency involved of the shared interest in the case, as well as providing contact information. This is an information and intelligence-sharing process that seeks to minimize conflicts between agencies and maximize the effectiveness of an investigation to help ensure officer safety and the effective use of resources. Washington State Patrol policy on deconfliction was updated to clarify the role of Communications Centers and communications procedures in initiating deconfliction where needed.

Know your rights

Mandatory Subjects of Bargaining

Article 49 of the WPEA General Government collective bargaining agreement outlines the Employer's duty to bargain impacts of changes in working conditions. There are many different types of changes to working conditions that employers implement due to reorganizations, business needs, or mandates. This includes changes to workspaces. Mandates from the Governor's office relating to reductions in carbon footprints for all state agencies may impact your work area. If your performance and/or workflow is curtailed by any changes to working conditions initiated by WSP, please contact WPEA Staff Representative Patrick Neville as soon as possible. WPEA has a 21-day window from the date of a change in working conditions to file a demand to bargain and initiate the process of mitigating the impacts.