

Resolutions adopted by MLKCLC in 2009:

**Resolution supporting declaring 2009 as Washington Labor Heritage Year - 1/21/09**

WHEREAS the state of Washington has a unique labor history that has made it a leader among states in securing workplace rights, in establishing civil liberties, equal rights, and the dignity of all workers, and in recognizing the importance of labor unions; and WHEREAS organized labor has been vital to the progress of American democracy, helping to secure not only higher standards of living but also higher standards of citizenship, giving workers the ability to counter the power of money with the power of many, both in the workplace and in the halls of government; and WHEREAS many of the episodes that frame our state's sense of historical identity involve worker struggles and labor issues; and WHEREAS in 2009 we will have the opportunity to acknowledge the following anniversaries:

- February: 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1919 Seattle General Strike
- June: 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1934 Longshore Strike
- November: 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Spokane Free Speech Fight
- November: 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Centralia Massacre
- November: 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Battle in Seattle WTO demonstrations, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council supports declaring 2009 as Washington Labor Heritage Year; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Council encourages the state to promote educational activities that foster understanding of the history of working people and the role of labor organizations in Washington State.

**Resolution in support of AFGE's campaign to organize TSA employees - 3/4/09**

WHEREAS the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), AFL-CIO has consistently and successfully worked to organize and represent the federal employees of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) during the entire seven year-plus history of the TSA, in spite of every legal, political and management obstacle; and WHEREAS AFGE has established a record of accomplishment on behalf of TSA workers, winning many cases on behalf of individual members — including a key decision before the U.S. 9th Circuit Court — and using all available means to win improvements on the job, in spite of the lack of formal recognition; and

WHEREAS more than 10,000 of the 38,000 federal Transportation Security Officers (TSO's), Behavior Detection Officers (BDO's) and Lead TSO's are already dues-paying members of AFGE, thereby showing their support of AFGE as their union; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO has consistently supported AFGE's efforts to organize TSA during the whole tenure of the Bush Administration, including featuring TSO efforts to secure collective bargaining rights as part of the "Voice at Work" campaign; and

WHEREAS AFL-CIO State Federations and Central Labor Councils have supported AFGE with timely resolutions and petitions against contracting out federal screening functions and in favor of collective bargaining rights; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO has provided several significant organizing grants to AFGE for the TSA campaign; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO has invited AFGE members from TSA to speak at key EFCA

rallies and public meetings and has put the rights of TSA employees to organize on every list of political and legislative priorities for needed change; and  
WHEREAS on August 7, 2007 AFL-CIO President Sweeney reported that the Strategic Campaign Registration Program Oversight Panel had granted AFGE's TSA Registration Request for a three-year term; and  
WHEREAS with the ascension of a more pro-labor Administration in Washington, D.C., a legal framework for collective bargaining for TSA employees now seems in sight; and  
WHEREAS the election of AFGE as the exclusive representative of all eligible TSA federal employees would be a significant victory for union rights on the job for all working people in this country; be it therefore  
RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council will ask the AFL-CIO to re-affirm its support for AFGE's TSA campaign as a strategic campaign and expresses its support for AFGE in its efforts to become the exclusive representative of all eligible employees of the Transportation Security Administration nationwide; and calls upon all of labor in the Transportation Sector, and indeed all of organized labor to grant all material and moral support without qualification to the AFGE campaign for recognition at TSA; and be it further  
RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council will ask the AFL-CIO to call upon Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to take immediate administrative and executive action to grant collective bargaining rights and workplace protections to TSOs; and be it further  
RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council will call upon our U.S. Senators and Representatives for King County to support legislation to permanently grant collective bargaining rights and workplace protections to TSO; and be it finally  
RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council will call upon the Port of Seattle to grant access to AFGE organizers in their efforts to contact employees of TSA.

#### **Resolution calling for "sweatfree" procurement of uniforms - 3/4/09**

WHEREAS sweatshop labor has an inarguably harmful effect on the health and safety of workers who are directly affected by these workplace abuses, and on the wages and working conditions of all workers, who are affected indirectly by the global race to the bottom for cheap labor; and  
WHEREAS workers everywhere have a right to dignity and respect on the job, freedom of association, and living wages; and  
WHEREAS a global economy founded on sweatshop exploitation undermines global economic security and political stability; and  
WHEREAS state and local governments are large customers of apparel – such as uniforms for public sector workers – and currently have no public accountability for where this apparel is purchased from, or the conditions under which it was produced; and  
WHEREAS the purchasing power of states, local governments, and school districts should be used to reinforce International Labor Organization Standards and local laws that protect workers, not undermine them; and  
WHEREAS the State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium will pool resources for investigating and monitoring supplier factories and coordinate the implementation and enforcement of sweatfree procurement standards; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council supports state, local, and school board legislation for sweatfree procurement policies to end public subsidies of sweatshop abuses and protect workers' rights in the United States and throughout the world; and be it further

RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council educates its affiliates about the benefits of sweatfree procurement campaigns, and encourages union members to join with community allies in sweatfree procurement campaigns; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council endorses the formation of the State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium, which will work to end public purchasing from sweatshops by:

- 1) Investigating labor conditions in common supplier factories using a monitor that is fully independent from the industry; and
- 2) Consolidating government purchasing power to support supplier factories where workers are treated with dignity and have a voice on the job.

**Resolution supporting the NOAA Marine Operations Center Pacific in Seattle - 5/20/09**

WHEREAS, NOAA is in the process of soliciting proposals to lease upland property and pier space from owners or operators of potential MOC-P relocation sites in Seattle and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the current Seattle location offers close proximity to NOAA's Northwest Regional Office; and

WHEREAS, the current Seattle location offers close proximity to the University of Washington and other collaborating scientific institutions and laboratories; and

WHEREAS, the current Seattle location offers a well-established infrastructure of marine services (shipyards, suppliers, skilled workforce) with a successful history of supporting NOAA vessels; and

WHEREAS, MOC-P and its ships provide a Seattle-area economic output of \$20 million per year to local shipyards, voyage repair and other maintenance providers, fuel, oil, food and other consumable suppliers, and a host of other vendors on NOAA's own list of 1400 suppliers; and

WHEREAS, MOC-P operations and economic impact are key foundations of the Seattle Maritime Sector, which comprises more than 347 businesses and 22,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, a major driver of Seattle's service expertise for MOC-P and NOAA operations is that 80% of Alaska fish are caught on Washington boats, the vast majority of these boats being based and serviced in the Seattle area; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the vendors and craftspeople are located in the Seattle area, which means that there would be hidden costs associated with moving MOC-P operations elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, hidden costs of moving MOC-P operations away from Seattle, such as less competitive bids and travel costs associated with some services that can only be obtained in the Seattle area, would mean an increase in government expenditures; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the jobs supported by MOC-P operations are skilled maritime crafts represented by unions of the Puget Sound Metal Trades Council; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the M.L. King County Labor Council officially go on record in strong

support of retaining the MOC-P in its current Seattle location; and be it further RESOLVED that the M.L. King County Labor Council calls upon the U.S. Congressional delegation representing voters in King County, including Senators Cantwell and Murray, for support in retaining NOAA MOC-P in its current location at Seattle.

### **Resolution in Support of the Paycheck Fairness Act, S182 & HR12 – 7/1/09**

WHEREAS discrimination against women in employment continues to occur in spite of legislation, litigation and growing public sentiment against such discrimination, and WHEREAS women continue to receive lower wages than men for comparable work in many occupations and industries, including many women represented by MLKCLC locals, and

WHEREAS gender-based pay disparities penalize many single-parent families, households with two wage-earners, and becomes a further burden in bad economic times when many two-worker households are forced to rely on women's income, and WHEREAS pay disparities reduce retirement benefits over the course of a career, and WHEREAS the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 182 and HR 12) will require employers to demonstrate that wage differences between men and women doing the same work have a business justification, and are truly the result of factors other than sex; protects employees from retaliation for discussing their wages or inquiring about pay practices; and strengthens penalties for violations of equal pay provisions, and

WHEREAS HR 12 easily passed in the House with bipartisan support, and S. 877 has 31 co-sponsors in the Senate, and

WHEREAS the Paycheck Fairness Act is a reasonable and practical step to help close the wage gap between men and women, therefore be it RESOLVED that the MLKCLC endorses the S. 182, and HR 12, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and will advocate for its passage by Congress.

### **Resolution in support of the Healthy Families Act, HR2460 – 7/1/09**

WHEREAS nearly half (48%) of private sector workers and nearly 80% of low-wage workers don't get a single paid sick day to recover from illness, and 94 million workers don't have a single paid sick day to care for a sick family member, and

WHEREAS workers without sick leave are forced to choose between going to work when they or a family member are sick or losing a day's pay or even losing a job, and WHEREAS parents of sick children may feel pressure to send them to school or daycare when they have no paid sick leave potentially infecting other children & families, and

WHEREAS studies show Paid sick leave would make workers more productive and reduce the spread of pandemic and seasonal flu resulting in significant savings to our economy - avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations, bringing health care costs down and saving lives, and

WHEREAS workplace policies for families in the United States are weaker than those of all high-income countries and many middle- and low-income countries. Notably, the U.S. is one of only five countries out of 173 surveyed that does not guarantee some form of paid maternity leave; the others are Lesotho, Liberia, Swaziland and Papua New Guinea, and

WHEREAS a recent study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research found no statistically significant relationship between national unemployment rates and legally-mandated paid sick days. The study included 22 highly developed countries which all have the same level of economic development as the United States, and  
WHEREAS HR 2460 would require certain employers, who employ 15 or more employees for each working day during 20 or more workweeks a year, to provide a minimum paid sick leave of: (1) seven days annually for those who work at least 30 hours per week; and (2) a prorated annual amount for those who work less than 30 but at least 20 hours a week, or less than 1,500 but at least 1,000 hours per year. And allows employees to use such leave to meet their own medical needs or to care for the medical needs of certain family members, and  
WHEREAS the Healthy Families Act would and set a new floor for collective bargaining so that unions could focus on other issues and would help all workers and therefore strengthen MLKCLC's connections with many other groups, therefore be it  
RESOLVED that the MLKCLC endorses the HR 2460, the Healthy Families Act, and will advocate for its passage by Congress.

**Resolution calling for the removal of Michael J. Astrue as Commissioner of the Social Security Administration - 7/15/09**

WHEREAS Social Security Administration Commissioner Michael J. Astrue has refused to work with the exclusive representatives (AFGE, ALJ/IFPTE) of the employees towards effecting the mission of the Agency to provide outstanding service to the American public; and  
WHEREAS Commissioner Astrue has implemented policies and procedure changes without sufficient testing and employee input, thus placing the public at risk of being disadvantaged in their benefit choices; and  
WHEREAS Commissioner Astrue has disadvantaged unrepresented claimants in disability hearings by not providing sufficient staff to explain new electronic processes, such as the electronic disability file; and  
WHEREAS trained SSA workers are now being instructed not to question an applicant's choice of when to start benefit payments, even when the choice may be disadvantageous to the applicant; and  
WHEREAS SSA employees are now being instructed in some sites to direct applicants to file for benefits on the Internet, even though the applicants have come into a field office to be interviewed by an SSA employee; and  
WHEREAS on March 3, 2009, the AFL-CIO Executive Board urged immediate Presidential action to remove Michael J. Astrue as Commissioner of the Social Security Administration for his neglect of duty in administering the Social Security Administration and its programs, and for his hostility towards SSA's unions; be it therefore  
RESOLVED that this body will stand with the AFL-CIO, the American Federation of Government Employees, and the Association of Administrative Law Judges/International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers in calling upon the President and the Congress to remove Michael J. Astrue as Commissioner of the Social Security Administration for his neglect of his duty to carry out the mission of Social Security as mandated by law and by Congressional intent, and that we will send

this resolution to the Washington State Labor Council for action at their upcoming convention.

**Resolution in support of the Washington Labor Archive (WLA) - 8/3/09**

WHEREAS the Washington State Labor Council aggressively supports the Harry Bridges Chair for Labor Studies, created in 1992 by International Longshore and Warehouse Union activists to honor the memory of their great founder and long time president, Harry Bridges, to help carry on his work fighting for the dignity of labor and its place in history; and

WHEREAS working people and their unions built this state and this nation and if that awareness is lost, the labor movement will weaken and democracy itself could be threatened. History matters and it needs to be preserved and used; and

WHEREAS for decades the University of Washington Special Collections Library has served as the repository for the records of the State Labor Council, several county labor councils and many unions, leaders and activists; and

WHEREAS this library has suffered funding cut-backs and for some time has been unable to process donated collections meaning that vital historical documents remain inaccessible, raising the concern that other materials will not find a home at the major research library of the Pacific Northwest and that history will be lost; and

WHEREAS the Washington Labor Archives (WLA) will combine the dozens of labor collections already housed in the library with new collections that will be added in the years ahead and that the WLA will be managed by a professional labor archivist who will be employed by the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at UW; and

WHEREAS the labor archivist will supervise the development of the Labor Archive, adding to and organizing the historical materials already deposited in Special Collections Library, that the labor archivist will also work with unions, advising them on records management and arranging for the donation and processing of materials to the Labor Archive and, in addition, the labor archivist will develop educational projects and materials that will be widely accessible to union members, schools; and the general public and that the WLA will be both a repository and a vehicle for teaching about the vital history and vital present of unions in our region; and

WHEREAS the Washington labor community supports a campaign to raise \$100,000 per year to pay salary and benefits for a labor archivist and also fund an ongoing program of labor heritage and labor education events; that campaign will secure at least five years of funding until the WLA is able to have a permanent endowment in place and is able to attract grants from foundations and governmental sources; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Labor Council and the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies have each pledged \$10,000 per year for three years and the Northwest locals and rank and file members of the ILWU have pledged their support; and

WHEREAS the International Longshore and Warehouse Union has pledged \$50,000 in matching funding for each of the next three years; and

WHEREAS recent fundraising has produced 40 total donations since August 1, 2008 totaling \$31,530 (this includes \$1,200 made in 2008 that is ineligible for ILWU matching funds); and

WHEREAS the goal of funding a full time labor archivist to manage this labor history program will only be realized if the labor community digs deep and succeeds in raising a total of \$200,000 over the next two year cycle (2009-2010); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Washington labor community commit to raising the required funding; and be it further

RESOLVED that the WSLC will convene a committee of key labor leaders to develop a funding campaign that will realize the great opportunity presented: that a permanent labor archives program at the University of Washington not only gives the state a centrally located repository for archival collections but may, one day, facilitate similar efforts throughout the state where appropriate.

#### **Resolution in support of the Advanced Green Manufacturing Program - 9/19/09**

WHEREAS the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC) has developed the Advanced Green Manufacturing Program to facilitate the “greening” of our manufacturing workforce, both aerospace and non-aerospace, through strategic partnerships with manufacturing stakeholders in labor, business, education, and others to transform the WA state manufacturing sector for the green economy, and

WHEREAS the Advanced Green Manufacturing Program has been endorsed by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO, and

WHEREAS AJAC has identified the Economic Development and Apollo Alliance programs of the Worker Center division of the M.L. King County Labor Council as a partner in the Advanced Green Manufacturing Program, and

WHEREAS AJAC has created a framework to leverage public and private funding for a comprehensive Advanced Green Manufacturing Program, including:

1. Reestablishing existing manufacturing training curriculum to meet green best practice standards (i.e. “tool-ready” education)
2. Creating a consortium that will steer the program direction according to industry need by developing and implementing new programs in green manufacturing growth areas, based upon research projects and stakeholder input
3. Organizing a training cadre that would develop curriculum and facilitate an in-shop training for journey-level workers, resulting in an enhanced green skills certificate for manufacturing workers
4. Conducting a feasibility study for a green building that will house the WA State Center for Advanced Green Manufacturing in King County and new ways to disseminate training statewide, and

WHEREAS item #2 of the Advanced Green Manufacturing Program is based on the initial research and project concept of the Economic Development and Apollo Alliance programs of the Worker Center, and

WHEREAS successful funding of the Advanced Green Manufacturing Program will result in increased resources and capacity for the Worker Center division of the M.L. King County Labor Council to coordinate and implement item #2, while facilitating labor involvement in the successful implementation of other Advanced Green Manufacturing Program items, and

WHEREAS the Washington State Labor Council passed a resolution at its 2009 Convention reaffirming support for Apollo Alliance-led initiatives to bolster advanced green manufacturing in WA state, including projects and legislative options to increase demand while meeting labor's principles for workforce/economic development, and encouraging affiliates to explore partnerships like the Advanced Green Manufacturing Program, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the M.L. King County Labor Council will submit a letter of commitment before August 25, 2009 to the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC) affirming that MLKCLC will take a leadership role in the Advanced Green Manufacturing Program by:

1. Partnering resources of the Worker Center's Economic Development and Apollo Alliance programs with AJAC, commensurate with funding levels and organizational capacity; and
2. Assisting and encouraging all affiliates to explore new opportunities and potential partnerships within the Advanced Green Manufacturing initiative and coordinating the resources of the Worker Center in these efforts, where appropriate.

**Resolution in support of the 12/12/09 HCAN rally - 12/2/09**

WHEREAS the M. L. King County Labor Council is proud to have joined with our sisters and brothers across the breadth of the labor movement to press for landmark health care reform legislation; and

WHEREAS a broad coalition, comprising labor, community, and faith groups, called Health Care for America Now (HCAN), has come together to help coordinate and mobilize our respective members for this historic effort; and

WHEREAS the labor community and HCAN's efforts, so far, have been successful, having played a key role in pressuring members in the House of Representatives to pass HR 3962 on November 7th; and

WHEREAS the Senate now must take up the issue in earnest, and there are strong indications that, by December 12th, the Senate will either be preparing for a vote on a companion bill to HR 3962, or it will have already passed such a measure, and the two chambers will be in conference committee, working to reconcile differences; and

WHEREAS, in either case, there will be a need for strong grass-roots pressure exerted on congressional decision-makers at that time, pressure that is well accomplished through an organized, well-attended rally; be it therefore

RESOLVED that M. L. King County Labor Council will inform and mobilize its affiliates and delegates to turn out for the December 12<sup>th</sup> HCAN rally in Downtown Seattle.