

August 23, 2010

## Where Washington State goes so goes the Nation

AFL-CIO Political Director Karen Ackerman won't tell you how important the 2010 elections are. She won't say it because we've heard that before. We hear it every election. It has become "white-noise", it doesn't motivate us anymore, she told hundred of delegates August 10 at the Washington State Labor Council convention in Tacoma.

Although Ackerman won't tell you how important the 2010 elections are, she will tell you this: "If Patty Murray loses in Washington state, that means it will be a sweep for the Right Wing across the country."

With 74 days until the election, the importance of WSLC's Labor Neighbor program is not lost on the national AFL-CIO. With 430,000 union members and retirees in our state, we are capable of being *the* powerhouse political organization in the state, Ackerman



AFL-CIO Political Director Karen Ackerman, discussing the importance of Labor Neighbor at the WSLC Constitutional Convention, August 10, 2010.

says. Yet untapped, this power is useless. As the bellwether state, we, as champions for working families, have an obligation to take our message to the rank-and-file in our communities. We must step up—YOU must step up. The alternative is anti-worker initiatives and policies that hurt our families. We have to ensure that our message of who is working with us and who continues to work against us resounds loud-and-clear across the state.

After Tuesday's primary, U.S. Senator Patty Murray, with a 90% labor voting record, is in a virtual dead-heat with anti-worker, pro-foreclosure Republican Dino Rossi (6% labor voting record), who just weeks ago was teaching investors how to profit from the misfortune of families who have lost their homes.

While some Americans face a choice of do-nothing Senators or unknown candidates,

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## Bright views future in Labor Neighbor Common thread joins us all together

Dale Bright, Business Rep for Laborers Local 440, knows what it takes to get the job done. A Labor Neighbor volunteer since 2004, he's familiar with the ins and outs of phone banking and doorbelling. "Labor Neighbor is the most effective way to communicate with your union brothers and sisters", he says. "It's surprising how un-stressful it is to talk to other people when you have something in common, when you have a starting place for the conversation."

Dale has been on the ground since this year's program began in early July and works

mainly in King County, but he vows to go wherever he is needed. He knows exactly what is at stake in this year's election and he is concerned that not enough people will volunteer to get the message out that we are in the fight of our lives. For a few hours a week, YOU can help make a difference. Phone banking, walking, job site leafletting – take your pick. Or maybe

you have a different idea of how you can help. Let us know! Feel free to contact WSLC Field Mobilization Director, Lori Province, at 206.351.2956, 206.281.8901 x24 or lprovince@wslc.org – she'll be glad to find a spot for you.



### Phone Bank Schedule 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

#### Monday

IAM 751 - IBEW 76 - UA 26

#### Tuesday & Thursday

IBEW 191 - UFCW 21 - IBEW 76 - UA 26

### Phone Bank Locations 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

#### Everett

IBEW 191 - 2701 Hoyt Ave., 98201

#### Seattle

IAM 751 Hall - 9125 15th Pl. S., 98108  
UFCW 21 - 5030 First Ave. S., #202, 98134

#### Tacoma

IBEW 76 - 3049 S. 36th St., #101, 98401

#### Lacey

UA 26 - 8501 Zenith Ct. NE, 98516

# These Boots walk and knock 2300 miles from home



Release staff from left to right: Bob Knowles and Chris McKeever (NATCA), Abdul Kasim (WFSE 443), Leanne Guier (UA 32), Rich Herzog (WFSE 793)

Why would someone from Evansville, Indiana come to Seattle to work on the Labor Neighbor program? That's what we asked Bob Knowles earlier this week. Bob is the second NATCA member to be assigned to the Puget Sound Region to help out in this year's election cycle. "I only retired last year," he told us. "I did the usual stuff – fixed the house, travelled

around a bit. And now the Labor Neighbor program is giving me a chance to try on some new shoes and fight for Patty Murray at the same time."

This may be Bob's first involvement in the NATCA Boots-on-the-Ground program, but since arriving here last Sunday, he has already seen action – talking to over 100 union

members at Monday night's phone bank. He and the other release staff will stay active and involved in Labor Neighbor up to and through the General Election on November 2nd. "My wife has never been out here before," he said. "I hope there'll be time for her to visit in September." Great idea – maybe he'll recruit her for the cause. What better way to see the area than to visit a few job sites and walk a neighborhood?

Although it is one of the smaller (about 12,000 members) international unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, NATCA understands the battle we are in to maintain a progressive majority in Congress. They are sending out as many staff as they can to as many states as possible to knock on doors, leaflet worksites and man the phone banks.

If Bob Knowles can travel 2300 miles from Evansville, Indiana, if he can make phone calls and knock on doors and visit worksites across Washington state, if NATCA members are out here fighting for Patty Murray and against Big Business and its cronies, shouldn't you and your union step up, too?

## Now, in a location near you: Labor Neighbor headquarter offices

Welcome aboard, Labor Neighbor Volunteers! What, you haven't volunteered yet? Well, now you have fewer excuses because we have even more locations for you to get to and help out with this year's campaign. In addition to the room we have in the Everett Labor Temple and the space IBEW 76 in Tacoma is letting us use, Labor Neighbor will be opening up offices at AFSCME Council 28 in Olympia and IUOE 370 in Spokane within the next week or so. Each location will act as "home base" for a number of volunteer activities in the area – phone banking, pre-walk meetings, computer access, and recruiting, to name just a few.

We're looking for space in the Vancouver/Clark County area, too. Does YOUR local union have room for us? Will YOUR union release staff and find volunteers to help send Patty Murray back to the "other" Washington to fight for our working families? If so, we'd love to know!

Finally, what are YOU doing to make sure we don't fall back into the mess that Dubya and his crew left us? To step up to these and other challenges, contact WSLC Field Mobilization Director, Lori Province, at 206.351.2956 or lprovince@wslc.org.

## Ackerman

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we in Washington don't. Sen. Patty Murray has continually delivered for our state, fighting successfully to bring our tax dollars back here to create construction and transportation jobs, fighting for Boeing jobs by working to secure the Air Force refueling tanker contract, fighting to increase funding for Hanford cleanup

and increase employment there, fighting to protect prevailing wages, fighting for better funding of veterans' hospitals and our schools. You name it, Sen. Patty Murray is fighting tooth-and-nail with us—and for us.

We need you to do your part. If not you, who? It has been proven again and again that when organized labor gets out there, speaking to union members, face-to-face,

### A BIG Thank You to:

Thank you to IAM 751, IBEW 76, IBEW 191, UA 26 and UFCW 21. By providing space for our phone banks, these locals have offered an invaluable resource in the battle to keep Washington a state where workers are respected and protected.

over the phone and through direct mail, we win. This is the focus of the Labor Neighbor program, generating member-to-member contact. With five headquarter offices across the region (and plans to expand further) we are in an area near you and working families need your help.