



Union Goods and Services Committee

PATTY ROSE and SHANNON MYERS, *Co-Chairs*

“It is our mission to help strengthen and grow the labor movement with the promotion of products and services produced by union members and to help generate greater demand for products and services bearing the Union Label.”

That is the mission statement that was adopted by the Union Goods and Services Committee shortly after it was created by resolution at the WSLC’s 2014 Convention. Since its formation, the Committee has explored multiple ways to achieve its mission, including via regular distribution of lists of Union gifts, food and drinks, and other products at The Stand and at Central Labor Council meetings across the state, and at the “Buy Union, Washington!” web page at www.wslc.org/buy-union-washington.

But a principal focus of the Committee’s work has been reaching out to the Central Labor Councils with ideas about how they can help promote union goods and services. One way is to make sure that all CLCs are aware of the Union Labor and Service Trade Councils that exist within each of their CLC structures, and to activate/reinvigorate those committees. Another simple idea is to make sure that any refreshments provided at CLC meetings are Union and to ensure all delegates and guests are aware of that fact. These and other strategies to promote buying Union have been utilized successfully at the Pierce County Central Labor Council for years.

Given this CLC focus of the Committee’s work, and given that the WSLC has established the Washington State CLC Network to share best practices and resources, including how to promote buying union, there is a resolution before the 2020 Convention proposed by our Committee to dissolve the Union Goods and Services Committee. As the resolution states, the intention to “make the promotion of union goods and services an integral and ongoing component of the Washington State CLC Network’s activities and mission.” Assuming this resolution is approved, we would like to thank the folks who have served on this Committee over the past six years for their time and efforts, and we urge all to continue to support “Buy Union” efforts within your union locals and councils.