



# Spotlight

PROFESSIONAL AEROSPACE UNION

## Union-driven food bank strives for dignity and respect

**#UnionGoodWorks**

By *Karen McLean*  
SPEEA Publications Editor

**S**EATTLE – Some may be surprised to hear Seattle still has a union-driven food bank serving hundreds every week despite moving four times in the past three years.

Puget Sound Labor Agency (PSLA) Executive Director **Sam Sim** wants to change that through union and community outreach.

“There’s always a need to procure more food, and I’m working on making sure people have a future here,” said Sim. “I don’t hit the snooze button before coming to work.”

The food bank is open two days a week for three hours a day. A line stretching around the building is typical during the first couple of hours. About 300 clients come to choose what they want from an array of items including fresh produce and baked goods as well as meat and dairy.

The food bank, located south of downtown Seattle on Fourth Avenue, has two rooms on the ground floor. The front half is lined around the edges with long tables filled with that day’s options, such as bags of romaine lettuce or apples, yogurt, fresh bread from Franz and Bakery Nouveau and more.

The food bank crew stands behind the tables to refill supplies from the back where they have 14 commercial refrigerators and freezers. The walls on the other side of the storage area are lined with large shelves holding boxes of dry goods, hygiene items and pet food when available.

In the office/meeting space upstairs, two framed posters on the walls serve as motivational reminders. One is all about the food bank’s vision to serve and empower the community. The poster emphasizes the clients, sustainability, operations, team and growth. The other poster addresses the team’s mission. That includes a process for vetting new ideas to ensure they meet the vision *and* are effective.

Sim brings his 20-years’ experience in bank management and corporate finance to his work. He emphasizes transparency and fiscal responsibility along with morale boosting and team building. He’s the only full-time staff working with two part-time staff, three AmeriCorps workers and about eight volunteers on any given day. “I want people to walk away energized by contributing to something good,” he said.



From left, *Lauren Au-Yeung, Sam Sim and Brandon Kim* are in the food storage area of the Puget Sound Labor Agency (PSLA) Food Bank, south of Seattle. The food bank used to operate in the Seattle Labor Temple, but the sale of the building has meant repeated moves in recent years.

*Continued on page 8*



# Plan ahead for upcoming ACE classes

Check out upcoming SPEEA Aerospace Career Enhancement (ACE) classes and register at [canvas.aerocareer.org](http://canvas.aerocareer.org). To receive ACE updates, sign up for SPEEA home email at [www.speea.org](http://www.speea.org).



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## Upcoming classes

**Overview of Python for Engineering Programming** (three-part course) – This is an introduction to the Python programming language and its rich ecosystem, focusing on engineering applications with practical examples on implementing elegant and efficient algorithms.

**Saturday, Feb. 11, 18 and 25**  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (all sessions)  
SPEEA Everett

**Live & Interactive Excel Training: Lookups & Pivot Tables** (two-part course) – Tap the power of Excel to manage and analyze large data sets.

**Tuesday, Feb. 21 and Wednesday, Feb. 22**  
5 to 7 p.m. (both days)  
SPEEA Tukwila or virtual

## SPEEA's Rich Plunkett named to FAA review panel



Rich Plunkett

SPEEA Director of Strategic Development **Rich Plunkett** will serve on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Organization Designation Authorization Expert Panel.

Created as a result of the Aircraft Certification, Safety and Accountability Act, the panel will provide expert advice

and review of the Organization Designation Authorizations (ODA) for airlines. The work includes reviewing Boeing's safety management processes and how they relate to Boeing's safety culture. The panel will convene in the coming weeks and have nine months to complete its review and issue findings and recommendations.

Plunkett is joined on the 24-member panel by Machinists 751 President **Jon Holden**. The two labor officials join representatives from NASA, FAA, independent engineering experts, air carriers, manufacturers with delegated authority, legal experts and other professionals.

Plunkett and Holden were each endorsed by SPEEA, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) and the International Association of Machinists (IAMAW).

"Richard Plunkett brings with him 12 years of experience in the workplace as an aerospace worker himself before transitioning to SPEEA staff as a labor union representative for the last 25 years," commented IFPTE President **Matt Biggs** and Secretary-Treasurer **Gay Henson**.

As a SPEEA-represented employee at Boeing, Plunkett worked as an engineer with responsibilities that included compliance-related matters. His background in compliance, contract negotiations and decades of work representing engineers, pilots, technical and other professional workers positioned him well to represent the concerns of SPEEA members performing ODA duties to the FAA.

## Spirit continues diversity floating holiday

WICHITA, Kan. – In honor of civil rights leader **Martin Luther King Jr.**, Spirit AeroSystems announced an additional paid day off this year.

In a Jan.11 message to U.S.-based employees, Spirit noted the holiday was available for those who wanted to take Jan. 16, the federal holiday in honor of King's birthday, or choose another day of personal significance to them, their families or communities.

The announcement included instructions on how to request this floating holiday along with a reminder the day must be used before the end of the calendar year.

**Midwest regional VP unopposed**

# Six run for three NW regional vice president seats on Executive Board

Six members are running for three Northwest regional vice president positions. In the Midwest, **Chris Streckfus** ran unopposed for another term as MW regional vice president.

## Northwest regional vice president candidates (three seats)

- Mike Arrington
- Christopher Tracy
- Tami Reichersamer
- John Dimas
- Jeffrey L. Forbes
- David Garrett

*Names are in ballot order as determined by a random drawing.*

The candidates submitted valid petitions with

at least 20 members' signatures by the Jan. 25 deadline.

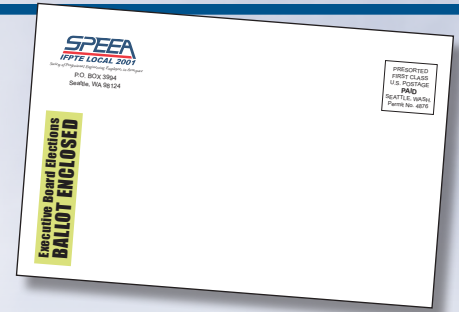
Later this month, Northwest members will receive a ballot mailed to their home. Ballots must be delivered to SPEEA by noon (local time), Wednesday, March 8.

To help Northwest members learn more about the candidates prior to voting, the ballot packet includes information submitted by the candidates, including their responses to questions approved by the Northwest Council.

The newly elected vice presidents start two-year terms March 22.

## About the Executive Board

The Executive Board oversees SPEEA activities and monitors expenses. The Board also serves as the team for any interim negotiations that



may occur between formal bargaining sessions and appoints members to represent SPEEA on committees such as joint committees with company leaders.

## Reminders about campaigning

- Federal law prohibits candidates and their supporters from using company/union resources such as work email or bulletin boards.
- Candidates can, at their expense, mail campaign literature to members' homes. They work with a bonded mailing house. Addresses are never provided directly to a candidate.

**Petition information coming**

# Step up to serve as Council Rep

SPEEA members serve as Council Reps to help members in their district with contract questions and representation in case of a workplace problem.

With new terms starting this May, all eligible members are encouraged to run for Council Rep in their district.

Consider running if you are interested in serving as your co-workers' union representative in the workplace and, as a Council Rep, voting to set policy for the union.

Petitions will be due at the end of March.

## Eligibility

You must be a SPEEA member in good standing for at least the past 12 months to run for Council Rep in your district.

## Responsibilities

- Find answers to members' questions about their contract, benefits and salary charts, for example, with help from SPEEA contract administrators.
- Vote on motions, including Council budgets and policy, and conduct other union business at monthly Council meetings.
- Represent employees called in for disciplinary or investigatory meetings and work with SPEEA contract administrators to help resolve issues.

In addition to extensive training for new Council

Reps, SPEEA hosts ongoing training, including an annual leadership conference, to help Council Reps in their role.

Council Reps begin their two-year terms when seated at the May 11 Council meeting.

Both the Council district delineation and the election information booklet, with the petition form, are coming mid-February to [www.speea.org](http://www.speea.org) (drop-down menu – Councils/Forms, Petitions, Delineations).

SPEEA conducts elections for contested races with ballots sent only to members' homes in those districts.

## About district delineation

Each Council Rep is assigned a district defined by geographic boundaries (site and/or building specific) to ensure adequate representation.

The districts are typically divided to include about 200 SPEEA-represented employees per Council Rep and can be divided by floors of a building.

The SPEEA Tellers were working to finalize an updated district delineation in anticipation of the start of new Council Rep terms.

Look for the updated district delineation by mid-February, at [www.speea.org](http://www.speea.org) (drop-down menu – Councils/Forms, Petitions, Delineations).

## Longtime CRs talk about the rewards

# SPEEA needs more bulletin board focals

If you see an empty or outdated board in your work area, you would be a good candidate to become a SPEEA Bulletin Board focal.

Bulletin Board focals receive a monthly packet of fliers mailed to their home. The focals are responsible for taking down the previous month's fliers on the SPEEA workplace boards and posting the current month's fliers.

## Interested?

Email **Amber Musselman**, SPEEA communications support, at [amberm@speea.org](mailto:amberm@speea.org).

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## Why serve as a Council Rep?

# Long-term Council Reps reflect on value of the role

By Karen McLean  
SPEEA Publications Editor

As SPEEA gears up for new Council Rep terms, these two Council Reps share their story about serving as their district's union liaison.

## Impact of SPEEA helping members drives Council Rep

EVERETT, Wash. – When Council Rep **Mark Worden** started at Boeing, he joined SPEEA right away. His father was in the SPEEA Prof bargaining unit and encouraged him to join.

As an Area Rep, he remembers referring a member to their district's Council Rep for help with medical issues and a layoff. After seeing how SPEEA helped his co-worker, Worden decided to run for Council Rep when a seat became vacant.

He's glad he did. As a Council Rep, he has seen many more cases of SPEEA standing up for others. At one of the first SPEEA Council meetings at the SPEEA Everett Hall, he remembers voting for the union to pursue a legal battle to secure back pay and benefits denied to bargaining-unit employees at Palmdale and Edwards Air Force Base, in California. After 14 years and multiple appeals, SPEEA prevailed, and Boeing had to pay back employees who were denied their union benefits. "At the time, we were told it

was going to be a long uphill legal fight, but it was the right thing to do," Worden recalled.

Worden, a senior structures stress analyst on the 777 aft fuselage in Everett, does his part to do the right thing on behalf of represented employees in his district.

Sometimes, it's as straightforward as tracking down answers to questions about contract benefits. Other times, it is serving as a union representative for Weingarten rights, when an employee faces discipline, an investigation or even termination. The biggest value of the role, he said, is advocacy. "I may not know the answer, but I have a network," of people to ask, from other Council Reps to contract administrators and staff subject matter experts.

## Why step up

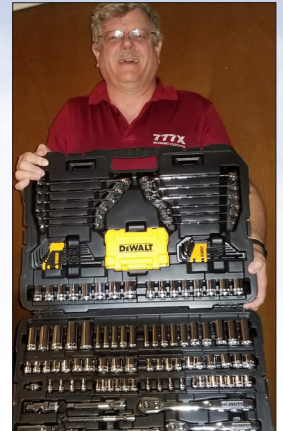
"It will stretch you," Worden said about helping members with workplace issues. "You have to focus on the employee and the situation." Training for new Council Reps, the annual leadership conference and annual grievance-handling training help Council Reps with their responsibilities.

Worden also appreciates how being a Council Rep helps his career. "You become a resource in your work area," he said. "Many people view Boeing union relations as a fight or some sort of wrestling match," he added. "In reality, it can be much more about partnership and wanting the represented employee to succeed in their job and have a growth path."

What he likes about having a union goes back to the role he serves as Council Rep. "There is someone there to help when you have an issue. Whether it is Performance Management, a rough patch with a manager or you feel you are being unfairly treated, you have an advocate who will help document your situation and seek an equitable resolution."

## Did you know?

Worden is a third-generation Boeing employee. In addition to his father, his maternal grandmother worked at Boeing, initially as one of the "sewing circle," and after a layoff, she came back as a "Rosie the Riveter."



Everett Council Rep **Mark Worden** is shown here with his 30-year Boeing Service Award. He picked out a Dewalt 168-piece mechanics tool set. Worden is one of the longest-serving Council Reps in SPEEA. He has also served for two years as a Northwest Regional Vice President.

## Council Rep likes being in the driver's seat

EVERETT, Wash. – **Ernie White** started his SPEEA activism helping to organize his site's picket line during the SPEEA 40-day strike of 2000. Because of that experience, his Council Rep, who was retiring, recruited White to step up for the role.

Since then, White has continued to serve every term except one as a Council Rep for his co-workers in propulsion on twin aisle planes. "It fits my personality," White said, calling himself a lifelong problem solver.

In addition to helping solve union and workplace issues, he notes other benefits of serving as a Council Rep, such as gaining a broader perspective. "It's always good to interact with folks, get out of your shell, and get another view of the world," White said.

White also likes the democratic and parliamentary process of Council meetings, which adhere to Robert's Rules of Order to ensure fairness and consistency. White compares the Council to a state or federal senate because Council Reps represent their district when voting on motions that set policy for the union.

"I like being part of the SPEEA Council, seeing how it drives the future of the union," he said. "I'm one of those people who likes to be in the seat of change instead of the back seat."

## Partner vs. adversary

White, a manufacturing engineering planner, appreciates how the role allows him to be seen as a partner versus an adversary at Boeing. He emphasizes the Council Rep's role to build trust among members and management/Human Resources. "There's a misconception out there that unions are there to help themselves. If you really understand SPEEA, you have a better understanding of Boeing – how we really try to partner with the company for the good of the company."

He appreciates having a contract that spells out compensation and benefits, as well as a process for discipline and union representation to monitor the employee's rights in the workplace. "Without it, things could go against the employee," he said. "It protects the employee from the potential of not being treated properly."

White plans to run for another term and encourages others to step up, too, especially if they have not held the Council Rep role before. "Don't be afraid to get in this position – there are resources



Everett Council Rep **Ernie White** is shown here with a main landing gear strut from a Convair F-106A Delta Dart interceptor for the McChord Air Museum where he volunteers. White's union experience has led to more conversations about workplace issues and how unions can help.

there to help you." Then he added, "if you want to be part of the solution, become a Council Rep."

## Did you know?

White has been passionate about airplanes since growing up in Tacoma, Washington. He used to watch Air Force jets heading to the nearby McChord Air Force Base. He's been volunteering at McChord Air Museum for 28 years.





Shown here from left, SPEEA Treasurer Dan Nowlin, Rep. Steve Bergquist, Sebastian Sanders, intern for Rep. Bergquist, and Dwight Rousu, SPEEA retiree.

## Members put face to issues in Olympia

OLYMPIA, Wash. – Washington state lawmakers met with SPEEA members in Olympia Jan. 24 to hear about the issues important to aerospace professionals.

SPEEA Treasurer **Dan Nowlin** wanted to attend “because it puts a face to the people represented by our legislature. Our legislators are by and large concerned about the same things we are – good jobs for the future, viable industries, environmental and labor protections and a future for our children.”

Many lawmakers were supportive of SPEEA’s issues including bills related to local Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), accountability in tax incentives and ongoing funding for SPEEA Aerospace Career Enhancement (ACE) as well as more equitable housing and child care access.

On behalf of the Northwest Legislative and Public Affairs (L&PA) Committee, SPEEA coordinated schedules with 11 lawmakers/staff. The 10 SPEEA participants went in smaller groups to meet with their lawmakers.

The Midwest L&PA is planning similar meetings with state lawmakers in Topeka, Kansas, in March.

**Feb. 19-25**

## Celebrate Engineers Week by connecting your career to students

National Engineers Week started more than 70 years ago to fill a need that continues today – to encourage more students to explore engineering and technical careers. This year, Engineers Week is Feb. 19-25 with the theme of “Creating the Future.”

Countless SPEEA members are already involved in outreach related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

SPEEA promotes that outreach through Northwest Council STEM grants to more than 30 teams and non-profit groups where a SPEEA member is involved in the outreach activity. The application period runs from April 1 to Aug. 15.

The Midwest Council also supports several teams through financial support and mentoring by members for teams involved in Kansas Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST). Check out [www.wichita.edu/academics/engineering/kansasbest](http://www.wichita.edu/academics/engineering/kansasbest).

### Want more ideas?

**Judges** – Science fairs are always looking for judges, especially for projects related to your field of expertise. All you need is time and a healthy dose of admiration for the students’ efforts. Consider the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair (WSSEF), a statewide event culminating in hundreds of students presenting their projects in Bremerton at the end of March. See [www.wssef.org](http://www.wssef.org) for details.

**Mentors** – Raisbeck Aviation High School (RAHS), based in south Seattle, is looking for mentors to share their knowledge and career

experience with students interested in STEM and aerospace. Contact RAHS Career Specialist **Renee Olsen** at [renee.olsen@highlineschools.org](mailto:renee.olsen@highlineschools.org).

**Robotics** – Looking for more ideas? Consider volunteering on a robotics team competing in For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) from the elementary to high school level. Go to [www.firstwa.org](http://www.firstwa.org) or check with your local school.

### Other ideas

Get inspired by checking out STEM activities tailored for the classroom and ask if you can share them with your local school. These hands-on projects are simple but fun ways to explore some basic elements of engineering. Go to [www.discovere.org](http://www.discovere.org) and look for STEM activities, including environmentally friendly six-pack can holders, wind-resistant towers and puff-of-air-powered vehicles.

For additional inspiration, go to the website for National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) at [nspe.org](http://nspe.org). This is the organization which started Engineers Week. Their advice includes reaching out to elected officials to request a proclamation recognizing engineering contributions and/or work with your company’s leaders to send a message on the importance of STEM careers to their employees and their stakeholders.

Or simply share your career-path story either through social media (#Eweek2023), a professional organization or by asking a few friends to join you for lunch. You can share why and how you pursued your profession and how you have benefited from the experience.

However you celebrate – remember to recognize the power of engineering to change the future!

## TRAINING/ EVENTS

See online calendar for details. RSVP where you plan to attend.

### Northwest Snohomish and Island County Labor Council Union Solidarity Night

Discount hockey tickets Everett SilverTips vs. Spokane Chiefs

**Friday, Feb. 17, 7:05 p.m.**

Angel of the Winds Arena, Everett

Link to purchase tickets at [www.snolabor.org](http://www.snolabor.org)

Discount tickets \$3-\$10 each – best available

Purchase online only – deadline 11 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 16

Snohomish and Island County Labor Council

### Midwest Young Professionals no-host social

**Friday, Feb. 10, 4:30 p.m.**

Location TBD

Midwest Young Professionals Committee





## SPEEA ACE sponsors EPIC STEM Challenge

Congratulations to the high school students who competed in the annual Electric Propulsion Innovation Challenge (EPIC) at the Museum of Flight Jan. 19. A total of 24 teams from Orting High School learned about building a plane, analyzing data and making modifications for their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) classes. SPEEA Aerospace Career Enhancement (ACE) was one of the event sponsors and presented Spirit ACE awards for overcoming challenges to **Comor Towand** (from left) and **Zachary Arnold** who partnered on their plane and **Joey Maranda** on a team by himself. SPEEA member **Ethan Brewer** volunteered as a judge for the event. Learn more about EPIC Challenge at [epicSTEMchallenge.com](http://epicSTEMchallenge.com).



## Washington State Labor Council

# Council Rep to serve new VP term for state labor council board

*Editor's note – Thompson Site Council Rep **Daniel Peters** was recently named to another term on the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), AFL-CIO Executive Board as at-large SPEEA/IFPTE vice president.*



**Daniel Peters**

By **Daniel Peters**  
SPEEA Council Rep

I have now served in this role as the at-large SPEEA/IFPTE vice president on the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), AFL-CIO Executive Board for almost six years.

I wanted to run for another term because it's been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable roles I've served in as a SPEEA member. I get to sit at the table with union leaders in every type of industry and profession from all over the state and help make decisions benefiting workers throughout the state.

This role has given me more perspective on the challenges other working people face outside of the aerospace industry. Also, this experience has strengthened the sense of solidarity I feel with the rest of the Washington state labor movement!

### Highlights from WSLC service

One of my most rewarding experiences comes from continuing to serve as chair of the WSLC Economic Development and Transportation Committee.

As chair of this committee, I learned a lot about critical issues facing other union affiliates, such

as employee misclassification in the music and film industry, lack of adequate sick leave for rail workers and how a future high-speed rail transit project could help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Our committee accomplished some great successes, including passage of resolutions at annual WSLC conventions to address worker misclassification and equity in economic and workforce development.

### About the WSLC Board

The WSLC Executive Board meets quarterly plus a separate meeting prior to the WSLC Convention every summer.

Our purpose on the Board is to stay informed through reports from WSLC leadership, staff and union affiliates and establish policies and programs for WSLC between conventions. The board also oversees WSLC finances to ensure dues from members and affiliates throughout the state are spent responsibly and with the best interests of working people in mind.

The WSLC provides services for hundreds of affiliated unions throughout the state, such as legislative advocacy, political action and organizing/strike support.

WSLC helps SPEEA by providing resources, staff and people power to support issues important to our union. For example, WSLC has a regular presence in Olympia to advocate for workers, including helping SPEEA with bills affecting aerospace professionals.

At its core, the WSLC functions to mobilize the voices and resources of thousands of working people as advocates for the interests of all workers in the state of Washington.

### Historic moment

With the recent swearing of **April Sims** as WSLC president and **Cherika Carter** as secretary-treasurer, it is an incredible honor for me to serve on the WSLC Board during this historic time. **Sims** and **Carter** are the first pair of Black women elected to lead a state labor federation in the U.S.

The Washington state labor movement has always been a nationwide leader in our commitment to equity, diversity and justice. This monumental leadership change is a testament to that.

I am very excited to see where Sims and Carter lead our labor movement, and I am so proud to play whatever role I can in helping to advance their vision for Washington workers.

### About Daniel Peters

**Daniel Peters** works in P-8 loads, dynamics and flutter as a loads and dynamics engineer. Before SPEEA, Peters was a union member as a graduate student employee, while earning his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. Peters' other SPEEA involvement includes formerly serving as Northwest regional vice president and multiple committees, including NW Labor Delegates.

# Is budget an issue for attending conferences and Local Learning Events? Ed Wells can help!

By Kelly Hanes  
SPEEA Co-Director, Ed Wells Partnership

Every year, Ed Wells Partnership sponsors a number of SPEEA-Boeing members to attend technical classes and conferences.

You have a few different ways to take advantage of this valuable benefit.

While Ed Wells classes are great opportunities to connect with Boeing Subject Matter Experts and build skills with other Boeing employees, conference attendance connects SPEEA-represented employee with the larger technical communities outside of Boeing. Attendees can bring those experiences and knowledge back to their jobs at Boeing.

## Ed Wells conference grants

### What are they?

When you qualify and are selected for a grant, Ed Wells pays the event registration fee and travel expenses. Your manager commits to pay your salary while you are attending the event. The grant program makes it more feasible for you to attend technical conferences or courses.

### Who is it for?

The program is for SPEEA-represented engineers and technical workers who normally aren't able to attend off-site symposia, technical society meetings, seminars and vendor courses because of limited travel and training budgets. The grants are not intended to replace your organization's funding for training or to meet the basic requirements of performing your job.

Because of supply and demand, SPEEA-represented employees in the Puget Sound need to wait three years after their last Ed Wells grant to be eligible for another grant. For more on eligibility, visit the Ed Wells Partnership website at [edwells.web.boeing.com](https://edwells.web.boeing.com) (on Boeing's intranet).

### How does it work?

Eligible employees submit applications through the Ed Wells website and the employee's manager will need to approve the request. Once the application window is closed, the business cases of all applications are reviewed and those who are approved are notified to make arrangements for travel. You must plan ahead as applications are due three to five months prior to the conference date. Application windows occur four times per

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
<b>Conference Dates</b>	January, February, March 2023	April, May, June 2023	July, August, September 2023	October, November, December 2023
<b>Application Dates</b>	Online applications accepted Oct. 3-23, 2022 (Midnight PST) Manager approval needed by Nov. 6, 2022	Online applications accepted Jan. 3-23, 2023 (Midnight PST) Manager approval needed by Feb. 6, 2023	Online applications accepted April 3-23, 2023 (Midnight PST) Manager approval needed by May 7, 2023	Online applications accepted July 11-31, 2023 (Midnight PST) Manager approval needed by Aug. 14, 2023

year with each window tied to a fixed time frame for conferences, as outlined in the chart above.

If the conference grant program is something you might be interested in, visiting the Ed Wells website ([edwells.web.boeing.com/Grants/ConferenceGrants/](https://edwells.web.boeing.com/Grants/ConferenceGrants/)) will answer many of your questions.

## Local Learning Events

### What are they?

Some conference and technical classes are hosted in the Puget Sound area. Ed Wells pays for the conference or course fees for these, and managers pay for your salary while you are attending the event. Travel expenses are not covered, because it is a local event.

### Who is it for?

SPEEA-represented engineers and technical workers who work in the Puget Sound can apply. Those outside of the Puget Sound can attend these events through a conference grant.

### How does it work?

Apply like any other Ed Wells class or event by going to [edwells.web.boeing.com/Browse/](https://edwells.web.boeing.com/Browse/). Typically, you need to apply about month in advance of the event.

Puget Sound-based SPEEA-represented employees are not limited in the number of Local Learning Events they can attend, and they do not count as a conference grant, so they are a great option if you have already attended an out-of-town conference through Ed Wells in the last three years.

## How do I request a Local Learning Event?

If you know of a conference or technical class coming up in the Puget Sound that is at least six weeks away, email [edwells.sbp@boeing.com](mailto:edwells.sbp@boeing.com) to propose it as a Local Learning Event.

The following Local Learning Events are already open for registration:

- **March 31-April 1** – WE Local-Seattle – learn more at <https://edwells.web.boeing.com/event/14856>
- **April 17-21** – KU Aerospace Short Courses – learn more at <https://edwells.web.boeing.com/event/14457>

## About Ed Wells Partnership

Through a joint initiative between SPEEA and Boeing, Ed Wells offers free discretionary training to enhance SPEEA-represented employees' skills. Ed Wells also offers career-planning resources, including coaching and consulting. Learn more at [edwells.web.boeing.com](https://edwells.web.boeing.com).

## 2023 dues adjusted

Based on the annual re-calculation of SPEEA dues, the monthly rate for 2023 is \$51.29, effective Feb. 2.

Per the SPEEA constitution, the dues are set at 85% of the average hourly rate.





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### Vacancy for Tech rep

## Help guide Ed Wells Partnership as a Joint Policy Board member

The SPEEA Executive Board is seeking applicants for the Tech Unit representative vacancy on the Ed Wells Partnership Joint Policy Board (JPB).

The selected candidate will be appointed to a three-year term beginning in May. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 10.

Most SPEEA members at Boeing are aware of Ed Wells Partnership and its contribution to the career development of SPEEA-represented employees.

### In the contracts

What many may not know is how the joint program is governed. The Joint Policy Board is established per Article 20 of the Prof and Tech contracts and is comprised of representatives from SPEEA and Boeing. The SPEEA president and two at-large members, one from each bargaining unit, and the SPEEA executive director make up the SPEEA representation.

The Board is responsible for providing the overall direction of Ed Wells Partnership, acting on the recommendations of the joint administrative staff and determining the expenditure of funds provided to Ed Wells.

As a member of the Board, you will meet quarterly with other members and Ed Wells staff to review the partnership's activities and performance while providing input and guidance to its future direction.

### Qualifications

- Be a SPEEA member in good standing in the Technical Unit in Puget Sound.
- Be familiar with the mission, products and services of the Ed Wells Partnership.
- Have experience promoting technical excellence and working together between SPEEA and Boeing.
- Be available to participate in meetings, as

scheduled, starting May 4. A charge line is provided.

- Have experience in Ed Wells programs as a student, instructor, facilitator or other role.

### Apply by email

- Indicate how you meet the above qualifications.
- Provide a description of what you would like to accomplish through involvement on this Board.
- Submit both to [apply@speea.org](mailto:apply@speea.org) by 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 10.

### Questions

Contact **Kelly Hanes**, SPEEA co-director on the Ed Wells Partnership, at (805) 215-8149 or email [kelly.j.hanes@boeing.com](mailto:kelly.j.hanes@boeing.com) or [kellyh@speea.org](mailto:kellyh@speea.org).

## Union-driven food bank strives for dignity and respect

*Continued from page 1*

As Sim gave a tour of the building, **Brandon Kim** worked on computer issues. Kim is the part-time program manager/comptroller who used to work with Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firms. After being friends for years, Sim recruited Kim to join the effort at the food bank.

**Lauren Au-Yeung**, the other part-time employee, works primarily in the food distribution section. When the food bank is open to clients, she greets them while ensuring the tables are well stocked with items. She's also working to organize the incoming pallets of food for easy access. She started as a volunteer while going to the University of Washington, then took the part-time job as coordinator/executive assistant.

Au-Yeung sees firsthand how their work makes a difference. One of the food bank clients told her the money he saved on food allowed him to fix

insulation for his RV. He woke up in the morning feeling warmer because of PSLA's efforts.

Each time a client shops at the food bank, they save about \$75 on about 50 pounds of free food. Multiply that by 38,000 – the total number of client visits in 2022.

"If you don't know where your local food bank is, congratulations on life – you're doing well," said Sim.

Sim would love to share more about PSLA at labor, community or church events. He'll provide a table with signage and a representative to talk more about how others can help. The food bank even has an extra-large game-board spinner to engage passers-by at these outreach events.

"You're always welcome," Sim said, inviting union members to visit the food bank. "We all have in

common the drive to be inclusive, provide dignity and respect people here."

### Want to help?

PSLA is now taking secure donations through PayPal. Make a one-time donation or consider a monthly donation. Go to [www.pugetsoundlaboragency.org](http://www.pugetsoundlaboragency.org). As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, donations to PSLA are tax deductible.

### SPEEA ties to PSLA

Puget Sound Labor Agency (PSLA) helps administer emergency funds through SPEEA Cares Fund for laid-off SPEEA members. PSLA provides this service to other unions as well as coordinating wheel-chair ramp builders.

SPEEA has a representative on the PSLA Board of Directors.