

General Government

Steven Hernandez – USA (Dept. of Enterprise Services)

I have worked a variety of retail, doh, and other jobs. I believe the time is now for the worker and union to exercise their power for the good of many. It is my goal to help all of Washington state by lifting up union members and lifting up those not yet in a union. Our time is now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Mihelich – USA (Dept. of Health)

I have been active member and shop steward 15 and 13 years respectively. This contract will be very important. I would like to serve and represent, my fellow union members to make this a rewarding contract since bargaining began in our state. Please elect me a bargaining team member. I have worked at DOH for 15 years.

Thank you,
Joe Mihelich

Derwin Stanton – USA (Dept. of Health)

I was born and raised on the Yakama Indian Reservation, Toppenish, Washington. My Mom was enrolled and that makes me a direct descendant of an enrolled tribal member. I always claim my heritage, because I lived and grew up with my heritage. I grew up poor, living with my parents and five brothers and sisters. When I was 16 I landed a job at a gas station, then my dad kicked me out and I still graduated high school.

I started working on computers, teaching myself as I went along. I had my own computer repair shop from 1994 to 1999. In 1999 I moved to Olympia, secured a position at The Evergreen State College in the help desk. During this time, I became a shop steward. I worked at The Evergreen State College for a little over three years. In 2002 I stopped working to go back and finish my college degree. I initially wanted to be a nurse so my studies included, chemistry, biology, anatomy and physiology, microbiology, genetics, pathophysiology and the first quarter of nursing classes. I was on the Dean's list twice and the President's list once. I decided I didn't want to be a nurse and computers grabbed my attention. I graduated in 2005 with my bachelor degree in liberal arts, the first in my family to do so.

From January 2007 until April 2007 I worked for FEMA while they were in town for the wind storms and flooding. I hold 21 FEMA Certifications. From July of 2007 to January of 2007 I worked in the engineer's help desk at Intel in DuPont where I built servers and work stations for the engineers for their use or for testing. Knowing my position was temporary and Intel had to lay off temp staff after so many months I looked for something permanent. In January of 2008 I secured my position in Department of Health's help desk. I made a reputation for advocating for my customers, my fast response time, my tech skills and my customer service. In 2013 I applied for a systems administrator position and was offered the position. In 2019 my position was demoted to customer support – entry level (still on appeal). In January I will be starting my 14th year with the Department of Health.

I hold a claim to fame of creating the world's first book with glass pages, which resides in the rare book section of the Evergreen State College. I hand bind books and have worked with world renown artists such as Joe Feddersen, a famous print maker and also a glass artist who has some work in the Smithsonian and Preston Singletary a well known Seattle glass artist as well as other artists. I have collaborated on a couple of hand bound art books with Joe and various other artists and poets. I maintain my artist connections and my tribal connections. My wife has worked at the Long House at the Evergreen State College for well over 22 years and is now the Managing Director for approximately the past year.

Thank you,
Derwin

Susan Butz – USA (Dept. of Commerce)

I'm a grant manager for the Department of Commerce. I've worked for this agency for almost 30 years, and I've been a shop steward for about 6 years. Thanks to my experience as a steward, I've become pretty familiar with the CBA and definitely have some ideas about how it could be improved. In particular, the articles concerning hiring, promotions, trial service, probation and other hiring-related articles are so confusing, they've provided me, other stewards, and members with many hair-pulling moments trying to figure them out. Plus, trying to

ensure that they are applied consistently in different situations. I also believe that the CBA has become outdated, especially since the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic. Portions of it seem to belong in another era altogether. I realize that it is probably not realistic to overhaul the entire document, but certain areas definitely need reconsideration: telework and inclement weather are two examples of articles that really don't address the current reality of working from home.

One of my accomplishments as a steward in conjunction with other stewards, our council reps and labor advocates includes a vastly improved agency Respectful Workplace policy, plus a brand new complaint procedure, and online complaint form. We were also instrumental in improving the agency telework policy and procedures before the pandemic, which greatly assisted in the transition when most staff were directed to work from home. Regarding negotiation experience, I have over 25 years of experience managing many different types of contracts, and am no stranger to negotiating contractual legal issues, as well as contract language writing and interpretation.

We were told to keep the bio short, so I will end it here. Just know that I am a dedicated steward with experience in grievances, CBA interpretation, contract negotiation, and helping to meet the needs of members in our rapidly evolving workplace.

Susan

Shawn Thomas – USA (Dept. of Health)

My name is Shawn Thomas. I work for the Department of Health as a Systems Admin - Journey. I have been with DOH for seven and a half years and active in the union for about three and a half. I am on my second career; I spent my early adult years as a Soldier and served for 21 years before retiring and moving to Washington in 2011 with my family. I chose to become active in the union after the IT reclassification a few years ago due to imbalanced way that it was conducted. Since becoming active with WFSE, I have become a shop steward. I also serve on the USA Policy committee, and as a member of the Executive Board for Council 28.

In Solidarity,
Shawn Thomas

Wilbert Pina – USA (Office of Minority & Women Business Enterprises)

It's been an honor and privilege to have represented you on the Bargaining Team this past term. I'm looking forward to representing you again, to bring forward all your concerns and any changes you wish to see in this upcoming bargaining agreement. As a union representative it's my goal to make sure every union member voice is heard; and that the values of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are represented in our contract to foster a FAIR and better work environment for us ALL.

Sincerely,
Wilbert R. Pina

Matthew Hines – USA (Washington State School for the Blind)

My name is Matthew Hines and I am the President of our local 1225 unit at the Washington State School for the Blind. I have been involved in our union since 2018 and have quickly dove in to ensure better pay, better working conditions and building a stronger local for our staff. Thank you.

Tony Kennish – USA (Dept. of Enterprise Services)

My name is Tony Kennish, and I'm an Equipment Technician 3 at Fleet Operations (formerly known as the motor pool). I have been a shop steward since shortly after the motor pool became a bargaining unit in 2009. I am currently the chief shop steward of my bargaining unit, the 443 shop steward committee chair, an active member of the 443 grievance committee, and a member of the statewide steward committee. I have also served intermittently on the DES UMCC team over the last 12 years.

I am running for a position on the bargaining team because I want to help bargain for a strong contract that makes gains instead of just holding on to what we have. Nothing is harder for me than having to explain to my members that our gains in the new contract are, "We didn't lose as much as management wanted to take from us." I hope to get your vote and look forward to representing you all while bargaining our next collective bargaining agreement.

Yours in Solidarity,
Tony Kennish