

A portrait of a man with a goatee and a dark baseball cap, wearing a bright yellow high-visibility safety vest over a dark shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# LiUNA!

*Feel the Power*

## THE NEXT DECADE OF THE NORTHWEST LABORER

WINTER ISSUE | VOLUME 6





## A message from the Northwest Region's Vice President & Regional Manager **Robert Abbott**:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I want to thank every Member, Local Union, District Council and Northwest Region Staff for a very productive 2019. As we look back over the past year we need to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Journeymen, Apprentices and Retirees as they are the backbone and the Power of LIUNA!

We need to look at the accomplishments, what got us there and how we prepare to build on those efforts in 2020. Every Local Union and District Council

expanded on their organizing and political efforts, in conjunction with all of the programs of the NW Region and LIUNA, we were able to increase our membership by over 3,000 members. Thanks to your efforts we saw growth in 20 of the 23 Local Unions in the Northwest Region. This growth was not due to one project or one Local Union, it was accomplished by working together as one union, moving the same direction as one powerful force, the power of LIUNA.

The LIUNA Feel the Power brand, is recognized through construction and politics as the brand that delivers. We expanded our marketing in television, radio, social media and sports franchises across the Northwest Region. We are proud to announce that the LIUNA NW Region and the Washington and Northern Idaho District Council, in partnership with Local Union 242, will be the official union sponsor of the NHL expansion hockey team in Seattle. Through this effort, LIUNA will be able to reach an additional 14 million people per year, expanding on the efforts of Local 872 with the Las Vegas Golden Knights.

We used all resources and tactics available to sign new employers, recruit skilled workers to expand our membership and market share. The recruitment efforts not only increased the skilled hands but increased the number of apprentices across the region.

With all the great things we accomplished in 2019, there will be political challenges in 2020 on the federal, state and local level that will have impacts on organizing in the public and private sectors, apprenticeship, prevailing wage and the benefits our members rely on. We must stay strong, work together to protect our members, benefits, apprenticeship programs and working conditions for all working people. It is for these reasons we have set a goal to mobilize 10 percent of our membership to work on these efforts and will be providing each Local Union with information to communicate with our membership on these critical issues.

Look at what we accomplished in 2019 and look at what the future holds! If we continue to work together as one Union and mobilize the most powerful force in all of organized labor we will ensure every contractor and politician Feels the Power of LIUNA!

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert F. Abbott'.

**Robert F. Abbott**

## **A message from Assistant Regional Manager **Rey Espinoza:****

As we start this new decade it is a great time to reflect on all that LIUNA has accomplished. Through our organizing, worker recruitment and marketing efforts, we have continued to increase our market share. Many of these successes can be attributed to the strong Apprenticeship and Training programs in place. We are only as strong as our members. Through training, our members have gained and/or refreshed their knowledge and skills making them a valuable asset to our signatory contractors in the construction industry. When our members have strong knowledge and skills they not only personally benefit, but they are helping contractors not just on the current jobs, but in bidding for future work as well. This is a win-win situation!

In moving forward, LIUNA will continue to grow. Our future successes will always depend on our highly qualified and skilled membership. Contact your Local Union to see how you can assist with increasing our market share so we can build great things.

## **A message from Western Canada Sub-Regional Manager **Mark Olsen:****

### **RECRUITING AND TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LABOURER**

Recruitment and training are a major focus of the four LIUNA Locals in Western Canada (92, 180, 1258 and 1611).

The next generation of labourer is the most diversified group in our history, with people from all over the world, Indigenous peoples and women. The more diverse, the stronger the Local Unions will be, and LIUNA is the most diverse trade in the industry.

Recruitment efforts now include dedicated recruitment officers; social media campaigns; organizing and poaching; and the employment of Indigenous liaisons, to name a few. The Locals are also looking at adding virtual reality devices to assist in high schools and at job fairs.

Equally important is training efforts, which include in-class, on location, at job sites and online. The statistics tell the tale in 2019 with 1800 courses provided there were 10,984 members trained and over 500 apprentices in the Construction Craft Worker Program; over 50 courses were specifically put on for Indigenous groups and over 500 Indigenous people were trained.

The next decade looks very promising in Western Canada, and the Local Unions are committed to recruiting and training the next generation of labourer.

## **A message from International Representative **Chad Fenison:****

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

With the winter months upon us, mainline and distribution pipeline construction projects have slowed as they do seasonally. We are looking forward to some new projects about to start. Jordan Cove looks like it may kick off this year in Oregon. FERC is expected to make its final decision sometime in February. Obtaining Oregon state permits will be the final hurdle for Jordan Cove. If you'd like to make a difference, reach out to Oregon Governor Kate Brown's office and let them know how important the Jordan Cove Project is to you.

The Keystone XL will be starting back up in February in Montana. The 700-mile-long Liberty Pipeline is slated to kick off in 2020, it will go through Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. Union contractors will be bidding on the Liberty project. This coming year there will be a lot of Mainline Integrity Management and Maintenance work in the Northwest Region. Thank you to all the newly appointed Pipeline Stewards that attended the Steward's Training at the Regional Headquarters in January as well as all our seasoned Pipeline Stewards in the field. We would also like to thank the Pipeline Steward's Training Instructor, Laura Hughes as this was her last training. Laura educated many of us on how to protect our jurisdiction and how to successfully navigate the responsibilities that come with being a Pipeline Steward.

Last year was an extremely busy year and this year we are anticipating being just as busy. Sisters and Brothers, we look forward to seeing you in the field. We are the power in the energy market. Be the power, feel the power!

# PROGRAM UPDATES

Affiliated with  
Laborers'  
International  
Union of  
North America  
Northwest Regional Organizing Coalition

## NROC

With a very successful year of organizing behind us, we would like to touch on some of the highlights of the Northwest Region and the many shared successes that we have had. Through the efforts of the District Councils, Local Unions, NW LECET and all other LIUNA programs working together to build a stronger organizing and worker recruitment front, we have increased the number of new members by over 3000 in 2019. Along with the new membership, we are excited to share that numerous Local & District Council agreements have been signed, we would like to welcome all the new contractors to the team.

To kick off 2020 with new tools in our bag, training has been a focus for all staff. We have continued to increase our knowledge of NW LECET, Tri-Funds, apprenticeship, organizing tactics, public speaking and the best methods for collaborating information. Through strategic planning meetings, we have identified where we plan to go for the year ahead and the steps to get us there. Our region now has a Regional Researcher working towards common organizing goals and proactively looking into projects, owners and employers across the Region. Market Representatives have conducted well over 400 top-down meetings with individual contractors in the past year and they plan to continue laying down the groundwork in which these campaigns are built on.

In organizing, our goals are to make the lives of the citizens that live in our communities better by building relationships and partnerships; increasing our market share so that we may provide living wages and benefits for our members; and communicating the opportunities we offer through LIUNA. Working together and incorporating the resources that we have available, makes the Northwest Region an unstoppable force.

"We do today what they won't, so tomorrow we accomplish what they can't." – Dwayne Johnson

-Tonya Ohumukini, Regional Director of NROC




As the new year brings another busy construction season this spring, skills and safety upgrade classes are always a theme. Contractors are continuously clamoring for members with certain skills and OSHA 10 and 30-cards. Encouraging members to take advantage of the courses offered at the training schools and in Locals is more important than ever. Several states and local governments have a requirement that construction workers have an OSHA 10-hour card, and a 30-hour card for supervisors.

These legislative efforts are being driven by studies that show those who have taken these safety courses are less likely to have become injured. One such study by the CPWR, Dong et al, titled "Effects of Safety & Health Training on Work-Related Injury Among Construction Laborers" showed results that Laborers who received safety and health training during the study period were 12 percent less likely than untrained laborers to file for workers compensation. Among workers 16 to 24-years-old, training was associated with a 42 percent reduction in claims. Many employers are also asking for the same, as project owners are becoming more sophisticated and requiring such in contracts. When it comes to the safety culture on projects, owners are increasingly concerned that their projects will not be built on the broken backs of the workers.

-Doug Buman, Tri-Funds Coordinator, LHSFNA



# PROGRAM UPDATES

 **NW LECET** The 2019 year was busy to say the least. Northwest LECET had goals that focused on branding and recruitment, public relations and compliance. Throughout the year, we not only met these goals, but built rapport and relationships with our Affiliates, the public and future partners.

We worked on developing branding initiatives that would meet the LIUNA style guide and get our message out to the public at the same time. Through partners like Root Sports NW, we were able to use our brand to reach new audiences. We were the first to utilize the new SAP spanish broadcasting for Mariners games creating an opportunity to reach our bilingual brothers and sisters, as well as potential members during the recruitment season. The partnership with Univision elevated our branding and recruitment efforts to the Spanish-speaking audience throughout the region. With their efforts, we were able to create short recruitment videos and marketing material that we can continuously use. Our worker recruitment program received over 3,000 applications. We continued our efforts in making sure this program was useful not only to the Local Unions but the Apprenticeship Coordinators as well. We made sure that those who applied to an area specified their experience first and foremost. We are also proud to have assisted the Local Unions and District Council with any branding needs they had. This included website development, graphic design, Google Drive assistance, research, training and marketing materials.


Our public relations efforts soared in 2019. With the work of our PR Specialist, Hallie Fuchs, we were able to expand what we can offer our Affiliates by shooting videos and photos throughout the Region. We covered Local events, highlighted our Native American brother and sister in a video that debuted at the CTER National Legal Conference; we were able to utilize our skills to build our public relations and tell the LIUNA story to the public. This can be seen in the increase of our social media networks and the growth they had throughout 2019.

Throughout the last quarter, the Northwest LECET compliance program has continued to identify fair contracting issues in the construction industry and leveling the playing field for our signatory contractors. In 2019, we collected tens of thousands of dollars in back wages for employees, assisted OSHA related regulatory agencies by identifying and reporting severe jobsite safety conditions, and continue to ensure that employers are abiding by all contractual obligations on both public and private projects.

When policy changes in the construction industry occur, our compliance staff quickly become experts in these changes and continuously strategize to incorporate additional tools new policies inact. Whether these changes are new apprenticeship utilization resolutions, additional environmental impact conditions, or changes in certified payroll reporting, our compliance program is always prepared for the next phase in the construction industry.

We thank all our Affiliates and Board of Directors for the continued support in 2019. We are excited for what 2020 and are ready to assist the Local Unions, District Councils and Affiliates with continuing to build relationships with the public, branding, training and compliance efforts.

- Aubrey Newton, Director, Northwest LECET

 **LECET** National LECET partnered with Northwest LECET to produce a video featuring two Native American apprentices, Nancy and David, as well as, new marketing material for tribal recruitment and partnerships. They shared their success stories, which were made possible by joining the Laborers' Apprenticeship Program and working with their Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO). As they're closing in on their graduation day, we want to offer Nancy and David a big congratulations on all of their hard work!

This video was shared at the Council for Tribal Employment Rights (CTER) Conference where Vice President & Northwest Regional Manager Bob Abbott spoke on the continued partnership with the tribes in the Northwest Region. To solidify that partnership, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the LIUNA Northwest Region and CTER. This MOU focuses on providing tools to assist in awareness and prevention of the current suicide epidemic. National LECET looks forward to developing relationships with tribes and highlighting exemplary Native American LIUNA members.

-Christina Riley, Marketing Rep, National LECET



# LIUNA in ACTION



Concrete placing at Local 180.



LIUNA attendees at the 2019 Women Build Nations conference.



Local 1611 members and some new swag.



Local 348 retirees with Santa at the Local holiday party.



Local 71 Women Build Nations attendees.



Concrete finishing course at Local 1611.



Local 242, NROC and BNBuilders volunteered to pour concrete for a Make-A-Wish swim spa.



Santa (Local 292 Organizer Trevor Smith) at the Local's Christmas party.



Survey Level 1 class at Local 1611.



Apprenticeship Coordinator David Aguayo, Local 242 Agent Bill Meeks at a Veteran's Day event.



Local 1611's Roger Bennett, Tom Miller and LIUNA Director of Indigenous Relations Larry Villeneuve attending a job fair.



Local 92 training.



# LIUNA in ACTION



Women Build Nations attendee.



General President Terry O'Sullivan presented retired Vice President & Northwest Regional Manager Joel Weigert with his 70-year membership pin.



Local 238 Business Manager Scott Holstrom, Lance and Gabe volunteering for No on I-976.



Local 1611 Retiree Luncheon. Pictured retirees with former Business Manager Manuel Alvernaz, current Business Manager Nav Malhotra and Vice President Danny Klein.



Local 1611 Brother Victor McPherson receiving his 50-year gold watch and pin.



Gas testing class participants at Local 1611.



Jackhammer training at Local 92.



Five-day training at Local 242.



Concrete finishing course at Local 1611.



Local 92's Children's Christmas Party.



Vice President Bob Abbott (left), Local 92 Business Manager John Desrosiers (Right) and President Larry Lebold (Left center) awarded a 60-year pin to member James Wright (Right center).



Local 292 and WANIDC's Doug Scott volunteered their time in support of Marysville schools.





# LIUNA-NHL Seattle: Laborers, Official Union Partner

On Thursday, January 23, LIUNA Northwest became the official union partner of NHL Seattle. The signing was attended by Local 242 members, LIUNA and affiliate staff, local politicians, members of the Oakview Group and NHL Seattle. The deal was brokered by LIUNA Northwest, Washington & Northern Idaho District Council of Labor, Local 242 and Northwest LECET.

LIUNA members are among the hundreds of people currently helping to build the New Arena at Seattle Center. The union was previously involved in the construction of the Washington state pavilion in 1962 and the 1994 remodel of the Coliseum.

“This redevelopment stands as a testament to LIUNA Local 242, the City of Seattle and NHL Seattle’s commitment to the residents of our city,” said Local 242 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Dale Cannon.

As part of the partnership, a custom installation will be co-created and permanently displayed in the New Arena to commemorate LIUNA’s history at the location. LIUNA’s logo will also be prominently displayed in corner in-ice locations for all regular season NHL Seattle games.

“This is a complex construction project to create a brand new Arena under an historic roof,” said Ken Johnsen, Executive Vice President for Construction. “The work going on every day at the site is so impressive and critical to the success of this project. We could not be more grateful to the LIUNA members and I can’t wait for people to see the amazing arena they have built.”

“We are honored that The New Arena and the home of the team is being proudly built by LIUNA members,” added NHL Seattle CEO, Tod Leiweke. “We respect the history of this building, just as we respect the decades of work they have done here.”





# 2020 Election: Your Voice, Your Vote



With the tremendous 2020 presidential election on our doorstep, we have put together some information on how to exercise your fundamental rights this November 3!

Whether you're blue, red or purple, we need to come together as LIUNA and tell candidates, and the country, that we want safe jobs, strong, livable wages, benefits and the ability to retire with dignity.

Pick issues that are important to your local union membership and get the word out to members at the beginning of the year.

- Building Solidarity and Stopping Union Busters
- Protecting Prevailing Wages
- Fighting So-called Right-to-Work
- Protecting Pensions and Retirement Security
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- Winning Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
- Responsible Contracting and Local Hire
- Electing Worker Champions
- Support LIUNA Apprenticeship and Training



For each issue topic, use a mailing, social media, worksite flyers, one-on-one conversations, the local's website and a meeting to get members interested and involved.

## YOUR VOTING RIGHTS (ACLU, 2020)

### **I need accommodations for my disability or limited English proficiency**

#### **Your rights**

Under federal law, all polling places for federal elections must be accessible to disabled and elderly voters, or must provide alternate means for casting a ballot on the day of the election.

Under federal law, all limited English proficiency voters and voters with disabilities may obtain assistance in voting from a person of their choice, as long as this person is not the voter's employer, or an agent of the employer or of the voter's union.

In some places (those covered by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act), trained bilingual poll workers must be available to provide assistance in the relevant language, and ballots, written forms, and information relating to the voting process must be available in the covered language.

All polling places for a federal election must have at least one voting system that makes voting accessible in a private and independent manner to voters with disabilities.

Voters with disabilities cannot be turned away from the polls because a poll worker thinks they do not have the capacity to vote.

#### **What to do**

If possible, bring a family member, friend, or other person of your choice to assist you at the polls. Don't bring your employer, or an agent of your employer or union.

Tell the poll workers that you have chosen this person to assist you with voting. You may be required to swear under oath that you have difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding English and have asked this person to help, and the person helping you may be required to sign a form swearing that they did not tell you how to vote.

Request oral assistance from a bilingual poll worker if you have questions, and ask for voting materials, such as your ballot, in your language.

(Note: Not all jurisdictions and counties require polls to provide bilingual voting materials or language assistance.)

### **Someone is interfering with my right to vote**

#### **Examples of voter intimidation**

Aggressively questioning voters about their citizenship, criminal record, or other qualifications to vote, in a manner intended to interfere with the voters' rights.

Falsely representing oneself as an elections official.

Spreading false information about voter requirements, such as an ability to speak English, or the need to present certain types of photo identification (in states with no such requirement).

Displaying false or misleading signs about voter fraud and related criminal penalties.

Other forms of harassment, particularly harassment targeting non-English speakers and voters of color.

#### **Your rights**

Federal law, and many states' laws, prohibit voter intimidation. Federal law makes it clear that it is a federal crime to "intimidate, threaten, [or] coerce ... any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of [that] other person to vote or to vote as he may choose."

What to do if you experience voter intimidation

In many states, if your qualifications to vote are challenged, you can give a sworn statement to the poll worker that you satisfy the qualifications to vote in your state, and then proceed to cast a regular ballot.

You can report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline by calling 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español).

You can also contact the U.S. Department of Justice Voting Rights Hotline: 800-253-3931; TTY line 877-267-8971

*"You have the POWER to cast your vote to protect good jobs, benefits and the union way of life."*

*- LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan*

# LIUNA-CTER: NORTHWEST M.O.U. SIGNING



LIUNA Northwest Vice President Bob Abbott and CTER President Lee Adolph signing the Memorandum of Understanding.



LECET Market Rep Christina Riley addressing the CTER Legal Conference.

The LIUNA Northwest Region was proud to co-sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council for Tribal Employments Rights (CTER) that aims to promote suicide prevention and awareness among Native American communities throughout the Northwest Region. The MOU recognizes collaborative efforts to promote mental health and wellbeing.

LIUNA Northwest Vice President Bob Abbott and CTER President Lee Adolph signed the MOU at the CTER Legal Updates Conference in Las Vegas on December 5, 2019. “We need to build a culture in construction and our communities that allow people to say, ‘I’m not ok,’” said Tribal Liaison Christina Riley, during her presentation at the conference. Suicide rates in Native American women are up 139 percent and men, 71 percent.



At the CTER Conference, we ran into Loretta Lolnitz, Tribal Administrator for the Koyukuk Tribal Council, and a proud member of Laborers' Local 942.

Loretta was the previous recipient of the Local's scholarship program and has received her Associates in Construction Management. She is working for her tribe and continuing her education to earn her Bachelor of Science.

(Pictured): Vice President/Regional Manager Bob Abbott, First Chief of Nulato Michael Stickman, First Chief of Koyukuk Leo Lolnitz, Loretta and National LECET Market Rep Christina Riley.

(Pictured): Laborers' Local 942 Business Manager Scott Eickholt awarding Loretta with her scholarship.

This memorandum is the first of its kind for the LIUNA Northwest Region.

“On behalf of the Northwest Region, we remain committed to creating, and continuing, partnerships with Tribal Employment Rights offices (TERO) and recognizing the importance of mental health awareness,” said Bob Abbott.

CTER is a community based Indian owned and operated non-profit organization that represents over 300 Tribal and Alaska Native Villages that are covered by employment rights ordinances. The unemployment rate for Native Americans is above the national average, with some tribes and communities reaching 40 percent or more. These rates combined with addiction and the highest suicide rates than any other ethnic group, have created a nationwide crisis.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached by dialing 1-800-273-8255. It provides free and confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for people in suicidal crisis or distress, or for those who are helping a person in crisis.

TrevorLifeline, a suicide prevention counseling service for the LGBTQ community, can be reached at 1-866-488-7386.

Text HOME to 741741 to have a confidential text conversation with a trained crisis counselor from Crisis Text Line. Counselors are available 24/7.

For online chat, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides a confidential chat window with counselors available 24/7.





## MEMBERSHIP MOBILIZATION

As you plan events for membership mobilization efforts, please send us photos and event information! We'd love to highlight your efforts on social media and our website! Send photos to [info@nwlecet.org](mailto:info@nwlecet.org)

# EVENTS / RESOURCES

**Northwest Regional Conference** - end of June, Vancouver, WA

**LIUNA Leadership Conference** - early August, New York City

**Women Build Nations** - early October, Washington DC

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL UNION ABOUT APPRENTICESHIP

**PROTECT LIUNA  
APPRENTICESHIP  
PROTECT LIUNA  
JOBS**

**LIUNA!**  
FOR THE PEOPLE

## Contact Us

Have photos or stories you want to share? Northwest LECET always wants to highlight LIUNA members and the work they do!

Please reach out, we'd love to hear from you!

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Contact Northwest LECET for more information [www.nwlecet.org](http://www.nwlecet.org)

## Regional Resources

[Northwest LIUNA](#)

[Northwest LECET](#)

[Northwest Regional  
Organizing Coalition](#)

[Southern Nevada LECET](#)

[f @LiUNANWRegion](#)

[t @LiUNA\\_NWRegion](#)

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[i @NWLECET](#)

[t @NWLECET](#)

[f @liunanroc](#)

[i @liuna\\_nroc](#)

[t @nroclaborers](#)

**NATIONAL  
SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

**VOTE.ORG**



Find voter registration deadlines  
in your state.





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