

# The Retiree **ADVOCATE**

The Monthly Publication of  
**PUGET SOUND ADVOCATES FOR RETIREMENT ACTION**  
"Uniting Generations for a Secure Future"

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January 2013

**Senior  
Lobby Day**

-- Story, page 4

## **Richard Trumka & Sen. Tom Harkin on "Fiscal Cliff" Compromise**

**AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka:**

**T**he agreement passed by the Senate last night is a breakthrough in beginning to restore tax fairness and achieves some key goals of working families. It does not cut Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid benefits. It raises more than \$700 billion over 10 years, including interest savings, by ending the Bush income tax cuts for families making more than \$450,000 a year. And in recognition of the continuing jobs crisis, it extends unemployment benefits for a year. A strong message from voters and a relentless echo from grassroots activists over the last six weeks helped get us this far.

The deal extends the Bush tax cuts for families earning between \$250,000 and \$450,000 a year and makes permanent Bush estate tax cuts exempting estates valued up to \$5 million from any tax. These concessions amount to over \$200 billion in additional tax cuts for the 2%.

And because of Republican hostage taking, the deal simply postpones the \$1.2 trillion sequester for only two months and does not address the debt ceiling, setting the stage for more fiscal blackmail at the expense of the middle class.

Instead of moving to address our nation's real jobs and public investment crisis, our leaders will be debating a prolonged artificial fiscal crisis. In the weeks to come, as the confrontation over the economic direction of our country continues, the working men and women of the AFL-CIO will continue to fight to

*Continued on page 3*

## **Seattle Says: "No Cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid or Service Delivery"**

*By Steve Kofahl*

**O**n December 5, at the entrance to the building that houses the Social Security Administration Regional Office (SSA), nearly 100 people gathered to send our message to Congress. AFGE Local 3937 organized the one-hour rally, one of about 80 held by the Union at SSA offices throughout the country.

Labor, community leaders and activists joined the assembled crowd. What was particularly impressive and inspiring was the involvement by the Asian/Pacific Islander Community. Gary Tang, Director of the Aging and Adult Services Program at the Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS), brought 15 immigrant seniors from the Rainier Valley. Sharyne Shiu-Thornton, Deputy Director of the InterIm Community Development Association, escorted 23 elders who walked from the International District. It was very difficult for them to walk, but that does not compare to the hardship that service barriers have created for them.

Diane Narasaki, ACRS Executive Director and Chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition-King County; Doug Chin of the Organization of Chinese Americans-Seattle; and PSARA Board Member Frank Irigon were among the other community leaders who joined us. Cantonese and Mandarin interpretation of speakers' remarks ensured that all could fully participate.

Speakers including PSARA President and Social Security Works Washington Chair Robby Stern, Sharyne Shiu-Thornton, and Steve Kofahl insisted that

*Continued on page 3*



**Steve Kofahl**



*Photo by Garet Munger*

**A CONCERNED CROWD: Nearly 100 people gathered at the entrance to the regional Social Security office for the rally organized by AFGE Local 3937.**

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For up-to-date  
information about  
PSARA and  
issues important to all of us,  
go to the PSARA web site:  
**www.psara.org**  
Read the Advocate on line,  
post your comments  
on our blog,  
engage in discussions with  
other PSARA members or  
visit PSARA on Facebook.

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## Need to reach us?

Here's a directory of Puget Sound Advocates  
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**Our web page: www.psara.org**

Web Master, **Reed Wacker: info@psara.org**

Or phone our office at **(206) 448-9646**.

If necessary, leave a message and your  
phone number. We'll call you back.

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## The Retiree ADVOCATE

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# An infusion of new leadership

**A**t the recent PSARA General Membership meeting, the recommendations of the PSARA Elections Committee were approved unanimously by the general membership. **Susan Levy** was elected as PSARA's new Outreach Vice President. Susan has been serving on our Executive Board and has been coordinating our outreach discussions since our former Outreach Vice President, **Bette Reed**, became gravely ill. (**Bette** and **Chaya Burstein**, our first political cartoonist, were remembered with a moment of silence at our membership meeting.)

Newly elected Board members include: **Imogene Williams**, a long time PSARA volunteer and indefatigable grass roots activist; **Mike Warren**, a former member of the Board who also serves as President of the WA Alliance for Retired Americans; **Richard Champion**, who is active with the 30th Legislative District Democrats, an officer of the King County Democrats and an active member of Social Security Works WA Education Committee; **Kristen Biefus**, Executive Director of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition and on the board of the Backbone Campaign as well as Sweat Free Communities/International Labor Rights Forum and **Debby Corr**, a long time Seattle grass roots activist and a retired teacher and Seattle Education Association member.

Reelected as officers for another term are **Frieda Takamura**, our Recording Secretary and **Edie Koch**, our hard-working Treasurer. Relected to the Board are **Mary Anderson**, **Rick Erickson**, **Frank Irigon**, **Vivian Lee**, **Gene Lux**, **Anita Nath**, and **Magdeleno Rose Avila**.

Our Executive Board is now composed of 25 members. All of these volunteers are appreciated for the time they donate to make PSARA a feisty and effective organization!

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# Calling all independent thinkers

By *Mike Andrew*

**I**n our November issue, I remembered Sen. George McGovern, who died October 21.

This month, I have to remember another iconic figure of the 1970s, but one on the other side of that decade's political divide – Nixon's Solicitor General Robert Bork.

Bork was the hatchet man in the infamous "Saturday Night Massacre."

On October 20, 1973, Richard Nixon ordered his Attorney General, Elliot Richardson to fire the special prosecutor investigating the Watergate break-in. Richardson resigned rather than comply. Richardson's deputy, William Ruckelshaus, also resigned rather than follow Nixon's orders. Finally Bork, then the third in command at the Justice Department, fired Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

A federal judge later found the firing to be illegal in a suit brought by Ralph Nader. It was one of the reasons the Senate rejected Bork when Ronald Reagan

appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1987.

"All I will say is that I carried out the President's directive," Bork explained. In other words, "I was just following orders."

If you like following orders, you may not want to join PSARA. On the other hand, if you're an independent thinker, if you like knowing the facts, making up your own mind, and acting on your decisions, you might want to join with other like-minded people and sign up.

Your membership donation helps us to produce the *Retiree Advocate* and bring you twelve issues full of hard-hitting articles, most of them written by PSARA members. You'll also be invited to participate in PSARA forums and discussion groups, to join with other independent thinkers and come to a common understanding about the problems we face. And you'll have the opportunity to act on that understanding – whether we join a picket line, or a phone bank, or lobby our elected representatives.

# “Fiscal Cliff” Compromise

Continued from page 1

keep poor and middle class families from giving more so rich people can continue paying less. That means a fairer, more progressive tax system, an end to Bush tax rates for the 2% and protection of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid from benefit cuts.

*Press Release: Sen. Tom Harkin*

Tonight, at the 11th hour, we find ourselves considering legislation to address a manufactured ‘fiscal cliff.’ Much of this could have been avoided had the U.S. House taken up the Senate-passed legislation to avert tax hikes on 98 percent of Americans.

“Instead, we find ourselves voting on an agreement that fails to address our number one priority – creating good, middle class jobs in Iowa and throughout the country. Further, it does not generate the revenue necessary for the country to meet its needs. The deal also makes tax benefits for high income earners permanent, while tax benefits designed to help those of modest means and the middle class are only extended for five years.

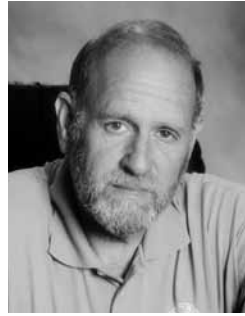
“Every dollar that wealthy taxpayers do not pay under this deal, we will eventually ask Americans of modest means to forgo in Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits. It is shortsighted to look at these issues in isolation from one another, especially when Congressional Republicans have been crystal clear that they intend to seek spending cuts to programs like Social Security just two months from now, using the debt limit as leverage.

“I am all for compromise, but a compromise that sets a new tax threshold for the wealthiest Americans while neglecting the very backbone of our country – the middle class – is a compromise I simply cannot support. This is the wrong direction for Iowa and our country, and at a time when our fragile economy cannot sustain further damage.”

# Toward a regional low income transit fare

By Robby Stern

PSARA is supporting the Transit Riders Union (TRU), in an effort to improve the public transportation system in Seattle and beyond, so that every person has access to safe, affordable, and reliable public transit.



Robby Stern

PSARA recently joined with TRU to deliver a letter to King County Council Chair, Larry Gossett. The letter encouraged the Council “to make sure that this program is adequate to the need, and that the application process is simple and dignified.”

The King County Council is convening an advisory committee to aid in the development of a regional low income fare program. Gossett and Councilmember Julia Patterson will chair the advisory committee.

Fare increases, the economic recession and the recent closure of the Ride Free Zone have made public transportation less accessible. Among the recom-

mendations made by the TRU and its allies in the letter include:

- No replacement of the reduced Fare Bus Ticket program which allows health and human service agencies to purchase subsidized tickets for the people they serve.
- A regional low fare program covering all the transit agencies that now recognize the Regional Reduced Fare permit for seniors and people with disabilities.
- A low income fare that matches the current senior and disabled fare of \$0.75.
- Any individual receiving some other form of income-based assistance (such as food stamps) be eligible for reduced fare.
- Additionally, a low income fare threshold of 200% of FPL (the federal poverty level) be established for people who would be eligible for income assistance but do not apply for it and/or receive it.

Funding will be an issue for the transit agencies. The letter urged the King County Council to lobby for funding from the legislature, perhaps from the state Transportation Budget to help pay for the low income fare program. If a source of funds is not available, the letter recommends a county-wide Employer Tax be considered as King County has the authority to levy such a tax.

# Seattle Says: “No Cuts”

Continued from page 1

earned benefits be protected during the fiscal negotiations, and that SSA service be restored in our communities.

It was fitting that we were in front of the Regional Office of the Social Security Administration. The Regional Commissioner, Stanley Friendship, recently made the decision to close two of our accessible community offices - one in Belltown and the other in the International District - and to relocate the staff to the fortress that is the Jackson Federal Building. There, visitors must show current government picture identification and are subjected to magnetometers, and x-rays of their belongings. For those who speak little or no English, or who can't afford to pay for expensive parking (since there is none on

site for visitors, even the handicapped), the face-to-face service that is often preferred and needed is difficult or inaccessible.

Comments by Seattle Community Law Center Executive Director Alex Doolittle, PSARA Board Member Chuck Richards, and Asian Counseling and Referral Service Executive Director, Diane Narasaki, reinforced the message of the day – No Cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid or Service Delivery- just before the event ended at noon.

The fight will continue! PSARA members are urged to call their elected representatives as the 2013 Congressional session commences at 1-888-659-9401. Tell them - No cuts to earned Social Security or Medicare benefits, or Medicaid! **No more service cuts!**

# Boeing bucks marriage equality

By Mike Andrew, Associate Editor

In the first challenge to the state's Marriage Equality Act since voters approved it in November, Boeing says it will deny pension survivor benefits to same-sex spouses. The company's contract talks with SPEEA, the union that represents some 23,000 Boeing engineers and technical workers, broke off on December 5 without an agreement on the pension issue.



Mike Andrew

The pension controversy began on November 21 when, according to SPEEA spokesperson Bill Dugovich, the union asked what appeared to them to be "a simple administrative question" – how would the company handle benefits for new Gay and Lesbian spouses?

"We were shocked," Dugovich said, when Boeing negotiators told them the company had no intention of paying survivor benefits for same-sex spouses, even though the new state law gives them equal standing with opposite-sex spouses.

Boeing officials walked out of talks November 29 while SPEEA's team was presenting their pension proposal. A federal mediator reconvened the talks December 4, but they broke up on December 5 without any agreement on the pension issue.

SPEEA member Kenneth Aphibal posted a petition on change.org calling on the company **"to honor the people of Washington State by extending survivor benefits to employees of same-sex married couples at Contract Negotiations and show equality for all Boeing employees."** The petition now has **76,802 signatures.**

Pension survivor benefits are one way that married couples – same-sex or opposite-sex – can make sure

at least one of the partners enjoys a secure retirement even if the other one dies.

The SPEEA team was taken aback when Boeing asserted that they were not required to offer survivor benefits to same-sex spouses because their benefits package was administered under ERISA and not under state law.

ERISA - the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 - is a federal law enacted to regulate employee benefit plans, including health insurance and pensions. Many union benefits plans are administered under ERISA rather than state laws.

Because ERISA is a federal law, and DOMA forbids the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages, Boeing said it was not required to offer same-sex couples equal benefits. SPEEA is not so sure, Dugovich said.

"We're consulting our attorneys," Dugovich said. "Discrimination is

discrimination. At some point discrimination laws come into play."

SPEEA secured medical benefits for same-sex domestic partners in 2000, Dugovich added, and those benefits will remain unchanged, but the union expected Boeing to accept the state's new marriage law.

SPEEA says that The Boeing Company wants to eliminate all defined benefits pensions, beginning with new hires, and eventually terminate their pension program altogether. In addition to pensions, outstanding issues in the talks include wages, medical insurance, family leave, and the company's use of outside contractors.

To date, SPEEA has emphasized it is "doing everything possible to avoid the need for a work stoppage," but barring some movement in the negotiations it may be impossible to avert a strike. At SPEEA's request, the Martin Luther King County Labor Council granted the union strike sanction on December 5.

## Get Ready for Senior Lobby Day

By Tom Lux & Chuck Richards,  
co-chairs, Government Relations Committee

Senior Lobby Day is one of our best opportunities to discuss PSARA's issues with our legislators in Olympia. We had a great turnout last session and had great discussions with many legislators. We hope to have even more of our members participate in the 2013 Senior Lobby Day and we are asking again for volunteers to drive carpools so we can all enjoy the ride, the company and the conversation.

Senior Lobby Day will be Thursday, February 21st. Registration is at 8:00 AM and the program begins at 9:00 AM at United Churches, 110 11th Ave. SE, Olympia WA.

We are asking you to participate, and we are asking for volunteers to drive carpools, and also to lead delegations. If you are interested in helping to lead the conversation with your legislators, to drive or just to participate in Senior Lobby Day please contact: govrelations@psara.org or call the PSARA office, (206) 448-9646.

# Comprehensive Immigration Reform in 2013!

By Rich Stolz, Executive Director, One America & a PSARA member

Momentum is developing in Congress behind immigration reform in the new year. Coming out of the November elections, President Obama is now speaking with conviction and Republicans in the House and Senate seem willing to work toward an agreement. We've been through several rounds on this issue, but the opening in 2013 feels different.

The Obama administration anticipates heading into the new year with immigration reform as its first major initiative. They have projected an ambitious timetable: a bill through the Senate and, they hope, the House before the August recess. The timing of an immigration bill may depend on resolution of the troublesome deficit issue.

Administration officials say we can expect the White House to set forth its principles on comprehensive immigration reform early this year. The administration is already gathering feedback from stakeholders to shape what advo-

cates hope will be a progressive-leaning proposal.

In addition, a bipartisan group of senators has begun to work on a bill. Democratic Senators Schumer of New York, Menendez of New Jersey, Durbin of Illinois and Bennett of Colorado are working with Republican Senators Graham of South Carolina and McCain of Arizona. This group has laid out a timetable for its own negotiations. They have already been meeting and expect to have a bill ready to introduce in February.

In the House, no official actions are being taken, but Speaker Boehner has recognized the need for reform both publicly and privately, and a bipartisan House group is beginning to discuss the outlines of a bill. House passage is expected to be a rough road, with many thorny issues to be worked out.

Our task in Washington State will be to work with the Democratic members of our delegation to develop the stron-

gest possible bill. We'll also need to put energy into winning Republican votes for the final legislation.

One America appreciates PSARA's commitment to the Congressional campaign. Millions of undocumented immigrants in our country are forced to live in fear of separation from their families and enforced departure from the country they have made their home. Together, we'll fight for just and humane immigration reform for these millions.

## Dear Editor,

My partner, Mike Fitzpatrick and I would like to thank all the PSARA members who helped during the Referendum 74 campaign in support of marriage equality. Many volunteered at phone banks and many more engaged in discussions with friends and neighbors to persuade the undecided to vote 'yes'. And on November 6 your efforts prevailed.

On the evening before Dec 6, my partner and I joined the long line queuing up at the County Courthouse about 10 p.m. We were the 134th couple in line. By midnight when the doors opened there were 177 couples on the street. By 3 a.m. we had our marriage license and a special certificate of congratulations signed by County Executive, Dow Constantine. By the end of that first day nearly 500 same-sex couples had filed for marriage licenses.

On Wed. evening, Dec 19, our kids joined us for a ceremony to make legal, finally, the state's recognition of the ceremony we had 22 years earlier at Wallingford United Methodist Church. So, thanks to PSARA members' support of 'family values', 500 newly-married couples in King County have helped Washington state make history.

*Chuck Richards,  
PSARA Executive Board Member*



Photo by Garet Munger

**MEMBERS MEET:** Susan Levy, Tom Lux, Aganita Varkentine, Anita Nath, & Rick Erickson meet with Rep. Gerry Pollett to discuss PSARA's legislative agenda for the 2013 Legislative session.

# TPP: The biggest corporate rights grab you've never heard of...

By Kristen Beifus, Executive Director, WA Fair Trade Coalition & a PSARA member

The TPP...no not tp... TPP-the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement will impact access to affordable medicine in the US and globally, WA state supported education & healthcare, the right to regulate big banks, public control over natural resources such as water & air, the sustainability of local farmers, rights of indigenous communities, our very democracy.

**What do we know?** US negotiators have kept the public and even our elected leaders in the dark about what is being negotiated. The secrecy is so extreme that WA Reps. Larsen, Smith and McDermott wrote letters to USTR calling for more transparency and authentic stakeholder involvement in the TPP. Congress will have the final vote, however US negotiators are calling for 'fast-track' authority which means that Congress would only be able to vote yes or no and not change the agreement at all. Now is the time for the people we just voted into office to advocate on our behalf.

**Countries involved:** Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Peru, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States.

**Potential joiners:** Japan, Thailand, any country in the Pacific that wants to because the TPP has a 'docking clause' which means others countries can join, making this possibly the last trade deal that the US will negotiate.

**Who is negotiating on our behalf?** The US Trade Representative's (USTR) Office is responsible for negotiating the TPP. The outgoing US Trade Representative, Ron Kirk, is a 'former' lobbyist for Philip Morris and the head of agricultural negotiations, Islam Siddiqui, is a 'former' Monsanto Lobbyist...and there are over 600 corporate 'advisors' who have unlimited access to the current text, such as Cargill, Dow Chemical, Walmart, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

**How have these big corporations been treating workers and commu-**

**nities in WA State this past year?**

**Kimberly Clark:** closed its profitable mill in Everett, WA laying off 750 workers directly and causing the loss of thousands of other 'indirect' jobs. They also shipped WA state subsidized state-of-the-art equipment to their new plant in Brazil.

**EGT:** Disregarded the contract of the ILWU with the Port of Longview when operating their new grain terminal, seeking to increase their profits by driving down wages of workers.

**Walmart:** Continues to pay poverty wages forcing its associates to rely on WA state programs to subsidize basic needs including food and health care.

**So what are corporations writing into the TPP? Expansion of Corporate Rights:** Companies will have the right to challenge labor, environmental, public health and safety, and procurement laws if they believe they limit their ability to make a profit. They can compel us (as a country, as a state, as a city) to change our laws or use tax dollars to compensate them for projected loss of profits. This applies to 'Buy America' procurement preferences, green jobs initiatives, clean air & water laws, and food labels.

**Privatization of public services:** TPP risks opening up publicly provided services (education, water, sewer and social services) to competition from private foreign enterprises. Factories off-shoring also shrinks our tax base, reducing revenues available for public services making them more vulnerable to privatization.

**Reduction in Access to Affordable Medicines:** PhRMA is at the table to extend patents which will deny people access to life saving medicines.

**Disrespect of Indigenous Sovereignty:** Mining corporations seek to further access and exploit the lands of indigenous people and communities.

**The Community Responds!**

Earlier this month, we capitalized on the historic moment of Canada and Mexico joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the 13th Anniversary of the People's

Shut-down of the WTO in Seattle and the 15th Round of TPP negotiations in New Zealand. On December 1st, labor leaders, trade justice & food sovereignty groups, family farmers, immigration reformers, public health & internet freedom advocates, environmentalists, students, small businesses and communities from Canada, Mexico & the United States took action against the Trans-Pacific Partnership. This People's Round on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, at the Peace Arch to rejuvenated our collective movement towards just & sustainable trade, human rights & corporate respon-

**What's Next?**

- 1) Learn more about the TPP: [www.washingtonfairtrade.org](http://www.washingtonfairtrade.org)
- 2) Have your organization sign on to the North American Unity Statement: The goal is over 1,000 organizational signers by the next round of TPP negotiations in March, 2013. Visit: [www.tppx-border.org](http://www.tppx-border.org) or TPPxBorder on Facebook.

**To the Editor:**

"It's a most unusual time. I keep feeling my temperature climb!"

On Sunday, December 9, twenty-five gay couples processed down the aisle at Seattle First Baptist Church, to be married by Pastor Tim Phillips. Trumpets joined the organ and the choir sang, "May this marriage be blessed, may it be sweet milk, like wine and halvah. May this marriage offer fruit and shade like the date palm."

The church was full. Everyone stood to sing the "Hallelujah" chorus. Everyone was happy, smiling and hugging! Afterwards the celebration continued downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

"A most unusual time," indeed! It was a joy simply to be there, surrounded by all that happiness.

*Imogene Williams,  
PSARA Executive Board Member*

# Walmart encounters worker activism

by Elena Perez, Coordinator, Making Change at Walmart, Puget Sound Coalition & a PSARA member

**W**almart intended 2012 to be an epic celebration of its 50th anniversary. It ended up as a year of indictment, with scandals and strikes highlighting five decades of Walmart running roughshod over workers' rights and community laws and standards.

Several hard-fought years of organizing, education and mobilization led to this year's historic successes. However, the achievements of 2012 must be seen as part of a long-term movement to fundamentally change the way the world's largest employer does business.

Less than two years ago, in 2010, the Making Change at Walmart, Puget Sound coalition was founded, along with a local chapter of the new independent workers' association called OUR Walmart – Organization United for Respect at Walmart. Our coalition has now grown to over two dozen local organizations, including PSARA, and we are determined to challenge Walmart's expansion in Puget Sound and support local workers' demands for respect and a voice in their workplace.

Some of this year's achievements of the Puget Sound coalition:

- We stopped Seattle from adopting lower environmental standards that would have eased Walmart's entry into city neighborhoods.

- We stopped a King County process aimed at creating a new I-90 retail zone that would have set a precedent for runaway suburban big box development and opened the door to Walmart.

- We kept a Walmart out of the South King County neighborhood of Skyway.

- We put a spotlight on Promenade 23's developer, Weingarten Realty, for considering replacing a locally-owned union grocer with Walmart.

- We mobilized hundreds of allies to support local Walmart workers as they took action throughout the year.

OUR Walmart – Puget Sound had a momentous year, including:

- Well-established, active membership at 25% of local stores in over 5 counties ... and growing!

**WET AT WALMART:  
A Renton downpour  
couldn't keep Dina  
Burstein from smiling  
at the big Black  
Friday demonstration  
at Walmart. PSARA's  
Mark McDermott  
and Robby Stern got  
soaked with Dina.**



Photo by Gareth Minger

- Relentless activism that has overturned unfair discipline and scheduling, addressed serious safety hazards, and spread their message to other workers that they, too, can have a voice at work through OUR Walmart.

- Participating in local and national events to challenge Walmart, including: U.N. Responsible Investment meeting in Brazil; Walmart shareholders meeting in Bentonville; TPP Protest in Blaine; WSLC annual conference; and more.

- For the first time in its history, Walmart faced national Black Friday strikes. Local workers engaged in multiple strikes, with every worker returning to work without incident.

Walmart workers still fear retaliation, but this year has demonstrated they can work through fear, act, and emerge stronger. The coalition has grown in number and breadth of leadership. We are better prepared to challenge Walmart's expan-

sion attempts in our region-- especially its new small-footprint tool for penetrating urban centers, the "Neighborhood Market."

Another notable development is Making Change at Walmart going global. Ongoing investigations of alleged bribery and corruption by Walmart in five different countries, and its role in opposing attempts in Bangladesh to improve fire safety in garment factories highlight the need for us to work together with unions and workers around the world. In October, we launched the UNI Global Union Walmart Alliance, an international network of Walmart workers pledging solidarity to change Walmart.

Instead of celebrating Walmart's 50th, 2012 became a year to celebrate the power and persistence of workers and communities organizing in new and different ways to demand change at Walmart.

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## Meetings and Events

### **PSARA Executive Board Meeting:**

1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Avenue S., Seattle. *All PSARA members are welcome.*

### **Green Lake Discussion Group:**

1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31, Green Lake Library, 7354 East Green Lake Drive N., Seattle. PSARA Outreach Committee-led discussion group discussing issues determined by participants.

### **Senior Lobby Day:**

Thursday, Feb. 21, 8 a.m. Registration, 9 a.m. program begins, United Churches, 110 11th Ave. SE, Olympia WA. Join with PSARA members and others from across the state to make our priorities known to our legislators. PSARA will be organizing car pools for our members. Please contact Chuck Richards, [legaffairs@psara.org](mailto:legaffairs@psara.org) or call the PSARA office if you can drive or if you need a ride.



Photo by Gareth Munger

**WOODY LIVES ON:** Jon Parry on fiddle, Will Parry on guitar, and Peter McKee on banjo, lead the PSARA membership in singing Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" at PSARA's holiday extravaganza.

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