

POWER Member Meetings will be moving to an earlier time – 2 – 4 pm every Wednesday at the POWER office, 309 5th Avenue in downtown Olympia. All are welcome. We start with an hour of education – this can be reading an article, watching a video, sharing a workshop, inviting a speaker, or anything else that will build our collective skills towards being effective community organizers. The second hour is planning time, scheduling our upcoming weeks, looking ahead at future projects. Join us!

October POWER Outage is a clothing swap! Household goods too.

When: October 6th We will start with a potluck at 5:30. Bring something to share if you can. We will do the swap from 6 – 8 PM.

Where: Darby's Café 211 5th Ave SE, Olympia

What: Bring clothes, toys and accessories your kids have outgrown. Bring clothes and household items you no longer use. Have fun swapping with other folks!

Rules: Make sure all items are clean and still usable. Anything left untaken after the swap will be donated to goodwill.

Come down during Arts Walk to buy a newly printed POWER t-shirt! Thanks to the fabulous Evergreen students at Community To Community Day, we have lots!

Below:

1. **Heartsparkle Player's October show in Olympia - Parenting Through Tough Times: Stories of Resilience.**
2. **Timberland Reads Together – statewide book sharing and events**
3. **Article – Poverty Increasing in WA State**
4. **Seattle Times – Mayor's Plan To Keep Local Jobs for Locals who need them!**
5. **Got Green Food Access Report Back in Seattle**

1. Parenting Through Tough Times: Stories of Resilience

Our new season has begun, and our first performance is right around the corner. For it, we are in collaboration with Family Education and Support Services: a community organization that promotes healthy childhood development by supporting adults who care for and influence the children in their lives.

Friday, October 10, 7:30pm

Traditions Café (5th & Water, in downtown Olympia)

Suggested Donation - \$7.00-12.00 (no one turned away!)

For more information call 360.943.6772 or email debek@olywa.net

Additional information and biographies at:

www.heartsparkle.org

The Heart Sparkle Players will be collaborating with POWER in December! Send us an idea of what you think the theme should be...

2. Timberland Reads Together

October 2014 - 10th annual Timberland Reads Together (TRT) features books by two local authors:

Closer to the Ground: An outdoor family's year on the water, in the woods and at the table by Dylan Tomine

Eating on the Wild Side: The missing link to optimum health by Jo Robinson

Join the Library and others in your community to read the books, discuss food topics, listen to music about food and attend free programs about raising, buying, foraging, hunting, cooking, eating and appreciating food.

You can follow this link to see the nearly 80 events happening at all of the TRL libraries for the TRT program during the month of October:

<http://events.trlib.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp?ag=&et=&kw=timberland+reads+together&dt=mo&mo=10/1/2014&df=list&cn=0&private=0&ln=ALL>

You can narrow the search to see those TRT events at your local library.

3. Washington State One of Three States Where Poverty Is Increasing

Posted by [Elena Hernandez](#) at Sep 18, 2014

New [Census data](#) released today shows that Washington state was one of a handful of states where poverty increased between 2012 and 2013, while median income remained stagnant. The new numbers shed further light on the state's uneven economic recovery and should serve as a call-to-action for lawmakers.

Washington state, New Jersey, and New Mexico were the only three states to see an increase in the total number of people living in poverty. Washington state-specific data include ([see fact sheet](#)):

- **One in seven people (14.1 percent) live below the poverty line.** This is up from 13.5 percent in 2012. For a family of three, the poverty line is defined as earning less than 19,530 per year.
- **Child poverty remains stuck at 18 percent.** The total number of children living in poverty was largely unchanged in 2013, except for children under five who experienced a small decline.
- **Median household income remained stagnant.** Median household income did not change between 2012 and 2013, but is still lower than it was before the Great Recession, which ended five years ago. However, the richest 5 percent of Washingtonians saw their earnings increase by 6 percent in 2013, while low and moderate income families experienced little, if any, growth (1).

The latest numbers are shocking, but not surprising given the high – and growing – degree of income inequality in Washington state. Lawmakers should be very concerned – an economy that works for such a small share of the population is not a recipe for long-term social and economic progress. If median income continues to stagnate while the costs of higher education, medical care, housing, and child care outpace inflation, more Washingtonians will struggle to meet basic needs.

Rising poverty and stagnant incomes do not have to be a permanent part of the economic landscape. An equitable economy that gives everyone the chance to get ahead is the only path forward to keep Washington state a place where individuals, families, businesses, and communities can thrive.

Policymakers should pursue the following strategies to support an economy that works for all Washingtonians:

- **Raise wages for workers.** [Research shows](#) that raising the minimum wage, combined with earned income tax credits (EITCs), provide significant boosts for working families earning modest wages. In addition, EITCs – like Washington's

yet-to-be funded [Working Families Tax Rebate](#) (WFTR) – are also the most powerful anti-poverty tool that we have.

- **Invest in policies that support 21st century workers and their families.** Recent [health insurance enrollment data](#) is a prime example of how these types of investments can help children and families in our state. Policymakers can further these trends by expanding and strengthening early childhood education, job training, and efficient transportation.
- **Stop taxing poor people at a rate higher than any other state.** Washington state has [the most upside down tax system](#) in the nation. Low income families pay a far greater share of their income in taxes than the highest income families – in fact, the poorest families pay 6 times more than the richest 1 percent. Relying on those with the least ability to pay to keep our revenue system going is neither responsible nor sustainable.

Reducing income inequality and poverty *is* possible if lawmakers establish a shared goal to make it happen. The cost of doing nothing is too great and puts the future of our children, families, businesses, and the economy at risk.

(1) Data analysis of income gains by quintile provided by Dr. Jennifer Romich with the University of Washington's West Coast Poverty Center.

4. Thursday, September 25, 2014

Mayor's plan would ensure work goes to poor, jobless in Seattle

Mayor Ed Murray is proposing an ordinance that would reserve a percentage of work on projects of \$5 million and more for people who live in local ZIP codes with high concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

By [Daniel Beekman](#), Seattle Times staff writer

Seattle spent about \$25 million rebuilding Rainier Beach Community Center, but only 10 of 348 workers on the project were Seattle residents.

What's more, just four lived in the city's poorest neighborhoods, including Rainier Beach itself.

And the project wasn't unique. Between 2009 and 2013, only six percent of construction workers on 33 city projects were Seattle residents, according to a city-commissioned study by the UCLA Labor Center.

“There are people in economically distressed communities who are skilled and ready to work but who are being left out of opportunities on city projects,” said Michael Woo, founder of Got Green, a Seattle-based jobs advocacy organization.

The answer, according to a coalition of labor unions and activist organizations like Got Green, is legislation that Mayor Ed Murray sent this week to the City Council.

Roughly a dozen workers in hard hats applauded Thursday as the council heard public comment for and against the proposed “priority hire” ordinance, which would reserve a percentage of work on projects of \$5 million and more for people who live in local ZIP codes with high concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

“This would be great for me,” said Yirim Seck, 33, a Central District father and Laborers Local 242 union member whose last construction job ended five months ago.

“I could possibly gain employment in my own community, which would cut down on my travel time. I’ve been shipped out as far as past Everett, as far as Tacoma.”

But also on hand were representatives of contractor trade organizations, who warned the council that an aspect of the legislation would shut out nonunion firms, including small businesses run by minorities.

The council will review Murray’s draft legislation, then discuss it again Dec. 4, said Councilmember Sally Clark, who chairs the council committee responsible for economic resiliency.

She said the council could vote on a version of the ordinance as early as December.

But first there are details to hammer out.

Murray’s legislation doesn’t compute the percentage of work that would be reserved for “priority hire” workers.

The draft ordinance says only that the percentage would vary based on the type of project under construction, that it would be determined by the city on an annual basis and that it would increase no less than two percent each year.

Murray relied on recommendations from an advisory committee of contractors, union representatives and community activists.

The committee looked at cities with existing similar laws, such as San Francisco, where 30 percent of workers on city projects now must be local and 25 percent must be disadvantaged.

On Thursday, opponents of Murray’s legislation urged the council to reject the law because it would require the city to execute Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on projects of \$5 million or more.

Proponents of the ordinance say PLAs, which set out goals and requirements for labor and which are usually negotiated with unions, are beneficial because they ensure uniform work and safety standards and because they help create well-paying, career-oriented jobs for Seattle residents.

But critics say PLAs can saddle nonunion contractors with burdensome reporting requirements or exclude nonunion firms altogether.

James Hasty, whose fuel company is working on the Elliott Bay Seawall project, where the city is piloting the use of a PLA, said Thursday he is drowning in paperwork.

“That is eating away at my profit margin,” said Hasty, who is black, asking the council to exempt minority-owned businesses from the PLA mandate.

Murray’s office says nonunion contractors would not be shut out and says the city’s PLA experiment is paying off on the seawall project.

More than 40 percent of the work has gone to Seattle and King County residents and 21 percent to people from poor neighborhoods, the mayor’s office says.

Daniel Beekman: 206-464-2164 or dbeekman@seattletimes.com

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Got Green is a fantastic sister organization!

5. Women in Green: Food Access Team Report Back & Launch

Saturday, October

11

at 11:00am -

1:00pm



Got Green?

3518 S Edmunds St, Seattle, Washington

98118

JOIN US as we share the results from our Women’s Leadership Institute as we launch our next issue!

From March to July over 60 unique individuals, women of color, and low-income women engaged in authentic community dialogue about food access issues in our community and how we can grow as leaders to advocate for greater access to healthy and affordable food for our community!

Kids Activities Available!

RSVP Today:

<http://bit.ly/1rx18u2>

For more info contact:

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