



The Mike Sells Labor Champion Award

TO HONOR Mike Sells, our very own labor champion, a man who has dedicated his life to public service, to advancing the labor movement and to bettering the lives of Washington's working families, we created an award that will honor Rep. Sells' legacy beyond his recent retirement and recognize a deserving recipient who's carrying on his work and his legacy.

- **How the Project Will Be Initiated.** We have created a special committee of folks from among labor, the arts community and elected officials. They will work with the Project Director and Event Planner to commission a competition among Washington artists to design a unique Labor Champion trophy symbolic of service to the community and to the mission of the union movement.
- **How the Recipient Will be Chosen.** Each year, an Awards Committee of nine people will solicit nominations both online and via personal invitation beginning four months prior to the award presentation. Finalists will be identified and a deserving recipient chosen by vote of the committee, along with approval from Council delegates. The recipient will be notified ahead of time and provided with a full table (10 seats) gratis to invite family/friends/colleagues to attend the awards ceremony. Other tickets to the ceremony and banquet will be sold online and via the Council's union affiliates.
- **How the Award Will be Given.** In late October, we will host a black-tie optional banquet and award ceremony at the Edward D. Hansen Center in Everett, with a specially catered dinner menu. Invitees will include labor leaders, civic groups, members of the business community, elected officials and WSLC leadership. The event will feature a keynote speaker to deliver an inspirational address, a presenter to introduce Rep. Sells and remarks from the award recipient.
- **How the Trophy Will Be Presented.** The award recipient would take the large, specially commissioned trophy with them (or have it delivered to them), to be displayed at their office or other public space. Like the Stanley Cup, the trophy will have their name, affiliation and the date inscribed on it. In addition, the recipient will receive a desk-sized model of the trophy as a keepsake. Each year, the previous award winner will return with the large trophy to the next year's ceremony to formally present it to that year's recipient.
- **How the Funding Will be Directed.** Tickets are priced to cover the costs of the venue and the foodservice, with a cash bar on premises. In addition, there will be a commemorative program containing ads from supporters, the proceeds from which will go to our Council's 501(c)3 Hardship Fund to support union members and their families hit by layoffs, medical costs or other hardships.
- **How our Labor Council Benefits.** First, this award extends our recognition of Rep. Sells' legacy beyond his retirement. Second, it raises the profile of the Council locally and statewide. Third, we connect a high-profile, feel-good community event with the organized labor in our region. And finally, we will use the presentation ceremony and its sponsorship to raise funds for our Hardship Fund, while hosting a memorable, meaningful special event.