

ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES “MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES” GATHERINGS

Associated Industries is hosting an autumn series of informal, personal gatherings with State and local politicians. The series is designed to allow one-on-one time for A.I. members with those officials that represent them locally or in Olympia. The next on the docket will be Spokane City Councilmen Steve Corker and Al French scheduled to visit with A.I. members Wednesday, November 4th at 8:00am. Refreshments are provided and the meetings are open to the public.

At the first “Meet Your Representatives” morning coffee with Rep. Tim Ormsby and Rep. Matt Shea (R), where healthcare was a prominent topic, A.I. President/CEO Jim DeWalt offered, “We’ve been providing medical benefits to our members since 1954. I think that speaks to the efficacy of an association plan....I hope that as you think about some of issues you are confronted with in this next year, you will look to associations – whether Associated Industries or AWB, or others – to include us in the discussion, because we are part of the solution.”

Senator Chris Marr chats with his assistant, Barb Bumann, and “Meet Your Representatives” series guest Alan Wagner, prior to the second in the series hosted by Associated Industries. Speaking of the last legislative session, Marr advised, “As you’re aware, this was a tough session, but you ain’t seen nothing yet.” Marr suggested that “two years down the road we will have to make up for using ‘one-time dollars’” i.e.: approximately three billion in Stimulus dollars. Everything will be “on the table” Marr said, and “there will be some discussion of new revenue sources.”

At the Tuesday, October 20th, third in the series of "Meet Your Representatives" events, Washington State Representatives John Driscoll (D) and Kevin Parker (R) offer their take on a variety of issues including budget, education, and transportation. Although education funding is about 41 percent of the State budget, “it took a 12 percent hit this session, said Parker. “But I love education,” he added, “because I know it changes lives.” Both Parker and Driscoll spoke regarding transportation issues, and the need to get creative regarding State financing for important projects such as the North – South Freeway completion and additions to the work done this summer on US 195.