

SELECTED TIMELINE OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST LABOR HISTORY	DATE
The first known labor organization in the Pacific Northwest, The Oregon and Washington Typographical Society, meets in Portland.	1853
Oregon becomes a state, adopting the motto "The Union".	1859
25 longshoremen become the second trade to organize a union in Portland, Oregon.	1868
Seven unions organize in Portland, including the railroad brotherhoods with the completion of rail lines to the city.	1876
The first successful strike in Oregon by Harness Makers results in a wage increase from \$2.50 a day to \$3.50 a day.	1880
Oregon declares the first official statewide Labor Day.	1887
The Western Central Labor Union forms as the communal decision-making body of the various union locals in King County, WA.	1888
Oregon Improvement Co. brings hundreds of black laborers from the South to various mining towns in King County, WA to undermine white unions in labor disputes.	1891
Striking miners in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho dynamite the Frisco Mill, leaving it in ruins.	1892
U.S. Army troops occupy the Coeur d'Alene mining region in Idaho.	1899
When their demand that only union men be employed is refused, members of the Western Federation of Miners dynamite the \$250,000 mill of the Bunker Hill Company at Wardner, Idaho, destroying it completely.	1899
German immigrant Frederick Weyerhaeuser buys 900,000 acres of Northwest timberland. The Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. brings thousands of European immigrants to work in Washington.	1900
The Portland Labor Press is first published. It is the oldest continuously published labor newspaper in the region. The Portland Central Labor Council and Oregon State Federation of Labor make sure that the Labor Press remains a strong and active voice for unionism.	1900
First convention of Oregon State Federation of Labor.	1901
The Western Central Labor Union buys the Seattle <i>Union Record</i> newspaper to serve as labor's voice in the Pacific Northwest. It reaches a peak circulation of 80,000 and achieves its greatest fame during the 1919 Seattle General Strike. The weekly <i>Union Record</i> becomes a daily paper on April 24, 1918, and ceases publication after 28 years in 1928.	1903
The Western Central Labor Union changes its name to the Central Labor Council of Seattle and Vicinity, and occasionally joins with Populists and other reform groups in local and state politics.	1905
The Japanese Labor Union in Seattle grows to 600 members.	1906

Several hundred white workers in Bellingham, WA drive 700 Asian Indians out of the community and across the border into Canada in September. In November, white workers in Everett expel Asian Indians from their homes and jobs.	1907
The IWW organizes 3,000 sawmill workers to strike in Portland, OR for a 9-hour day and wage increases from \$1.75 to \$2.50 a day.	1907
The IWW stages free speech fights in Spokane, WA. 600 Wobbly speakers are detained and several are tortured to death.	1909
Washington State grants suffrage to women.	1910
Mexican nationals are recruited to work on railroads and in agricultural fields in the Pacific Northwest. The Mexican government protests the poor treatment to which the workers are subjected.	1910
Oregon women win the right to vote.	1912
Forest & Lumber Workers Union strike in Hoquiam, Raymond, Cosmopolis and Aberdeen, WA.	1912
The Seattle Potlatch Riot breaks out with a fistfight between Army soldiers and members of the IWW. The fight began when three U.S. Army soldiers, in town for the festival, heckle Mrs. Annie Miller, a suffragist speaking to a small crowd in Pioneer Square near the offices of the IWW. One of the soldiers then threatened to strike Mrs. Miller. A well-dressed and very muscular man in the crowd objected, "You would strike a woman?!" and violence ensued. The <i>Seattle Times</i> then falsely reported the IWW members had attacked the soldiers, leading to soldiers and citizens raiding and burning local IWW offices.	1913
Labor shortages during WWI allows unions to organize much of Seattle. The Central Labor Council grew increasingly radical in this period and becomes the dominant force in Seattle's powerful progressive coalition.	1914
Anna Louise Strong runs for the Seattle School Board and wins – the only women on the board. A journalist by trade, she is hired by the New York Evening Post to report on the Everett Massacre, covers the 1919 Seattle General Strike for the <i>Union Record</i> , and later travels to the Soviet Union and China to report on the global communist movement from the 1920s through the 1960s.	1916
In Seattle, waterfront employers bring African American men from Kansas, Missouri and Louisiana to break a longshore worker's strike. As a result, longshore workers realize that as long as African Americans are excluded from their union, employers can use race to break strikes. In 1917, they admit African Americans to the longshore worker's union.	1916
The Everett Massacre occurs when over 200 armed vigilantes, called "citizen deputies," backed by the Snohomish County Police Department fired on Seattle IWW members on board the <i>Verona</i> steamship as they attempted to dock in Everett. The Wobblies were sailing to Everett to assist shingle workers in their 5-month long strike against mill owners.	1916

When a strike by lumber workers loses steam in the Pacific Northwest, IWW organizers suggest that members go back to work, but act as if they do not know what they are doing. This "strike on the job" hurts production and encourages government intervention that results in better hours and working conditions.	1917
IWW organizer Frank Little is lynched in Butte Montana. His executioners leave a sign on him stating "First and last warning!"	1917
International Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers organizer Albert "Ginger" Goodwin is shot by a hired private policeman outside Cumberland, British Columbia on July 27. His death inspires the Vancouver General Strike on August 2.	1918
Japanese American butchers, gardeners, timber workers, railroad workers, small businessmen in Seattle organize associations.	1918
The event that became known as the Centralia Massacre takes place on November 11th when American Legion members attack an IWW meeting hall during the Armistice Day Parade in Centralia, Washington, resulting in 6 deaths and many additional wounded and/or jailed. IWW organizer Wesley Everest is taken from jail that night and lynched from the Chehalis River Bridge. Eight of the jailed IWW members are later convicted of 2nd degree murder. No American Legion members are charged for their involvement in the violence.	1919
Refugees from World War I arrive in Pacific Northwest: Armenians, Russians, Bulgarians, and Romanians. Many work in logging camps and mines.	1919
Seattle General Strike - 65,000 workers from multiple industries shut down the city for five days. The strike began in the ship building industry where workers sought higher pay after wage freezes during WWI, but spreads with the help of militants and radicals in the IWW and the Central Labor Council who see it as an opportunity to assert worker control over industries. Employers characterize the strike as anti-American and respond with an open shop drive that de-unionized most of King County. Subsequently, the Central Labor Council becomes more conservative and expels members of the IWW.	1919
Italians in Seattle are the target of anti-Catholic and "Red Scare" sentiments because they are seen as heavily involved in the trade union movement.	1920
Only AFL unions are represented on the Seattle Central Labor Council. In the late 1920's Dave Beck rose to prominence on the Council, leading to the development of business unionism. Beck is the chief Teamsters organizer west of the Rockies. If the Council declared a firm to be "unfair to labor," Beck could often prevent the firm from trucking its goods to market.	1920
International Longshoremen's Association and Marine Transport Workers strike the Port of Portland for union recognition and a hiring hall; Police attack picket lines, arrest 500; city side raids to round up every known IWW member; waterfront employers win total victory.	1922
The Central Labor Council of Seattle and Vicinity votes to expel members of the Communist Party.	1925

Whites instigate anti-Filipino race riots in the Yakima and Wenatchee valleys. In one instance in the Yakima Valley, 150 white workers stop 60 Filipinos on their way to pick apples and force them to leave the area.	1927
Average income of farm worker in Washington State is \$430 per year. By 1933 this falls to \$210.	1929
Dave Beck begins his rise to leadership in the Teamsters' Union. He consolidates power in Seattle by negotiating contracts that give workers gains, but guarantee employers no strikes, and brings intense pressure to bear on anyone who doesn't join or support the Teamsters.	1930
Unemployed Citizen's League (UCL) is established in the Seattle area to collectively address the needs of the unemployed and working classes.	1931
The Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act bans "yellow dog contracts" which require employees to sign pledges not to join unions. The Seattle School District "yellow dog contract" for teachers is voided.	1932
Filipino cannery workers in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California organize the Cannery Workers and Farm Laborers' Union (CWFLU-AFL). They later disaffiliate from the AFL and become members of the CIO's United Cannery, Agricultural, Packinghouse, and Allied Workers of America (UCAPAWA-CIO) in 1937.	1933
Machinists at Boeing organize in Seattle as members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) District Lodge 751.	1935
Lumber workers strike in the camps and sawmills of Washington and Oregon.	1935
Seattle <i>Post-Intelligencer</i> Strike.	1936
Railroad Waiters' Union formed to address grievances of African American railroad waiters in Washington State.	1937
The U.S. government contracts with Mexican nationals (braceros) to work in the Pacific Northwest to address a severe agricultural labor shortage. In spite of numerous strikes for better wages and conditions, the braceros are paid less than anyone else, and forced to live in housing conditions that are crowded, cold, and dusty. They are not allowed to leave the farms to find better jobs.	1942
Influx of population at Hanford, WA, as people come from all over the country to work in the defense industry, including 3,000 African Americans from the South recruited as temporary labor.	1943
Northwest growers shift from recruiting Mexican nationals to recruiting Mexican Americans to work in agricultural fields.	1948
Boeing machinists, members of IAM District Lodge 751, strike in Seattle to preserve seniority rights and win a 10 cent per hour raise. Dave Beck's Teamsters attempt to intervene in the strike by setting up a rival union local. While the IAM members ended the strike without a victory, they later defeated the Teamsters in an NLRB election to represent Boeing	1948
Washington State passes a law against discrimination in employment.	1949

Basque immigration to Washington increases, supported by Washington Wool Growers Association. Most work as herders.	1952
With the merger of the AFL and CIO the Central Labor Council of Seattle and Vicinity expands with the involvement of CIO unions.	1955
The Washington State Federation of Labor and the Washington State CIO Council work together to defeat right-to-work measures: Initiative 198 in 1956 and Initiative 202 in 1958. These two labor bodies had been bitter rivals in the 1930's but came together to fight the right-to-work threat and merged as the Washington State Labor Council in 1957. They also create the United Labor Lobby (ULL) which was able to win an extension of the 40 hour maximum work week to all Washington workers and an expansion of the unemployment insurance system in 1959	1956
The Central Labor Council of Seattle and Vicinity starts to donate money to charities and promotes radio and television appearances by labor leaders.	1959
Oregon's longest strike begins with a dispute between the Stereotypers' and the electrotypers Union Local 48 and the Oregon Journal and the Oregonian. The strike is soon joined by the other newspaper unions. In 1960 the unions create their own newspaper, the Portland Reporter, to compete with the struck papers.	1959
The Central Labor Council of Seattle and Vicinity's Committee on Political Education launches a major voter registration drive. The growth of public sector unions in the 1950s and 1960s, coupled with the addition of progressive CIO unions, led the Council to endorse expanded social services and public housing. The Council also supported the efforts of Seattle civil rights groups during the 1960s. Nonetheless, the Council retained some traces of business unionism. It gave a no-strike pledge during the 1962 World's Fair and often helped the Chamber of Commerce lobby for subsidies for local businesses.	1964
WSLC President Joe Davis launched Project '66 to increase labor's political influence.	1966
Increased State Labor Council legislative activity wins limited collective bargaining rights for public employees in Washington State.	1967
The Central Labor Council of Seattle and Vicinity changes its name to King County Central Labor Council.	1968
The King County Labor Council sanctioned many strikes throughout the King County area and passed a radical resolution empowering the KCLC to call for a national one day strike against President Richard Nixon because of what it believed to be his unfair and unworkable labor policies.	1971
First teacher's strike in Washington led by American Federation of Teachers (AFT) members at Seattle Community College, sanctioned by the KCLC.	1972
Southeast Asians begin to settle in Pacific Northwest at the end of the Vietnam War. Vietnamese, Laotian, Hmong, Lao, Cham, Cambodian, and ethnic Chinese, facing language and employment barriers like earlier Asian immigrants, often find work in small businesses within their ethnic communities, such as restaurants and grocery stores.	1975

The Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon is established.	1977
IAM District Lodge 751 Boeing machinists stage a 45-day strike in Seattle.	1977
Washington Women in the Trades is founded to improve women's economic equity and self-sufficiency through access and success in high-wage, high-skilled careers in the construction, manufacturing and transportation sectors.	1978
Hotel and Restaurant Employees union members strike in the greater Seattle area. Twenty-one restaurants and hotels are affected. The KCLC urged all of its members to honor picket lines while offering strike benefits. An estimated 2,000-3,000 restaurant employees and 5,000 hotel employees walked out to demand higher wages.	1981
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste or 'PCUN' (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United) is established in Oregon.	1985
AFSCME wins a \$106.5 million settlement in its Comparable Worth sex discrimination suit on behalf of female employees of Washington State agencies.	1986
The Washington Labor Education and Research Center is established at The Evergreen State College.	1987
NFL football players strike; KCLC urges a protest against Seattle Seahawks games that used strike replacement players. Council Executive Secretary Treasurer Dan Bickford affirmed that the players faced the same issues as other unions: "worker rights, fair treatment, fair share of revenues and the right to bargain and speak without reprisal."	1987
Boeing machinists 48-day strike in Seattle.	1989
Group Health nurses strike in Washington over pay and proper staffing levels. It is reported that 95% of the hospital's nurses went on strike.	1989
Oregon Tradeswomen forms to promote success for women in the trades through education, leadership and mentorship.	1989
KCLC forms the "Public in Public Education" coalition opposing "the attempt of business to seize control of the School Board and turn it into a board that functions like boards of directors of corporations." The KCLC stated that many of those same corporations, like Boeing, have been against tax laws that would benefit public education.	1991
AFSCME Local 328 strikes Oregon Health and Sciences University.	1995
The KCLC sponsors a rally by Washington apple workers demanding higher wages and better working conditions. The Teamsters and the United Farm Workers unions are heavily involved in the rally. Other sponsors included Jobs With Justice, the Washington Association of Churches and the Washington Alliance for Immigrants and Refugee Justice.	1997
SEIU Local 49 strikes Kaiser for 35 days.	1997
The "Battle of Seattle" shuts down the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference on November 30. Unions, environmental groups, nongovernmental organizations, and radical activists from around the world join in the street protests.	1999

<p>The KCLC develops a Right to Organize Plan for the Seattle Unions Now (SUN) program. SUN is a KCLC sponsored organization dedicated to capacity-building, multi-union efforts, ambitious unions and labor campaigns. The Right to Organize Plan focused on mobilizing, community and religious outreach, political accountability and organizing contingent workers.</p>	<p>1999</p>
<p>OFN-AFT, UFCW 555, and SEIU 49 Ratify National Contract with Kaiser.</p>	<p>2000</p>
<p>The Washington State legislature passes laws granting collective bargaining rights to state employees, faculty members at four-year state institutions of higher education, and teaching and research assistants at the University of Washington. Prior to 2002 state employees could bargain only over non-economic issues. Bills had been introduced each year since 1989 seeking these rights for state employees, but had failed in one or the other houses of the legislature.</p>	<p>2002</p>
<p>Many unions and labor councils join a Seattle protest against the War in Iraq. This 5,000-strong protest mirrored a much larger protest in Washington D.C. on September 24, 2005. The KCLC changed its name to the "Martin Luther King, County Labor Council" (MLKCLC).</p>	<p>2005</p>
<p>The Washington State legislature passes a law granting in-home child care workers the right to collective bargaining so they can negotiate over state reimbursement rates and other economic issues and working conditions.</p>	<p>2006</p>
<p>The Washington State legislature passes a law granting adult family home providers the right to collective bargaining so they can negotiate over state reimbursement rates and other economic issues and working conditions.</p>	<p>2007</p>
<p>The Washington State Legislature passes a law granting academic student employees at Washington State University the right to collective bargaining.</p>	<p>2008</p>