Seasonal Greetings

The Voice of Friends of Seasonal and Service Workers

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FSSW Provides Vital Support to Low-Paid Worker Organizations through Production of 2026 Calendar



Photo by Megan Stephens

FSSW Operations Manager Alyssa Palmer (left) during a press check for color adjustments needed with Project Manager Larry Ewalt (right) and Press Operator Wayne Pham at RRD Packaging Solutions in Kent, Washington, that donated the printing of the 2026 National Labor Federation calendar.

Friends of Seasonal and Service Workers (FSSW) Operations Manager Alyssa Palmer announced at the August 28 staff meeting that independent organizing drives of low-income workers nationwide are kicking off a campaign of fall expansion with the vital aid of the new 2026 National Labor Federation (NATLFED) art calendars. FSSW organizes the production of the award-winning calendar, which 23 grass-roots organizing drives of farm, seasonal, temporary and service workers use to educate, inform and unite low-income workers along with business owners, faith communities, students and others committed to turning around the economic conditions responsible for growing poverty in the United States.

"Before the calendar is used by a volunteer talking face-to-face with another person about participating in an effort to address the most pressing problems facing our communities today, there are dozens of artists, and printing and transportation industry leaders who are part of the production process," Palmer explained. "Without the printers and binderies we could not produce the calendar."

During the week of August 5, a team of 45 FSSW volunteers worked together using the assembly line method to hand-insert the pull-out poster into the center of the calendar, and to package and ship out a total of 20,500 calendars to the 23 organizations FSSW supports from coast to coast.

Industry involved in the production process

The production of the 2026 NATLFED calendars took the coordination of one paper supplier, WCP Solutions; one printing company, RRD Packaging Solutions; three binderies, Journal Graphics, Portland Bindery and Col-Tab; a box donor, Seattle-Tacoma Box Company; five trucking companies, Diamond Line Delivery, Forward Air, Peninsula Truck Lines, Roy Miller Freight Lines, SEKO Logistics; a boat, American Fast Freight; a pallet donor, and hundreds of hours committed by professional volunteer organizers to coordinate and bring the project to fruition.

"Like many other industries, printing is facing consolidation," said FSSW Print Coordinator Eli Bishop. "On a recent printer canvass, three of the print shops we tried to visit had recently closed their doors."

Larry Ewalt at RRD Packaging Solutions, the project manager for the printing of the 2026 calendar, explained to FSSW organizers that many commercial printing companies are switching to printing packaging. Ewalt said that this is what happened at RRD Packaging Solutions, which used to focus on commercial printing, as well as several other large printing companies in the Kent, Washington area, because it is easier to outsource commercial printing than it is to outsource the printing of the packaging for products, which needs to be in proximity to the goods they will be housing.

Each year, three bindery companies participate in different steps of the calendar production process from folding, stitching and trimming the sheets, to drilling the hole required to hang the calendar. "As the printing industry is destabilized, so is the binding industry. For instance, if a printer is obligated, for reasons of supply chain problems, alterations in orders or other factors, to make changes in

Continued on page 4

FSSW Volunteers Aid Expansion of Self-Help Benefit Programs

Throughout the summer, dozens of Friends of Seasonal and Service Workers (FSSW) volunteers collected and delivered food and clothing and worked side-by-side with the membership of organizations of low-paid workers organizing to change their poverty conditions. FSSW volunteers logged three days a week on site in northern Oregon and one weekend a month on caravans to southern Oregon, in response to requests from membership associations of farm, seasonal and service workers in those areas.

Assisting organization of seasonal workers in southern Oregon

Staff Training Coordinator Logan Stefonek led monthly caravans this summer to Northwest Seasonal Workers Association (NSWA) in Medford, Oregon, bringing teams of trained organizers to boost the efforts of the organization FSSW supports in Jackson County.

FSSW volunteer organizer Nep Henderson, Sponsorship Coordinator Jennifer Blackwell and Transportation Coordinator Max Laschiver took part in assisting NSWA members during the August 15-17 caravan. Stefonek and Henderson conducted a benefit intake with an NSWA member who was struggling to pay her electricity bill and was threatened with a shutoff. They were able to stop the shutoff in the immediate, and set next steps with the member to see how the organization could help offset her bill with material survival resources through NSWA's ongoing budget-saving program called Benefit Plan II.

Laschiver and Stefonek ran the NSWA Benefit office, making available clothing to a family of NSWA members, one of whom had recently lost his home in a house fire. Thanks to the association and FSSW volunteers, the family was able to get pants and shoes as well as jackets for the upcoming autumn season.

The following day, Stefonek, Laschiver, Blackwell and Henderson participated in Operation Camp Crew (OCC) with NSWA volunteer organizers and members. With the addition of FSSW caravan participants and vehicles, NSWA was able to deliver food and clothing to migrant workers living on Naumes' Suncrest Farm Labor Camp for the pear harvest.



Photo by Laura Passey

While participating on a monthly FSSW caravan to NSWA, FSSW Transportation Coordinator Max Laschiver circulates at the NSWA Anniversary Dinner Luau to update attendees on upcoming activities.

A month earlier, on the July caravan, Volunteers Coordinator Erin Stevens and volunteer organizers Franki Morris, Stefonek, Laschiver and Henderson met with volunteer medical professionals in southern Oregon about the important role

Continued on page 9

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INSIDE

43rd Anniversary Celebration P.5
Shop Our Sponsors Pp.6-7
In Memoriam: Peggy Walsh P.10
In Memoriam: Maura White P.10
In Memoriam: James Louie P.10