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## Labor will honor Oregon workers killed on the job

Workers Memorial Day, April 28, is a day to remember workers killed on the job.

This year, the Northwest Oregon Labor Council will conduct a memorial service immediately following its monthly delegates meeting Monday, April 28, at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15837 NE Airport Way, Portland.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and the memorial service will begin at 7:30 p.m.

At the service, the names of the 59 workers killed in Oregon in work-related accidents in 2007 will be read. As their names are read a bell will toll and a flag will be raised in their memory. [A list of workers killed and their occupations is posted on Pages 8 and 9 of this issue.]

Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon-OSHA, will be the keynote speaker, and proclamations declaring April 28 as "Workers Memorial Day" will be presented from the offices of the governor of Oregon, mayor of Portland, and chair of Multnomah County.

The 59 workers killed on the job in Oregon in 2007 are recorded as "work-related deaths" by the Department of Consumer and Business Services. That means they are compensable under state workers' compensation claims. Another 24 people died at work from heart attacks and other natural causes. Those deaths are not part of the official number of work-related deaths as reported by OR-OSHA.

Nationally, 5,703 workers were killed in 2006 (the latest year data is

available) and more than 4.1 million workers were injured due to job hazards. Another 50,000 died due to occupational diseases.

The first Workers Memorial Day was observed in 1989. April 28 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act and the day of a similar remembrance in Canada. Trade unionists around the globe now mark April 28 as an International Day of Mourning.

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"But the fight must continue," said Judy O'Connor, executive secretary-treasurer of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. "We must demand strong enforcement of job-safety laws, defend the gains we have won, and push forward to address problems that remain."

Some of those problems include getting public-sector workers and flight attendants covered under OSHA

laws; bringing outdated workplace standards up to date; and helping to establish stiffer penalties for employers who disregard safety rules.

Everyone is invited to attend the Northwest Oregon Labor Council's memorial service. For more information, call 503-235-9444.

### ATU Local 757

## Bus drivers' union steers industry toward healthier workplace

By DON McINTOSH  
Associate Editor

Driving a bus might not be top of the list when most people think of hazardous occupations. Bus drivers aren't rushing into burning buildings or handling downed electric wires. But it turns out driving a city bus eight or 10 hours a day can be one of the most dangerous jobs, from the standpoint of chronic health conditions. Much of it comes down to an inability to take bathroom breaks, constant stress, and the day-in, day-out vibration of operating a heavy motor vehicle.

Fifteen years ago, Susan Stoner was just days into a new job as a labor attorney for Portland-based Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 757 when she noticed something peculiar.

"At my first ATU meeting, within an hour I noticed that over half the people in the meeting were standing against the wall," Stoner said. At the time, she just thought it was strange. Later, she realized it was because their backs were killing them.

"When you're bouncing along in a vehicle all



Adjustable seats with shock absorbers and hydraulics help ease back pain of TriMet bus operator and ATU member Sandy Guengerich.

day, that's what can happen," Stoner said. "It trashes your spine. So many end up with bad backs, and people could barely stand or sit any more."

A combination of union complaints and involvement by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) helped the industry face up to the problem. Better seats were developed, and now, adjustable seats with shock absorbers and hydraulics are the norm, so that drivers can be properly positioned and the seat can absorb more of the road shock.

Seats weren't the only contributor to health problems.

"We process death benefits at the union," Stoner said, "so we get a copy of the death certificates. It's not just that they were too young. What people die of was kind of surprising."

There seemed to be a high incidence of cardiovascular problems, and of cancers, especially urinary and gastrointestinal cancers.

The union was lucky. The National Institutes of Health decided to produce a summary of studies of transportation industry health problems. From that, Local 757 generated a document for

members to give to their doctors.

"Doctors often don't understand what they're looking at is caused by the job," Stoner said.

The studies gave confirmation to what bus drivers knew already: Theirs is a stressful job. Not only do they operate a large vehicle safely and weave in and out of the farthest right lane in heavy traffic. They also must deal with hundreds of passengers a day, be courteous and helpful, announce stops, and aim to be on time but never early. At TriMet, bus drivers get in trouble if the bus is more than a minute early.

Stress contributes to hypertension, obesity, type II diabetes, gastric ulcers, and a variety of cardiovascular health conditions, all of which bus drivers suffer from in higher numbers than the general population. As for the bladder and urinary tract cancers, Local 757 leaders are convinced it has to do with inadequate bathroom breaks.

"When you hold it too long, eventually your bladder becomes so painful it spasms, and you urinate involuntarily," Stoner said. Considering the shame and indignity of that, it's not the kind

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# Oregon board diagnosis: get health insurance for all

By **DON McINTOSH**  
Associate Editor

For several months, six citizen committees have been hammering out a complicated plan to provide health insurance to uninsured Oregonians — all 600,000 of them.

Organized labor is well represented on the committees, which were authorized by the June 2007 passage of Senate Bill 329 by the Oregon Legislature. Governor Ted Kulongoski appointed the committee spots in October. SB 329, known as the Healthy Oregon Act, was sponsored by state senators Ben Westlund (D-Tupelo) and Alan Bates (D-Ashland).

The committees are supposed to make their recommendations public by the end of April, kicking off months of community meetings. Then a seven-member Oregon Health Fund Board will listen to public input and

sift through the committee proposals to make a final recommendation to the Legislature in October 2008. The Legislature will take it up in January when its 2009 session begins. And it's likely that Oregon voters will be asked to approve the result. If all goes according to plan, Oregon could have something like universal health coverage as of 2010.

But a great many details of how the program will work are still up in the air.

In its most basic form, the Oregon Health Fund envisioned by SB 329 will require all uninsured Oregonians to purchase insurance on something like an income-based sliding scale — and require all employers to contribute something to cover the costs. The poorest Oregonians would have their insurance paid for entirely, while the moderately low-income would get a

subsidy of some kind. And middle- and upper-income individuals would be able to buy insurance at rates more affordable than they are now. Insurers would not be allowed to deny coverage based on pre-existing health conditions.

That's the basic plan. But the Oregon Health Fund also has ambitions to be a kind of big-idea system-wide reform. SB 329 aims to restructure the way health care is delivered and paid for in Oregon so that the \$20 billion or so now spent annually on health care in the state could be used more efficiently and effectively.

It's a reform that has the potential to create big-time winners and losers. The job of the Oregon Health Fund Board will be to make sure all parties win and lose a little, or else the political backlash may kill the project before it gets off the ground.

The Oregon Health Fund Board will oversee the process and select from among the recommendations of the six committees and several task forces that are developing different parts of the proposal. The committee members aren't paid, but are assisted by a paid staff of eight number-crunchers and policy analysts overseen by Barney Speight, a widely-respected health policy expert and former Kaiser Permanente vice president.

Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain is labor's representative on the Board, which also has repre-

sentatives from business and community groups. The union movement also has representatives on most of the committees, and the labor folks all work together and meet periodically to coordinate.

Unions have a big stake in health care reform, both because they defend the interests of working people in general and because they're having to fight hard to hold on to the health benefits that union employers provide. And as much as 10 to 15 percent of premiums may be going to paying the cost of care for uninsured individuals who can't pay their bill. If Oregon can figure out a way to insure everyone, premiums for union-negotiated health coverage could go down.

In the SB 329 process, one of the most important, and contentious, committees has been the Finance Committee, which is supposed to figure out a way to pay for the plan, even though no one is sure how much it will cost. Ballpark estimates are that covering the currently uninsured would cost \$550 million a year. Money for the Oregon Health Fund would come from a number of sources.

"Everybody's going to pay," said

Maribeth Healey, executive director of the union-supported non-profit Oregonians for Health Security. "Individuals will pay, businesses will pay, government will pay. It has to be fair."

For starters, Oregon will be able to use the money it's already getting from federal programs for poor individuals (Medicaid) and children in low-income households (SCHIPS).

But how much of the remaining cost should be borne by employers, and how much by individuals, is a big debate on the committee. Employers would probably pay by means of a payroll tax. Employers that provide health coverage would get a rebate of most or all of the payroll tax. From the union perspective, that could be a boon, because union employers sometimes are undercut by competitors that don't provide health care benefits.

On the 18-member Finance Committee, the union voices are Operating Engineers Local 701 stationary coordinator Cherry Harris and Lynn-Marie Crider of Service Employees (SEIU) Local 49, and they're working to restrain the profiteers. That's because depending on how it's formulated, the

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# Proposed Worker Memorial snarled in bureaucratic red tape

SALEM — An effort by the Oregon AFL-CIO to establish a permanent memorial at the State Capitol to honor workers killed on the job has hit one bureaucratic roadblock after another.

The most recent is a \$28,000 “management service fee” the Department of Administrative Services wants before a “Fallen Worker Memorial” can be placed near the main entrance to the Labor and Industries Building on the Capitol Mall.

It has taken nearly three years for DAS to approve the design and site location of the memorial, which will serve as a remembrance for workers killed on the job and a reminder of the importance of safety in the workplace. It also would serve as a permanent location for the AFL-CIO to hold its Workers Memorial Day ceremonies. Nearly two decades ago the national AFL-CIO declared April 28 Workers Memorial Day in honor of workers killed on the job. And every year since, a memorial service has been held in either Salem or Portland.

Nationwide, there have been 133 worker memorial sites erected in 33 states since 1989. These memorials range from life-size bronze statues of miners to wall placards.

The design approved by DAS (see illustration above right) consists of a large boulder with an inscribed bronze plaque attached to it. The boulder would

rest within a landscaped sitting area in front of the L&I building.

“The management service fee would cost us more than the entire construction of the memorial,” said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain.

The cost to construct the memorial is less than \$15,000, and the Oregon AFL-CIO already has raised roughly \$12,000, with more money committed once ground is broken.

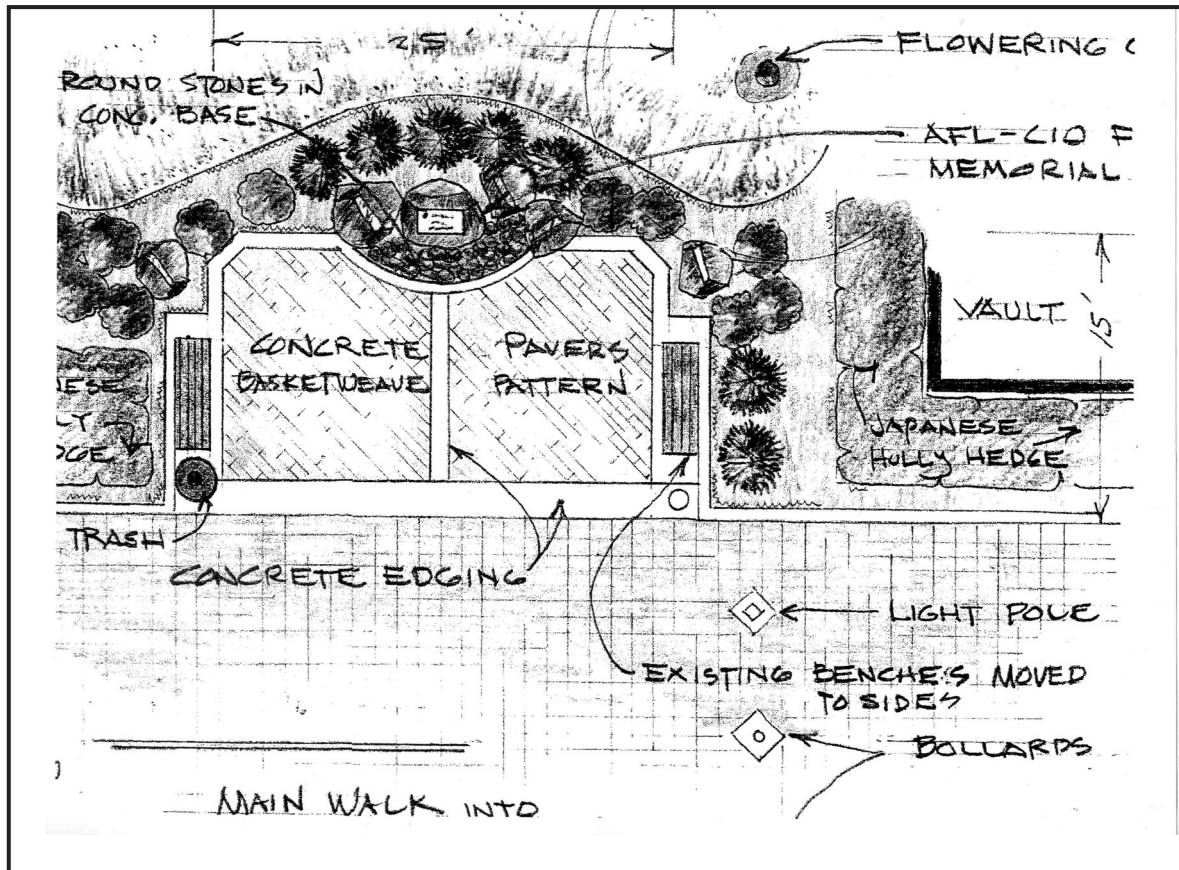
Chamberlain asked DAS to waive the management service fee, but it refused. In late January, Chamberlain sent a formal request to Gov. Ted Kulongoski asking that he waive the fee.

On April 7, the governor offered to split the cost of the service fee with the AFL-CIO 50/50.

According to DAS spokesman Lon Hokin, the governor likes the idea of a memorial honoring workers killed on the job. “The governor felt it appropriate that the state participate in the cost of the memorial,” Hokin told the NW Labor Press.

Hokin said management service fees, set at \$115 an hour, are billed to private entities using public property. The Fallen Worker Memorial was billed for an estimated 152 hours for completion and design work; 40 hours for bidding assistants; 48 hours for construction management supervision; and a lump sum mileage fee of \$500. The grand total: \$28,100.

Al Dorgan, who chairs the state labor



labor federation’s Safety, Health and Workers’ Compensation Committee, said the group is meeting April 18 (after this issue went to press) and will decide then whether or not to accept the reduced fee offer.

“If we do, we’re going to have to fast track collecting more contributions,” he said.

Dorgan, president of Albany Steelworkers Local 7150, and the committee took the lead to secure initial fund-

ing, develop design concepts and work with state officials to find a location. That work began in late 2005 after delegates to the Oregon AFL-CIO convention unanimously passed a resolution to build a memorial.

“It’s a pretty simple memorial on behalf of workers who died on the job,” said Dorgan, who sounded totally frustrated with the process. “There’s no electrical. All the plants around it are perennials and native to the area. We’ve had meeting after meeting after meeting, and here we are.”

To get to “here we are,” the AFL-CIO had to drastically scale back its initial concept, which included a four-pillar “circle of remembrance” situated on the west side of the State Capitol. In the center of the pillars was to be a bell that could ring as the names of workers killed on the job were read during Workers Memorial Day ceremonies.

“That’s a million-in-one project,” DAS told the Safety and Health Committee. Dorgan said the committee was preparing to take their concept to the Legislature for approval when DAS called and said it wanted to partner with the AFL-CIO to make it happen. The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration became the sponsoring agency and DAS transferred management of the memorial to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Dorgan said if the committee declines the governor’s offer, they likely will go to the Legislature in 2009 to seek funding to pay the \$28,000 fee. In the meantime, donations for the Fallen Workers Memorial still can be sent to:

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# Asbestos continues to sicken, kill U.S. workers

By **MICHAEL GUTWIG**  
& **SETH DAVIDSON**

As a career interior decorator, Marilyn Stratton of Beaverton, Oregon, was used to carrying heavy samples of rugs, tiles, wallpaper, carpets, and catalogs that showcased the tools of her trade.

Her skills as a decorator have been showcased in three "Street of Dreams" homes and a number of "Showplace Homes" in the Portland area during her lengthy career.

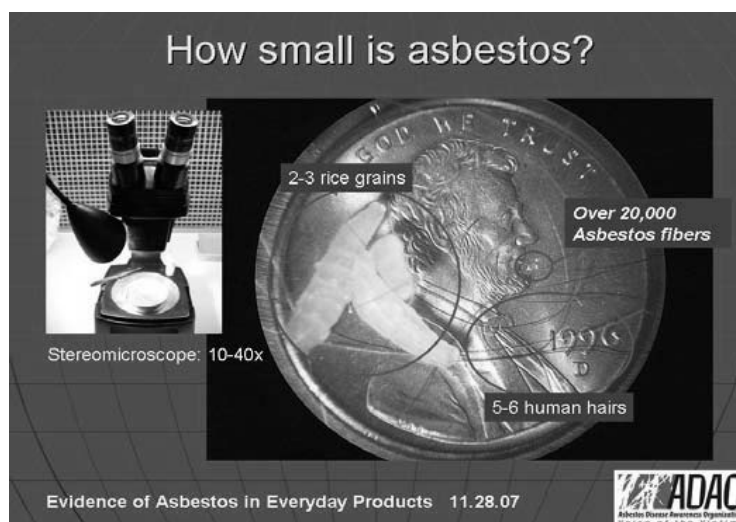
A workaholic, even at age 73, Stratton seemingly was always on the go. Until the onset of summer 2006, when she began experiencing pain in her chest.

Concerned that someone as fit and active as she would be suffering from chest pains, her husband, retired arbitrator Dick Stratton, insisted on a visit to the doctor. X-rays taken in early June

revealed a build-up of fluid around her lung. More tests were taken and the diagnosis was horrific: malignant pleural mesothelioma. "Meso" is an aggressive cancer that attacks the lining of the lungs. The only known cause of this fatal disease is asbestos.

Asbestos is a mineral found in nature. Its fibers are long, thin, flexible, strong — and resistant to heat, fire, rot, mildew, water damage and electrical and chemical damage. Prior to 1975, the so-called "miracle fiber" was used heavily in Navy ships and shipyards; in office, school and home construction building materials such as drywall, flooring and roofing; in automotive products like brake pads; and in consumer products like hair dryers.

Asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted. But when



This slide shows the nearly invisible asbestos fibers as compared to grains of rice and human hair. On the penny, just under President Lincoln's nose, are more than 20,000 asbestos fibers. Virtually indestructible, these fibers can remain suspended in air for days.

- Studies have shown that asbestos exposure is responsible for 1 in every 125 deaths of men over the age of 50.

- Asbestos is the largest single cause of occupational cancer.

- 30 percent of all victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards.

- In 2005, world production of asbestos was 2.4 million metric tons, an increase from 2.36 million metric tons in 2004. Russia led the world in asbestos production, followed by China, Kazakhstan, Canada, Brazil, and Zimbabwe.

- Asbestos has not been mined in the United States since 2002, and imports, mostly from Canada (88 percent), satisfy domestic manufacturing needs.

- Asbestos has been banned in 40 countries. The United States isn't one of them.

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inhaled or swallowed, the fibers have been found to be lethal. The fibers can lodge in the lungs and other soft tissues, resulting in changes to the cells that may eventually result in meso, asbestosis and other types of cancers — some of which have latency periods of more than 40 years.

In the U.S., statistics show 4,000 people are diagnosed with malignant pleural mesothelioma each year, and 10,000 Americans or more die each year from all asbestos-related disease.

According to the RAND Institute for Civil Justice, an estimated 27 million people may have been exposed to

## Asbestos found in household products, toys

The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) has released a study showing asbestos is in common toys and household products. Products such as Scotch High Performance Duct Tape, DAP "33" window glazing, DAP "Crack Shot" spackling paste, Planet Toys "CSI Fingerprint Examination Kit," and Gardner Leak Stopper roof patch are on the list.

Over 250 suspected products currently sold in national retail stores within the last 18 months were tested by the Scientific Analytical Institute, Inc. The products included children's toys, hardware, cleaning products, and cosmetics. The testing process followed procedures outlined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Testing also found asbestos in other products such as toy play clay from China and Thailand, pre-packaged potting soil from the U.S., hair rollers from China, cosmetics from France, baking flour, powdered household cleaners and kitchen appliances from China.

ADAO was founded in 2004 by asbestos victims and their families to raise awareness about the dangers of asbestos and to push for more and improved product testing.

asbestos during the period of 1940 to 1979. Tillinghast-Towers Perrin, an actuarial consulting firm, estimates that more than 100 million Americans may have been exposed through products containing asbestos and asbestos used in buildings.

Portland is considered a "meso" hotspot because of its history of shipbuilding, paper and pulp mills, aluminum plants, and construction.

Despite these warnings — and the staggering health consequences — the United States continues to import over \$100 million worth of asbestos products each year. Asbestos still can be found in about 3,000 different products, ranging from cement panels, sheets, and tiles; fabric, including yarn, thread, cord, and string; gaskets, packing material; aircraft parts and more.

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Washington) has been trying for six years to pass a bill banning asbestos in the United States. Last October, advocacy groups thought they had a breakthrough when Murray's Ban Asbestos in America Act passed in the Senate. SB 742, they said, would finally ban asbestos while investing millions of dollars to develop effective treatment for asbestos-related diseases, and in a public education campaign.

However, according to Roger Worthington, an attorney who specializes in asbestos victim lawsuits, after all parties had agreed on the bill's language, asbestos industry representatives were able to insert a last-minute change — altering the word "products" to "materials" — before sending the bill to the floor for a vote.

"Asbestos-containing materials," according to Worthington, "are statutorily defined as anything with more than 1

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# ...Asbestos legislation

(From Page 4)

percent asbestos by weight. The exemption suddenly opened the door for the continued sale and distribution of hundreds of asbestos products — as long as the product was 99 percent asbestos-free.

“This 1 percent exemption, which has absolutely no scientific, public health, moral, or economic rationale, would help perpetuate the worst man-made public health catastrophe in our nation’s history,” Worthington added.

A couple of bills have been introduced in the House. One mirrors the Senate version, and another incorporates language that would ban asbestos completely. But, according to Worthington, neither bill is viable.

A third bill currently is being drafted that incorporates a statutory ban of asbestos. That means, two years after the bill is passed, asbestos would be banned outright in the U.S. “This is the bill that will be considered by the committee,” Worthington said.

According to Worthington, the one percent exemption has been removed from the draft bill, and the asbestos industry is already working to derail it, just as they did in the Senate.

Since her diagnosis, Stratton’s world has been turned upside down. She had her diseased lung removed (extra-pleu-

ral pneumonectomy) by Dr. Eric Vallieres at the Swedish Cancer Institute in Seattle. She has undergone countless rounds of chemotherapy treatments. She’s dealt with infections and takes medications daily for her heart, for pain, and other side effects. She is weak most of the time and experiences chronic shortness of breath.

And she’s one of the lucky ones.

During a consultation in December, a CT scan showed that she was “cancer clear.” All of the gross tumor has been removed, and the radiation has sterilized the area.

Stratton no longer has the strength for pulling fabric off shelves, to deliver furniture, or to hoist large area rugs that she once could carry by herself. But she walks routinely and has shown an amazingly positive attitude throughout the ordeal.

Dr. Vallieres says that she will never completely get her breath back, but time will tell and significant improvement has always been a reasonable and attainable goal.

*(Editor’s Note: Seth Davidson writes on asbestos-related issues for the law office of Roger Worthington. Marilyn Stratton is the mother-in-law of Jon Gutwig, a member of Teamsters Local 305 and brother of NW Labor Press editor Michael Gutwig.)*

# Products Containing Asbestos

More than 3,000 products in use today contain asbestos. Most of these are materials used in heat and acoustic insulation, fireproofing, and roofing and flooring. Those products are being made which contain asbestos that could be inhaled are required to be labeled as such.

The following non-exhaustive list is a general guide to asbestos-containing products, arranged in the following categories.

Sample list of suspect asbestos-containing materials from the Environmental Protection Agency

Cement Pipes	Elevator Brake Shoes
Cement Wallboard	HVAC Duct Insulation
Cement Siding	Boiler Insulation
Asphalt Floor Tile	Breaching Insulation
Vinyl Floor Tile	Ductwork Flexible Fabric Connections
Vinyl Sheet Flooring	Cooling Towers
Flooring Backing	Pipe Insulation (corrugated air-cell, block, etc.)
Construction Mastics (floor tile, carpet, ceiling tile, etc.)	Heating and Electrical Ducts
Acoustical Plaster	Electrical Panel Partitions
Decorative Plaster	Electrical Cloth
Textured Paints/Coatings	Electric Wiring Insulation
Ceiling Tiles and Lay-in Panels	Chalkboards
Spray-Applied Insulation	Roofing Shingles
Blown-in Insulation	Roofing Felt
Fireproofing Materials	Base Flashing
Taping Compounds (thermal)	Thermal Paper Products
Packing Materials (for wall/floor penetrations)	Fire Doors
High Temperature Gaskets	Caulking/Putties
Laboratory Hoods/Table Tops	Adhesives
Laboratory Gloves	Wallboard
Fire Blankets	Joint Compounds
Fire Curtains	Vinyl Wall Coverings
Elevator Equipment Panels	Spackling Compounds

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# OFFICIAL NOTICES

## Auto Mechanics 1005

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturdays, April 19 and May 17. **ALL MEMBERS** are invited to shop stewards' training. Stewards must attend steward meeting to be compensated.

All meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Nomination and Election: Nominations for delegates to the 37th Convention of the Grand Lodge of the IAM will be at our regular meeting held April 19, 2008. Election will be Saturday, May 17.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Rochelle Conrad will be available from 8 a.m. to noon during the regular lodge meeting to answer any questions you have concerning health, welfare and pension plans.

## Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 22, in the meeting room, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** There are openings for an Executive Board position and a Trustee position. Please contact the local if you are interested.

## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 1

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland

## Carpenters 247

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

## Carpenters 1388

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at 276 Warner-Milne Rd., Oregon City.

## Carpenters 1715

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, preceded by a 5 p.m. Executive Board meeting at 612 E. McLoughlin, Vancouver, Wash.

## Clark, Skamania & W. Klickitat Counties Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, April 24, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

## Columbia-Pacific Building Trades

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, April 22 and April 29, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

## Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 8, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

## Exterior & Interior Specialists 2154

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 207, Portland.

## Fire Fighters 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

## Fire Fighters 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, May 8, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

## Glass Workers 740

**PLEASE NOTE:** Meetings will be **SPECIAL CALL** for nominations of Local Union 740 and District Council 5 officers and voting on District Council bylaw changes.

Executive Board members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, May 1, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 1, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, May 5, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

## Iron Workers 29

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, May 1, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #200, Portland.

## Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE** time change. Nominations for the 2008 Election of Officers will be held 6 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at the Meeting Hall at Iron Workers Apprenticeship Training Center, 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., Portland.

## Laborers 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave.

## Laborers 483

Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

## Laborers/Vancouver 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, May 5, preceded by a 6:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the Vancouver Labor Center, 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vanc., Wash.

## Lane County Labor Council

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

## Lane, Coos, Curry & Douglas BCTC

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, April 23, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Pkwy., Springfield.

## Linn-Benton-Lincoln Labor Council

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, preceded by a 7 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

## Linoleum Layers 1236

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Meetings will be **SPECIAL CALL** for nominations of Local Union 1236 and Dis-

trict Council 5 officers and voting on District Council bylaw changes.

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, May 5, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## Machinists 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 7. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, May 10, preceded by a 9 a.m. stewards' meeting.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Election of delegates to the Grand Lodge convention will be held at this meeting. Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

## Machinists 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at noon Wednesday, May 14.

Regular membership meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 14. Shop stewards' training session 9 a.m. Saturday, April 19.

Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

## Metal Trades Council

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Executive Board meets 8 a.m. Monday, May 12, at NOLC board room, 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

## Multnomah County Employees 88

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, preceded by a 6 p.m. stewards' meeting, at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

## Northwest Oregon Labor Council

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, April 28, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

## Office & Professional Employees 11

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at the Union Office, 7931 NE Halsey, Portland.

## Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at the Asbestos Hall at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland. Mem-

bers will receive a free T-shirt or sweatshirt for attending a qualified number of membership meetings.

Nominations for the following positions will be held during the Wednesday, May 21, regular meeting:

**IUPAT District Council #5 Positions:** Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer; Business Representative; Ten Delegates for IUPAT District Council #5.

**Local 10 Positions:** President, Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Warden, three Trustees, five delegates for the Clark, Skamania & West Klickitat Central Labor Council, two delegates for the Longview, Kelso Central Labor Council, three delegates for the Portland & Vicinities Metal Trades Council, two delegates for the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, two delegates for the Columbia, Pacific Building Trades Council and two delegates for the Longview, Kelso Building Trades Council

There will also be a vote on proposed changes to IUPAT District Council 5's Bylaws. The proposed changes are as follows:

**Article VII** – Addition of the positions of Director of Servicing, Director of Organizing and Director of Governmental Affairs.

**Article XIV** – Addition of the positions of Assistant Business Manager, Director of Servicing, Director of Organizing and Director of Governmental Affairs as Delegates to District Council #5.

**Article XVII** – Addition of the following Section:

In recognition of the fact that the District Council's strength in negotiations comes in large measure by its ability to supply highly skilled, responsible workers to employers, it shall be the duty of all members to render a fair days work in a workmanlike manner. Any member, who is terminated for cause three times within a twenty-four month period, from a position under a District Council collective bargaining agreement, shall be subject to charges. Unless the Trial Board finds exceptional circumstances, the penalty shall be expulsion from membership.

In cases where the terminations resulted strictly from lack of skills, the Trial Board may require the member to attend Journey person upgrade training classes in lieu of expulsion. For members whose termination was a result of falling in the category of dispensated Member as defined by Section 102 of the IUPAT Constitution, the Trial Board may recommend that Section 102 be implemented in lieu of expulsion.

**Article XIX** – Change of Seattle Office Address.

**Addendum** – Change of Local Addresses and deletion of merged Locals.

## Plasterers 82

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

## Portland City & Metropolitan Employees 189

General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, April

22. Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13. Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside Portland.

## Roofers & Waterproofers 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, May 1. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, May 15. Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave, Portland. (Phone: 503 232-4807)

## Salem BCTC

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, May 1, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

## Sheet Metal Workers 16

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Medford area members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at the Local 16 Hall, 4748 Franklin Blvd., Eugene.

Coos Bay area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, May 15, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

## Sign Painters & Paint Makers 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 21, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## Southern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy #3, Central Point.

## Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, May 5, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

## Transit 757

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, April 20, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, WA.

Tillamook members meet 1:00 p.m. Sunday, April 20, at the Odd Fellows Hall, next door to the Bay City Fire Hall in Bay City.

AMR Northwest Josephine County, LAMAR Advertising and Valley Transit- See your liaison officers.

**PLEASE NOTE:** ATU members are invited to attend any of the above-listed meetings.

## United Association 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 18, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 417 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 21, at the Eugene #290 Hall.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at 4816 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at Rogue Regency Inn, Banquet Room A, 2300 Biddle Rd., Medford. **PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE.**

Roseburg area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at the Roseburg Labor Temple, 742 SE Roberts.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, April 21, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at the Eureka Training Center, 832 E St., Eureka, Calif.

## USW1097

Members meet 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, preceded by a 5:45 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office building, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

## USW 8378

Members meet 12:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at the A-Dec Building at the Fairgrounds in McMinnville.

# RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

## ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

The April 24 meeting has been canceled. The annual convention will be held Saturday, April 26, at the ILWU Hall, 2435 NW Naito Parkway, Portland. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., session begins at 9 a.m.

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, May 8, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

All retirees are welcome to attend.

## BAKERS 114

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 24, at JJ North's, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

## CARPENTERS

Retired Carpenters meet for lunch 11 a.m. Monday, May 12, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retired Electricians of Local 48, wives and friends meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 13, at Elmer's Parkrose Restaurant, 10001 NE Sandy Blvd. for brunch. Two staff members from Local 48 will be attending. Bring

your suggestions for future meetings. For further information and reservations, please call Vera Larson at 503 252-2296.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Retirees meet between 11:45 a.m. and noon Monday, May 12, at The Old Country Buffet on Lancaster in Salem, which is next to Michael's Craft Store.

If you have any questions, please give Don Ball a call at 541-327-3388.

## INSULATORS 36

Retiree breakfast 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 1, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

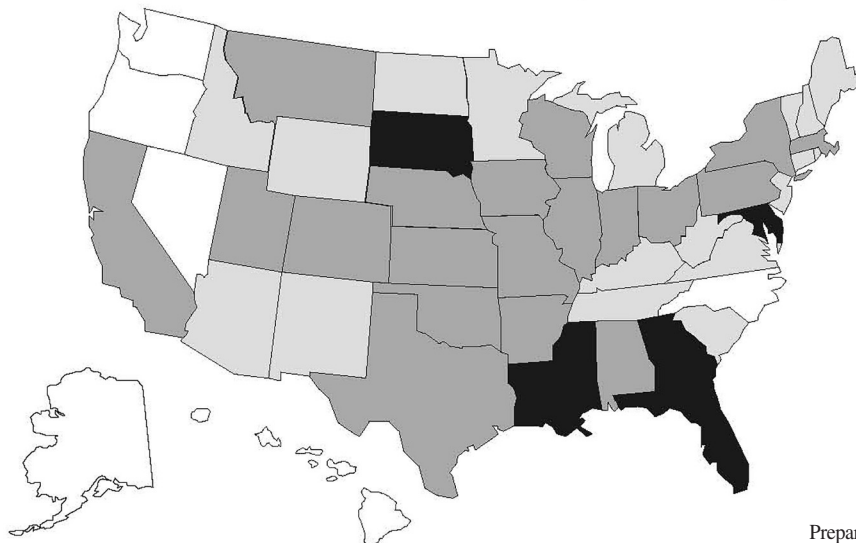
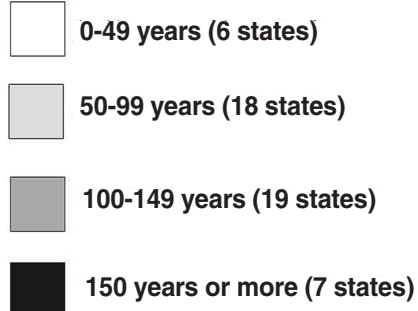
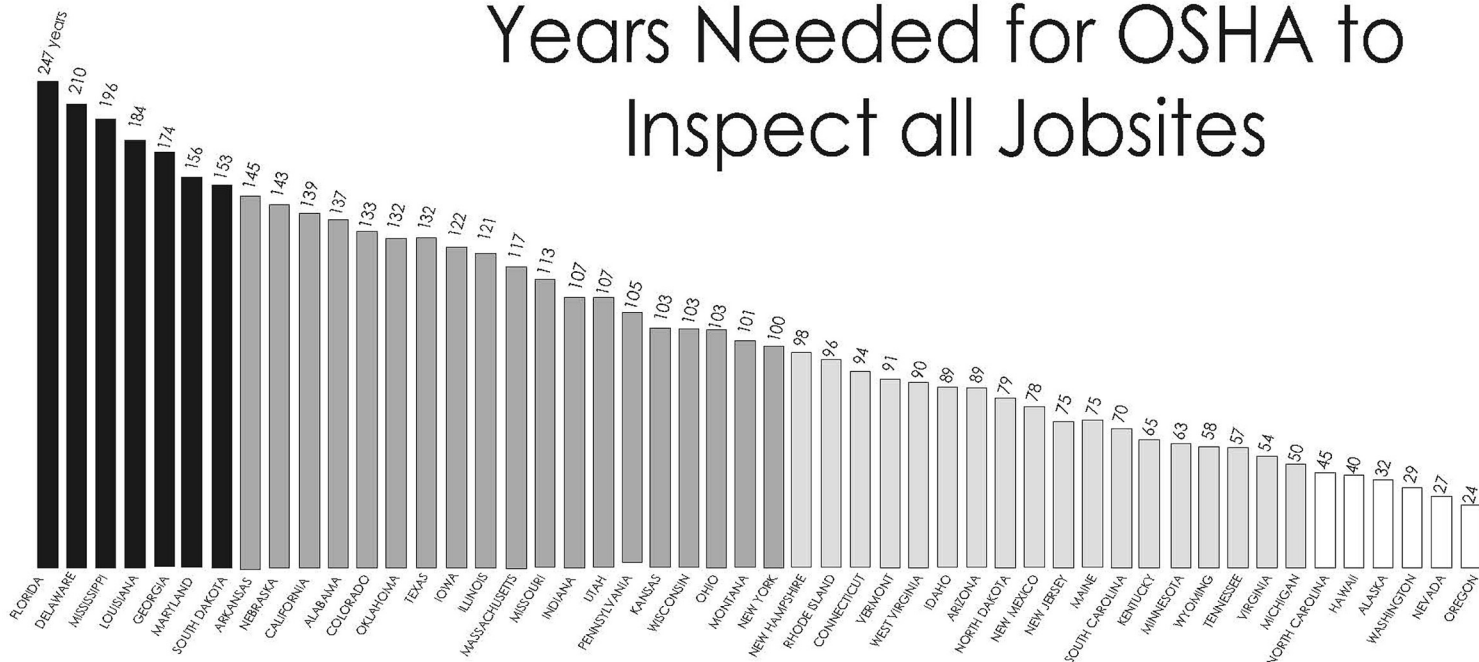
## IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 14, at JJ North's Restaurant, 10520 NE Halsey St., Portland.

## MACHINISTS

Retired Machinists meet 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 7, at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland, and then leave for a tour of Western Star (formerly Freightliner) between 11:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The tour of Western Star begins at 12 noon. All IAM retirees invited to come.

## Years Needed for OSHA to Inspect all Jobsites



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 2005" and Occupational Safety and Health Administration IMIS data on worksite inspections FY 2006.

Prepared by the AFL-CIO

## Free medical screenings for workers at nuclear sites

TRI-CITIES, Wash. — Union construction workers who spent any time at all working at Hanford Reservation, or at any of the hundreds of nuclear weapons program sites in the U.S., are eligible to receive a free medical screening to see if they have been exposed to life-threatening ailments.

The free service is provided through the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program (BTMed), which started in 1996 in cooperation with the Department of Energy. BTMed serves union construction workers from 23 DOE sites, including Hanford, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Scoville, and Amchitka Test Site in Amchitka Island, Alaska.

To date, 16,000 workers (out of some 700,000) have been screened — with more than 3,000 of those having worked at Hanford.

Of the three key indicators of occupational disease associated with work at Hanford, BTMed has found that nearly 38 percent of participants with X-rays have lung abnormalities; more than 38 percent of those with breathing tests have decreased lung capacity; 66 percent of those with a hearing test have evidence of work-related noise-induced hearing loss, and 2.7 percent of those with a beryllium test have evidence of sensitization.

If you worked at Hanford, call Sherry Gosseen at the Hanford Outreach Office at 1-509-542-9347. If you worked elsewhere, call BTMed at 1-800-866-9663 or go online for more information at [www.btmed.org](http://www.btmed.org).

## Turner Construction will stop work April 28 to honor dead

Turner Construction of Portland will hold a moment of silence at all of its jobsites first thing Monday morning, April 28, to remember workers who have been killed on the job.

April 28 is Workers Memorial Day. It was established in 1989 by the AFL-CIO to honor workers who have been killed and/or injured on the job.

Turner has several large projects going in Oregon, including the Providence Cancer Center in Portland, Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene, and Salem Hospital.

"We probably have a thousand workers on our jobsites," said Safety Manager Alan Blood. "It's a good time to remember those who have been killed on the job and to heighten awareness of safety."

At each jobsite the names of workers killed job the job in Oregon in 2007 will be read.

## Women in Trades Career Fair set for Saturday, May 1-3

Nearly 2,000 girls and female job-seekers are expected to participate in hands-on activities such as operating a crane, climbing a pole and soldering a

copper pipe at the 16th Annual Women in Trades Career Fair, sponsored by Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.

This year's fair will be held May 1-3 at the NECA-IBEW Local 48 Electrical Training Center, 16021 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Saturday, May 3 is "Career Day," and the fair is open to the general public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free of charge.

On May 1, middle-school students will tour the fair, and May 2 is reserved for high school students. An estimated 1,400 students from more than 50 middle and high schools across Oregon and Southwest Washington will participate.

Connie Ashbrook, executive director of Oregon Tradeswomen Inc., said the fair provides an atmosphere where girls are encouraged and supported by adult female role models to explore skilled living-wage careers in construction-related trades. The event allows students and women to meet more than 70 employers, learn about apprenticeship programs, and community college trades training, and participate in numerous hands-on workshops and demonstrations.

Free parking and child care are available. For more information, call 503-335-8200, or go to their Web site at [www.tradeswomen.net](http://www.tradeswomen.net).

## Education conference will focus on Oregon workers' comp system

SALEM — An educational conference on Oregon's workers' compensation system will be held May 14-15 at the Salem Conference Center.

The conference, sponsored by the Oregon Workers' Compensation Division and the International Workers' Compensation Foundation, is geared for union representatives, safety managers, employers, attorneys, injured workers and others.

Registration is \$325 if postmarked by April 21.

For more information, contact Kara Olsen at 503-947-7515 or e-mail her at [kara.r.olsen@state.or.us](mailto:kara.r.olsen@state.or.us).



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**KILLED ON THE JOB  
IN OREGON IN 2007**

Jess Anderson  
Painter

Augustin Anderton  
Farm Worker

Jeffrey Baker  
Welder

Bruce Baxter  
Laborer

Dennis Beach  
Cattle Rancher

Ross Bennett  
Cattle Rancher

Steven Brandt  
Accountant

Michael Breaux  
Production Worker

Paul Bryan  
Mechanic

Thomas Burke  
Carpenter

Edwin Cain  
Construction Worker

Vernon Christensen  
Logger

Mark Christie  
Forklift Operator

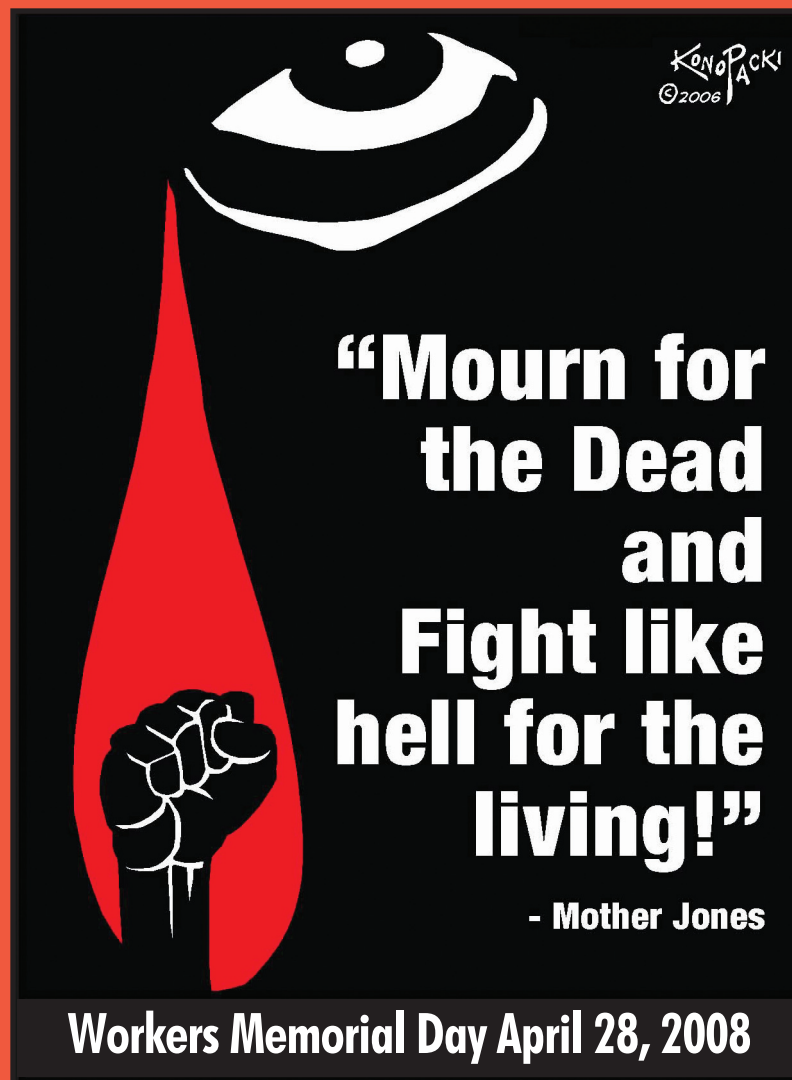
David Clancy  
Truck Driver

John Clark  
Driver

Mark Clark  
Flight Instructor

David Contreras  
Truck Driver

Roger Durgan  
Mechanic



Randolph Perry  
Painter

Edward Phelan  
Installer

Jose Romero  
Machine Operator

Douglas Shellito  
Log Truck Driver

Gilbert Siewell  
Truck Driver

Arnie Singmaster  
Construction Worker

Mark Slinker  
Truck Driver

Bradley Smith  
Truck Driver

Tom Suderman  
Truck Driver

Ronald Sutphin  
Cattle Rancher

Michael Taylor  
Construction Manager

Cason Terjeson  
Farm Worker

Hector Terriguez-Chavez  
General Laborer

Guntis Turks  
Surveyor

Ken Venard  
Fisherman

Thomas Weede  
Electrician

Steven Wilkin  
Logger

David Williams  
Roofer

Gregory Young  
Fighter Pilot

Frank Ellis  
Arborist

Charlie England  
Iron Worker

Charles Ewing  
Ranch Worker

Gerald Fausnaugh  
Mill Worker

Javier Florean-Gomez  
Laborer

Robert Ford  
Mechanic

Kelly Fredinburg  
Police Officer

Layne Fugate  
Equipment Operator

Ruben Granados-Lopez  
Framer

Jeffery Helgeson  
Construction Worker

Andrew Herbert-Hooper  
Fisherman

Shane Huntsman  
Ranch Worker

David Lasley  
Equipment Operator

Steven Lee  
Arborist

Edward Manley  
Pipe Layer

Renea Midgley  
Recreational Parks Worker

Duane Miller  
Flight Instructor

Chad Mitchell  
Technician

Bryon Osheedy  
Millwright

John Paradiso  
Construction Worker

John Young  
Recapper

Oleksandr Zdrylyuk  
Truck Driver

(Oregon fatalities are from information  
supplied by the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services.)

## OREGON COMBAT MILITARY DEATHS IN 2007

Army Sgt. Joshua C. Brennan  
Ontario, Oregon

Army Sgt. Michael Louis Vaughan  
Otis, Oregon

Army Sgt. Eliot W. Scott  
Portland, Oregon

Army Private Brett Andre Walton  
Hillsboro, Oregon

Army Cpl. Graham McMahon  
Corvallis, Oregon

Army Sgt. Jason A. Shaffer  
Hood River, Oregon

Army Capt. Drew Jensen  
Clackamas, Oregon

Army Sgt. 1st Class John J. Stephens  
La Grande, Oregon

Army SFC Adrian Marcos Elizalde  
North Bend, Oregon

Army Sgt. Nicholas J. Lightner  
Newport, Oregon

Army PFC Daniel Allen Leckel  
Glendale, Oregon

Marine Lance Cpl. Nathan Windsor  
Newport, Oregon

Army Cpl. Kory Wiens  
Albany, Oregon

Army Sgt. Long N. Nguyen  
Portland, Oregon

Army Specialist Michelle Ring  
McMinnville, Oregon

Army Private 1st Class  
Brian A. Browning  
Astoria, Oregon

Marine Lance Cpl. Steven Stacy  
Coos Bay, Oregon

Army Private 1st Class Ryan J. Hill  
Keizer, Oregon

Marine Lance Cpl. Juan Manuel  
Garcia-Schill  
Grants Pass, Oregon

Army Sgt. Sean P. Fennerty  
Portland, Oregon

Army Specialist Joseph P. Kenny  
Veneta, Oregon

104 Oregonians have died while serving  
in Afghanistan and Iraq.  
16 from the Oregon National Guard;  
1 from the Washington National Guard;  
1 from the New York National Guard;  
58 from the United States Army;  
3 from the United States Army Reserve;  
19 from the United States Marine Corps;  
1 from the United States Air Force;  
5 from the United States Navy.

Army Specialist Dominic N. Rodriguez  
Klamath Falls, Oregon

Army Sgt. 1st Class  
Christopher Henderson  
Hillsboro, Oregon

Marine Lance Cpl. Dale G. Peterson  
Redmond, Oregon

# U.S. Senate panel pushes OSHA on worker safety

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — U.S. senators may be moving in a bipartisan manner toward pushing the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to come down hard on companies that repeatedly skirt safety rules.

At least it sounded that way April 1 at a hearing of the Senate Workplace Safety Subcommittee.

Chair Patty Murray (D-Wash.), co-sponsored legislation a year ago following the death of Cintas worker Eleazar Torres-Gomez, who was sucked into a 300-degree dryer in Tulsa, Okla. Murray said OSHA has done little to go after repeat violators.

And the subcommittee's top Republican, Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), said one big fine against one key firm in an industry for a pattern of ignoring worker safety would send a signal to all the others, through their trade associations, to obey the law. Isakson's state was the scene of a fatal blast at a sugar refinery, caused by igniting dust.

The senators spoke after Change to Win Health and Safety Coordinator Eric Frumin, former OSHA Administrator Gerald Scannell, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 227 Shop Steward Doris Morrow, and health and safety consultant Carmen Bianco testified about health and safety working conditions — 38 years after the Occupational Safety and Health Act was passed.

A followup hearing will be on April 29, keyed to Workers Memorial Day, which is April 28.

All four agreed that safety and health on the job is not just a matter of numbers of deaths and injuries, which have been declining for years, but of corporate culture. "If bosses make safety and health a priority, injuries, deaths and fear on the job go down," they said.

Otherwise, even at a union shop, "many of the

workers are afraid to complain about the working conditions because they are fearful they will lose their jobs," Morrow said of her 1,000-worker Tyson Poultry plant in Robards, Kentucky.

Those conditions, she added, are far worse than people imagine. A poultry plant, for example, has maximum temperatures of 40 degrees Fahrenheit, with wind whipping through on cold days, icy and dangerous floors, and common respiratory and musculoskeletal problems affecting workers who must lift heavy tubs of chicken on a rapid production line at all times.

Frumin said Cintas was repeatedly warned of the danger of its conveyor belts sucking workers into its dryers long before one sucked in Gomez. OSHA has fined Cintas for the same hazards since Gomez' death, Frumin told lawmakers. The fine, which may be reduced on appeal, is \$3 million.

That's "one day's profits" for Cintas, Frumin said.

Bianco admitted health and safety attitudes must come from — and change at — the top for workers to see any progress.

"This is not a consequence of there being a few bad apples" in the corporate barrel, said Isakson, who ran his own business for 33 years before entering politics. "They're encouraged to be a bad actor," he said of corporate titans' quest for profits.

"If there's a judicial process that made the CEO personally accountable for part of the fine, or that he could be ordered to put in a safety officer" that would wake companies up, he said.

Isakson, Murray and other lawmakers said they will work on legislation that identifies and penalizes "a pattern and practice" of health and safety violations. "Penalties for that," Isakson said, "would ripple through an industry."

## Wages, job safety at top of Steelworkers' bargaining list

McMINNVILLE, OR — Cascade Steel Rolling Mills is doing well. Production at the company's steel mill here set a record in March, and sales for the most recent quarter hit a record 202,000 tons. With steel prices also up, about \$80 a ton, earnings are up by almost half since a year ago.

So what was the company's proposal to its union workers March 31?

A wage freeze. No cost-of-living increase. And that's after workers got just one cost-of-living increase in the last three-year contract — a 1.7 percent raise last April.

For its part, the union wants workers to share in the good times, starting with decent raises. Currently, pay starts about \$11 and goes as high as \$25, for what can be pretty dangerous industrial work. The union also wants rules improving participation on the safety committee. They want a \$25 increase to the \$125 annual boot allowance; boots with the required metatarsal guards cost that much and more, and better-made boots of U.S. manufacture can be over \$200. And they want increased job security through a successorship clause, so that the union contract would remain in

force if parent company Schnitzer Steel Industries decides to sell the mill.

Cascade Steel Rolling Mills produces concrete reinforcing bar ("rebar"), and various grades of wire and bars, using scrap steel purchased from Schnitzer's steel recycling operation. Much of the steel produced at the plant is used in construction, which is experiencing a downturn, but the outlook remains good for the company. Chinese demand is soaking up steel production in other Pacific Rim countries, so Cascade Steel Rolling Mills and one other U.S. competitor have the West Coast U.S. market to themselves.

Granted, the wage freeze was the company's opening gambit, but the bargaining committee at United Steelworkers Local 8378 was not amused. The month before bargaining began Feb. 29, members voted to authorize the bargaining committee to strike if needed. Local 8378 President Joe Munger wonders if the company might be pushing the union to strike.

The previous contract has expired and is being extended on a day-to-day basis. The union could call a strike with 72-hour notice.

# Why you should support LNG. And Bradwood Landing.

There are currently several proposals to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal in the Pacific Northwest, yet only one will most likely be built. The way we see it, for many very good reasons, Bradwood Landing is the only LNG project that deserves your support.

*That's why the working men and women of Oregon strongly support the Bradwood Landing LNG project along the Columbia River.*

*That's why we applaud Clatsop County's recent land-use approval for Bradwood Landing.*

*And that's why businesses throughout the Pacific Northwest are on record strongly supporting the need for new energy resources, including LNG.*

## **The need for reliable, affordable energy is real.**

There's no question we need to increase our regional natural gas supply to ensure reliable, affordable energy. Bradwood Landing would accomplish this by delivering needed natural gas in the form of LNG into the Northwest while meeting or exceeding all federal, state and local standards.

Most people don't realize that Oregon imports all of the natural gas it consumes: two thirds comes from Canada and a third comes from the U.S. Rocky Mountains. However, Canadian supplies are forecast to decline and the Northwest is facing growing competition for gas from the eastern U.S. At the same time, the Northwest has been building more gas fired power plants instead of coal or dams. Most alarmingly, the regional wholesale price of natural gas has risen 200 percent since 2000. The need is clear.

LNG is simply natural gas cooled to -260 degrees Fahrenheit to make its transportation easier and cheaper. When warmed, it becomes the same gas that more than 1.2 million homes and businesses in the Northwest rely on every day for heating, cooking and making products that are sold across the globe.

## **The job and economic benefits are real.**

In terms of economic benefits, Bradwood Landing is a winner. During its three year construction, Bradwood will create an average of 450 high-paying union construction jobs, totaling more than 2 million hours of employment. Its operating budget will total \$30 million annually. Beyond these impressive figures, Bradwood Landing will strengthen Oregon's economy as a whole by keeping energy costs competitive.

Most importantly, Bradwood Landing represents real family-wage job protection, working to ensure the health of Oregon's businesses and the livelihoods of the people they employ.

*And, it is the only LNG project committed to use skilled union labor for construction.*

## **The commitment to the environment, safety and the community is real.**

Bradwood's commitment to the Lower Columbia and the people who live there is impressive:

- Bradwood has proposed a voluntary environmental improvement program. Bradwood's \$59 million Salmon Enhancement Initiative is designed to actually increase the number of salmon in the Columbia River and provide a net ecological benefit.
- Bradwood has committed to pay for all safety and security upgrades to emergency responder agencies as well as related safety and river navigation improvements which total more than \$160 million.
- Bradwood is the only LNG project to publicly pledge that it will not seek tax breaks or inclusion in an enterprise zone to lower its taxes. Bradwood has committed to pay its full share of property taxes to Clatsop County – approximately \$7.8 million per year.
- And Bradwood is the only LNG project to have signed a contract with a local government saying it will abide by its conditions of approval. Bradwood will not appeal those conditions to the federal government.

## **The benefits are real.**

Some have suggested that Oregon doesn't need more natural gas, that LNG isn't safe, or that renewable energy and conservation are enough to meet our future needs. As you might expect, given the fact that union members will be central to Bradwood Landing's construction, we've looked deeply into these and other claims. What we've discovered is that the facts simply don't support the claims made by project opponents.

Oregon must increase its use of renewable energy and conservation measures. However, it will take time to reach these goals. LNG and natural gas can serve as a bridge to a future that includes more renewable resources.

From its positive economic impact to its innovative environmental initiative, Bradwood Landing represents a welcome addition to Oregon's business community as well as its clean energy portfolio. We hope you will join with the thousands of working men and women of Oregon who support Bradwood Landing as we work toward a clean energy future.

For more information, visit [www.bradwoodlanding.com](http://www.bradwoodlanding.com) or call 866-497-3335.

**Sincerely,**

**AFL-CIO of Oregon**

**Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council**

**Carpenters Local 1707**

**ILWU - Columbia River Oregon Area**

**Oregon Machinists Council**



# ...Workplace health major issue for ATU

(From Page 1)

of thing bus drivers might want to report.

"We decided to see if there was any evidence of that in terms of bus operator seats needing to be switched out," Stoner said they found that over the course of the previous year, there had been about 30 maintenance reports showing seats being replaced because of urine. "Drivers are so mortified they don't admit to it," Stoner said. "But it's a serious health and human dignity issue."

Stories trickle into the union about drivers urinating and defecating on themselves, wearing adult diapers, or having to get off the bus and urinate in the bushes.

Some drivers try not to drink very much during their shift, so they won't have to use the restroom. Such voluntary dehydration starves every organ in the body of water and is quite dangerous long term.

"Your whole body is functioning with insufficient water," Stoner said. "Then when you do start to drink, it takes a long time to fill up those organs before it ever gets to your bladder. So people may think they have a big bladder, but that's not really what's going on."

Truckers can face similar difficulty using a restroom, but many have enough privacy in their cab that they can urinate into a bottle.

Employers say bus drivers can stop any time and run into a McDonald's or other public accommodation to use the restroom. But that can be embarrassing, and passengers get angry when they're made to wait. The union wants employers to build breaks into the schedule, and make sure there are restrooms available.

"Throughout the industry it's a problem," said Local 757 President Jon Hunt. "Drivers have a uniform on, and they're being scrutinized by the public all the time, so they never get a break unless they're in a lunchroom behind a closed door."

"If you pull a bus over when you have passengers who are trying to make a connection, they don't see that as you pulling over to use restroom. They think you're off screwing around."

The problem can be worse among paratransit bus drivers, who transport the disabled. They have no designated break built into their route, because they have no fixed route: Dispatch continues to build their route while they're driving. And they often have passengers who can't be left alone on the bus while drivers take a bathroom break.

Some agencies are better than others. For example, the union hasn't heard bathroom break complaints from drivers at Salem Area Mass Transit District. But at TriMet, the state's biggest transit agency, it's a constant battle. Shifts can run 10 hours, and traffic can make buses late to arrive at transit centers where drivers might have a chance to take a bathroom break. So both the employer and drivers need to insist that breaks are taken.

It has become a mantra in the monthly union newsletter: "Take your breaks." It's not that the union is encouraging sloth, as some managers may think — it's about keeping members healthy.

OR-OSHA is looking into whether employers are enabling sufficient bathroom breaks, Stoner said, and seeking voluntary compliance.

"In a way, the most we've accomplished is to make people more aware of it," Stoner said.

Stoner thinks employers are doing better at providing restrooms and scheduling breaks since the union started making the complaint. ATU took up the issue with Oregon Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner, and expects the new commissioner, Brad Avakian, will also help enforce the law requiring breaks.

"It's expensive and they're reluctant to do it," Hunt said, "but the only way it's going to work is for employers to have more buses, more bodies, so they can build breaks into the schedule."



BOB KIMES



MIKE POLLOCK

## UA apprentice coordinator Kimes retires; Pollock hired

Bob Kimes has retired as apprenticeship coordinator for the Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 Training Center after 17 years at the helm.

Succeeding him is Mike Pollock. "I have watched apprenticeship change the lives of approximately 2,000 apprentices in the 20 years that I have instructed or been a coordinator," Kimes said. "We have accomplished a great deal, but there will always be a great deal more to accomplish."

Kimes said it is a responsibility of all journey-level plumbers and fitters to help train apprentices. "It's part of the deal, dating back to the craft guilds and beyond," he said. "No educational model is as effective as our apprenticeship, which has worked, literally, for centuries. Take your job as a trainer seriously. Our future depends on the job you do."

Kimes is a graduate of the plumbers apprenticeship program, starting in 1978 as a member of the former Plumbers Local 51. He served as assistant training coordinator for nearly five years before being hired coordinator in January 1991.

Pollock has been the assistant coordinator for nine months. He spent 10 years as an apprentice instructor in the heating, ventilating, air conditioning/refrigeration field. From 2003 to 2007 he worked as a general foreman for Alliant Systems. Prior to that he worked for two years as operations

manager for Interstate Mechanical and five years as project manager and then as service manager for Fullman-Kinetics.

As apprenticeship coordinator, his duties include managing construction and maintenance projects for training center facilities, curriculum development and managing daily operations.

In addition to Tualatin, Local 290 owns training facilities in Salem, Eugene, Redmond, Medford, Coos Bay and Eureka, Calif. It also conducts training classes in Astoria, Brookings, Klamath Falls and The Dalles. There are currently 416 apprentices training to be fitters and plumbers.

Pollock has hired Marci Wichman as assistant training coordinator. She is a graduate of the training program, after spending 14 years working in the medical industry. She has been a journey-level fitter for eight years.

Another new hire at the training center is Chris Baier, who will be a welding shop instructor. He succeeds Mike Jurkiewicz, who retired.

For more information about the UA Local 290 Training Center, call 503-691-1997.

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## Record crowd attends #290 safety seminar

A record 320 members and spouses of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 attended the 11th annual Donald Dunn Memorial Safety Seminar last month at the union's training center in Tualatin.

Dunn was a member of the union and an apprenticeship instructor who died in a ladder mishap while working on a job in Salem. His wife sued, and used some of the settlement money to start a safety seminar for her husband's co-workers and their families. The fund has since run out of money, but the program was so popular that the training center continued it.

This year's theme was "The Workers' Compensation Process." Featured speakers included Brenda Rocklin, chief executive officer of SAIF Corp.; Robert Sinclair, associate director of occupational health psychology at Portland State University; and Jennifer Flood, workers' comp ombudsman for the State of Oregon.

Local 290 members get eight hours toward their continuing education credits for attending the seminar. Last year, the training center paid members \$575 for completing 24 hours of continuing education during the year.

Members also had an opportunity to get a free health screening and chair massage, as well as lunch, provided by the Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association.

## Ombudsperson can help with workers' comp questions

SALEM — Have you been hurt on the job? If so, call Oregon Workers' Compensation Ombudsperson Jennifer Flood in Salem for guidance in the complex world of the state's workers' compensation insurance system.

The ombudsman's staff can provide straight answers at no charge in the areas of workers' comp claims, appeal rights, claims deposition agreements, claim closures, determination orders, reconsiderations, aggravation rights, conflict resolution and informal mediation.

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## Retiree gets 72-year pin from Bricklayers Local 1

Leonard "Shorty" Pardue — a 72-year member of the Bricklayers Union — received a lifetime achievement award April 5 at the annual pin dinner of Portland Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1.

Pardue, 99, is the only member of Local 1 to ever reach this milestone.

He started in the trade as an apprentice in 1936 in Oklahoma. After moving to Portland in 1940, he joined Local 1 and, two years later, started his own company, L.C. Pardue. He maintained his union membership as a contractor.

Pardue retired in the early '70s and his son, Lenny, took over the business. Both men attended the awards presentation, which drew an estimated 225 members and spouses.

In addition to Pardue, Local 1 recognized 50-year pin recipients



"Shorty" Pardue (center) listens as Local 1 Business Manager Keith Wright reads inscription on plaque that was presented to the 72-year member. To the right is President Matt Eleazer.

Stuart Henshaw, Ernest Mills and Delbert Perkins; 40-year members Bill Belanger, Scott Cronholm, Sydney Hall III, and Milford Peterson; and 25-year recipients Greg Neilson and Kelly Smith.

Also receiving a special award — and some cash — was apprentice Jacob Amos. Amos finished

second in last year's Western States Brick & Tile contest held at the international union's training center in Washington, D.C. Apprentices nationwide compete in regional contests to qualify for the national finals. An 80 percent apprentice at the time, Amos beat out more than 30 other apprentices to finish second.

## War protest May 1 could shut down ports coastwise

Rumors have been flying that longshore workers are going to stop work May 1 to call for the immediate, safe return of U.S. troops in Iraq.

At its Feb. 8 meeting, the longshore caucus of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) debated and adopted a resolution calling for an eight-hour stop-work meeting May 1 at ports in California, Oregon, and Washington, at which members would have a chance to speak out in opposition to the war. ILWU represents 25,000 dock workers at ports on the West Coast and in Hawaii and Alaska. Caucus delegates are democratically elected representatives from every longshore local who set policy for the Longshore Division.

Under the ILWU contract with the

employer group, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), the union is allowed to call mandatory-attendance union meetings on the second shift, which workers attend while still on the clock. That's a right that's pretty much unique in the American labor movement. But to call a meeting for the first shift, during the day, requires the PMA to sign off on it. And the PMA wasn't interested in protesting the war. In fact, they make money shipping war material.

So ILWU's official position is that it is no longer coordinating a day shift stop-work action on May 1. That doesn't rule out activists in some locations from taking some kind of action; it just won't have the official sanction of the union.

## Union musicians will entertain at Vancouver Share fundraiser

VANCOUVER — Union musicians Patrick Lamb, Linda Hornbuckle, and Norman Sylvester will be performing at the 7th annual Share-a-Bowl soup dinner and concert Sunday, April 27, at Skyview High School, 1300 NW 139th

Street in Vancouver.

Share is a non-profit program that assists the homeless to find shelter and food in Southwest Washington. The event is a fundraiser for Share.

Lamb, Hornbuckle and Sylvester are members of Portland-based Musicians Local 99. Joining them at the fundraiser will be Karen Therese and Michael Allen Harrison.

The Share-a-Bowl event includes a special soup dinner, followed by the concert. Proceeds will benefit Share's Children's Program, including its backpack and summer lunch programs.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$5 for children 5 to 12. Dinner starts at 4 p.m., with the concert set for 6 p.m.

For more information or to order tickets, call 360 887-8556 or log on to [www.sharevancouver.org](http://www.sharevancouver.org).

## Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans to convene April 26 at ILWU Hall in Portland

The Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans will hold its 5th annual convention April 26 at the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Hall, 2435 NW Naito Parkway, Portland.

Registration for the convention, which opens at 9 a.m. and runs until 3 p.m., is \$25 and includes lunch.

For more information, call the Oregon ARA at 503-284-8591.

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## Zoo railway turns 50; wants to hear from those who built it

The Oregon Zoo's railway turns 50 this year, along with one of its best-loved trains, the Zooliner. To help mark the occasion, the zoo is throwing an anniversary party the weekend of June 14.

Union members, including those from Northwest Marine Iron Works and Cummins Diesel, assisted with the construction of the railway and the cars, and the zoo wants to hear their stories.

Those who worked on the zoo railway project, or have memorabilia to share, should e-mail the zoo at [railway@oregonzoo.org](mailto:railway@oregonzoo.org) or call 503-220-5716.

## Unionists will bowl for MDA on April 27

The 19th annual Labor Bowl Challenge to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) will be held Sunday, April 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Cascade Lanes, 2700 NE 82nd Ave., Portland. Registration starts at noon.

Portland area labor unions have collected \$276,041 for the charity since its inception.




For more information, call Kelly Pendell of Letter Carriers Branch 82, coordinator of the event, at 503-493-5903.

# Local Motion

March 2008

Union activity in Oregon and Southwest Washington, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

## Election results

Employer	Date	Union	Location	Results:		
				Union	No Union	
<b>McKay's Market (decertification)</b>	3/11	UFCW Local 555	Coos Bay	29	39	
<b>Columbia River PUD (office staff)</b>	2/15	IBEW Local 125	Coos Bay	10	11	

## Representation petitions

Employer	Location
Union	# of employees
<b>Marquez Brothers Northwest</b>	Portland
Laborers Local 483	22
<b>Umatilla County Sheriff's Office</b>	Pendleton
Umatilla County Sherriff's Office Administrative Association	12
<b>Kaiser Permanente (staffing specialists)</b>	Portland
Office & Professional Employees Local 11	30

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— May 2-6 —  
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'00 HARLEY 2000 FXD, corbin seat, thunderheader exhaust, \$9,495 OBO. '98 Harley 883 Sportster, \$4,495 OBO. 503 630-2301  
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REMINGTON 11-87SP 12 gauge shot, \$425. 503-659-7519  
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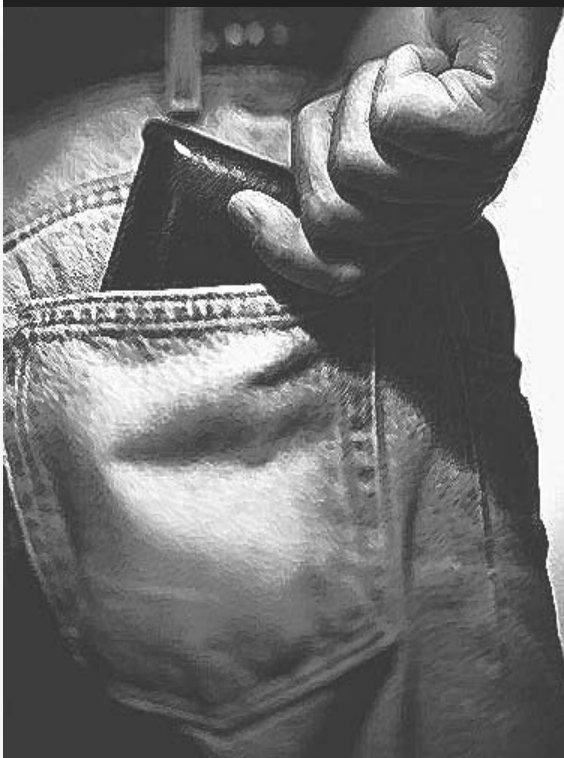
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# NAFTA-style deal with Colombia taken off fast track

It was a stunning victory for foes of NAFTA-style trade and investment treaties: On April 10, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to eliminate a requirement that they give the U.S. Colombia Free Trade Agreement an up-or-down vote within 45 legislative days.

Three days before, President Bush had announced plans to force a vote on the controversial Colombian treaty — against the wishes of some leaders of the Democratic majority in Congress. The Democrat-led Congress let “fast track” trade authority expire last year, but the president had negotiated the Colombia deal while fast-track rules were in effect.

Fast track, which Congress has periodically imposed on itself, gives the president wide latitude to negotiate trade treaties and then send them to Congress for ratification on his own timetable. Once the president presents the treaties to Congress, fast track requires a quick vote, with limited debate and no ability to amend the deals. Fast track paved the way for Congress to approve the treaty that created the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico. NAFTA became the template for 10 other treaties Congress has approved, under fast track, with 16 other countries.

U.S. union leaders blame the NAFTA model for ongoing and severe U.S. manufacturing job losses. And they’re especially opposed to the agreement with Colombia, which is the most dangerous country in the world for labor union organizers. Armed right-wing groups, some with connections to the Colombian military, have a decades-long record of threatening, kidnapping, and assassinating union supporters. More unionists are killed each year in Colombia than in the rest of the world combined. And few perpetrators are ever prosecuted by the government.

Colombia’s human rights record, plus voter anxiety about a recession in the U.S. economy, emboldened House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to turn the tables on the president. A previous Congress wrote the fast track rule requiring a quick vote; this Congress could unwrite it. And so the House voted 224-195 to eliminate the ratification timetable for the Colombia treaty, very largely on party lines: 218 Democrats and 6 Republicans voted to dump the fast track rule,

while 185 Republicans and 10 Democrats voted to keep it. All Oregon and Washington House members voted with the majorities of their parties.

In the debate before the vote, Oregon Democrat Peter DeFazio delivered a fiery rebuttal to Republicans who’d argued that Congress shouldn’t change the way it has handled all trade treaties since 1974.

“In 1974, we were the manufacturing colossus of the world,” DeFazio said. “We ran trade surpluses. We had a robust middle class in America. But after 34 years of bad trade policy, our manufacturing’s cut in half; the middle class is losing ground, and we’re borrowing \$2 billion a day from the rest of the world, including communist China, to buy things that we used to make here in America.”

This rule change, DeFazio said, signals the beginning of a new trade policy for the American people.

“This Congress, until today, has never had a spine to stand up to the special interests that are pushing failed trade policies,” DeFazio said, “policies that fail the American people, that benefit a few on Wall Street. The House is growing a spine today.”

The rule change puts the fate of the U.S. Colombia Free Trade Agreement in doubt. Polls show the NAFTA-style trade deals are unpopular with working people, who see them as job-killers. But the deals are supported by business groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Republicans have had few qualms voting for the NAFTA-style treaties, but Democrats have been divided, with roughly a third voting for the most of the deals in the past.

Even the Colombia treaty has divided Democ-

rats. House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-South Carolina) is for it. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland) is undecided. And Speaker Pelosi has been critical of it, but not categorically: She wants Colombia to make more progress cracking down on violence against la-

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***‘This Congress, until today, has never had a spine to stand up to the special interests that are pushing failed trade policies,’ DeFazio said, ‘policies that fail the American people, that benefit a few on Wall Street. The House is growing a spine today.’***

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**U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio**

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bor organizers, and she wants some kind of deal to give more government aid to American workers who lose jobs because of trade.

Oregon representatives have the same division. Only DeFazio and fellow Democrat David Wu have said unambiguously that they will vote against the Colombia treaty. Democrat Darlene Hooley is undecided. Republican Greg Walden is for it. Democrat Earl Blumenauer said the deal “isn’t ready” because not enough has been done to end the violence on labor leaders, but seemed to signal that if something were added to the treaty, it could get support.

“If [President Bush] shows a willingness to work with Congress and the Colombian govern-

ment to strengthen and improve the agreement,” Blumenauer said in an April 7 press statement, “I expect that he would find willing and interested partners on Capitol Hill.”

In Southwest Washington, Democrat Brian Baird remained undecided, saying he’s “studying the agreement closely.”

“Overall, the agreement has a number of positive elements,” Baird said in a press statement, “but serious concerns about the safety of labor and political leaders are not yet sufficiently addressed.”

With the April 10 vote, the 45-day fast track timetable was eliminated. But other fast track rules, such as the limits on debate and amendment, would still apply to the Colombia agreement if Democratic leaders bring it up for a vote. So the treaty’s fate is likely in the hands of Pelosi. Given how difficult the trade issue is for Democrats, and the fact that both remaining Democratic presidential candidates are critical of NAFTA and the Colombia deal, it’s unlikely Pelosi would hold a vote before the November election.

But after that, treaty supporters could push the lame duck Congress for a vote while Bush remains in office, sweetening the deal with aid to displaced workers and some sort of labor side agreement with Colombia. Treaty backers have argued that the human rights situation has been improving, and that the government is an ally in the region against drug traffickers, leftist guerrillas, and U.S. critics like Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez.

Union leaders won’t be taking any chances, however. The AFL-CIO, along with the Change to Win labor federation, wants to be sure members of Congress to hear from union constituents that passing another NAFTA-like trade deal with a country like Colombia is unacceptable.



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# ...Labor leaders promote affordable health care for all

(From Page 2)

Oregon Health Fund's biggest beneficiaries could end up being hospitals and insurers.

Hospitals are mostly non-profit, and much of the justification for that status comes from the so-called charity care they provide — basically care to uninsured individuals who don't end up paying their bills. If all Oregonians are insured, then there are no unpaid bills, and thus a windfall to providers that Crider says could be in the range of \$400 million a year. If the Oregon Health Fund could figure out a way to reclaim even two-thirds of that money through a tax on health care providers, it would go a long way to pay for the program. The challenge would be coming up with a way to prevent them from passing on the tax in the form of higher prices.

Meanwhile, having 600,000 new insurance customers could mean a windfall for insurers. So Harris and Crider want to cap insurance profits and administrative costs. Harris says others on the committee have argued there are no profits in the system when insurers like Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield are non-profit organizations. Harris scoffs at that. She said the Finance Committee held one meeting at Regence's Portland office, on the 18th floor of its downtown building. Harris sat at a mahogany table in a leather chair, her coffee cup on a leather coaster, the room trimmed in cherry wood and leather and floored with oriental carpet.

Crider sits on a Finance subcommittee, the Exchange Work Group, which is fleshing out

plans for an entity through which individuals and businesses could purchase affordable insurance. The Exchange could be as little as a consumer information Web site enabling individuals and businesses to compare competing plans from private insurers. Or it could be a negotiating tool, aggregating the buying power of hundreds of thousands of participants to bargain a very affordable price from the insurance companies. It could even be a regulatory body, capping insurance profits and administrative expenses and requiring insurers to get approval before they could increase premiums. But the question of who could buy through the Exchange has still to be determined. If the Finance Committee can't reach consensus, Crider said, it might end up forwarding a menu of options to the Oregon Health Fund Board.

Meanwhile, the 19-member Delivery Systems Committee has three labor voices: Diane Lovell of Oregon AFSCME, Stefan Ostrach of the Teamsters, and Healey, of Oregonians for Health Security, who co-chairs the committee. The Delivery Systems Committee is looking at how to pay health care providers (mainly hospitals, physicians, and dentists), and how to get the most bang for the buck. It's also supposed to come up with a way to control cost increases. Without cost control, the whole program could quickly become unaffordable. SB 329 lays out a specific mandate that costs of the program not increase by more than the general cost-of-living index. If the Oregon Health Fund achieves that, that alone would be an accom-

plishment, since medical inflation has for years been triple the inflation rate of other parts of the economy.

The Eligibility and Enrollment Committee, on which SEIU Local 49 Political Director Felisa Hagins serves, is working out the subsidy structure that will enable the health coverage to be affordable. For example, the plan might offer a health insurance tax credit to individuals earning up to three or four times the poverty level, with the goal of limiting insurance costs to 5 percent of an individual's income.

Susan King, head of the Oregon Nurses Association, chairs the Benefits Committee, which is looking at what constitutes the set of "essential health services" that would be required for all health plans offered through the program. At a minimum, the plans will include some level of dental, vision, mental health and prescription drug coverage, preventive care, chronic disease management and short hospital stays. But it might not include catastrophic care or expensive end-of-life care. The benefit structure will likely have features designed to minimize cost to the program, like zero co-pays for primary or preventive care, and higher co-pays for brand-name drugs that are no better than cheaper alternatives. Nothing would prevent individuals or employers from purchasing additional coverage above the minimum level.

The Federal Laws Committee will figure out what if any waivers Oregon will need to change the way federal monies are used, and which federal laws might need to be modified, such as

ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act), which governs union health trusts. The Health Equities Committee will try to come up with ways to assure that health services are delivered in a fair way. Labor has no representatives on those two committees.

While so much is still to be decided, one thing is certain: The status quo is becoming intolerable. Last month, Families USA, a non-profit health care consumer advocate group, released state-by-state estimates of the number of working-age adults who are dying because they lack health coverage. The uninsured die preventable deaths because their diseases go undiagnosed and untreated until a more advanced stage. In Oregon, the group reported, the figure is one person per day — dying because they lack health insurance.

In May and June, the Oregon Health Fund Board will hold a series of 13 community meetings across the state to listen to public input on the broad concepts of health care reform. The meetings are free and will take place in Gresham, Newport, Astoria, Klamath Falls, Medford, Washington County, La Grande, Ontario, Coos Bay, Eugene, Bend, Portland and Salem. Each meeting will start at 7 p.m. and run two hours. Childcare and interpreters will be available at each meeting by calling 503-226-7870 or toll free at 1-800-501-4220.

The first meeting will be held Thursday, May 1, at Multnomah County East Building, 600 NE 8th St., Gresham. For a list of all meetings, go to: [www.healthforum.org/events/meetings.html](http://www.healthforum.org/events/meetings.html).



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