



NORTHWEST

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## Labor Recognition Night

Thirty-two people received awards June 3 at the ninth annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night dinner sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

In addition to paying tribute to these “friends of labor,” the event was a fundraiser for the Emergency Fund of Labor’s Community Service Agency. This year, \$2,000 was raised on raffle tickets for thousands of dollars worth of prizes donated by local unions and area businesses. Last year, the Emergency Fund assisted 851 people from 29 different unions who were facing emergency situations. Money from the fund can be used to help pay for rent, utility bills, transportation, prescription drugs and more.

United Way of the Columbia-Willamette made a special presentation to Glenn Shuck, executive director of Labor’s Community Service Agency, for his work with United Way during its annual fundraising drive.

Recognized at this year’s dinner (pictured above) were: Darel Aker, Dave Tully and Bill Elzie of Teamsters Joint Council 37; Calvin Bissonette and Dana Hoadley of Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastic and Allied Workers Local 139-B; Steve Dzielak of the Alliance for Retired Americans; Bruce

Easley, Dan Froner and Mike Murphy of Laborers Municipal Local 483; Rick Gilmore, Deanna Meyer, Mary Orr and Marla Rosenberger of Multnomah County Employees Local 88 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; UNITE HERE Local 9 leaders Jeff Richardson, Gloria Gonzalez, Jonah Kobayashi, Sophie Welcer, John Pulido, David Brown and Gayle Carnini; general managers Ron Gladney of the Benson Hotel, Norman Wha of the Paramount Hotel, Tracy Marks of the Hilton Hotel, Brendon Coffey of Aramark at the Oregon Convention Center, and Michael Bashaw of Coast Hotels; Norman Leyden of Musicians Local 99; William Lukens of Machinists Lodge 63; Wally Mehrens, retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Columbia-Pacific Building Trades Council; Bob Petroff, directing business representative of Machinists District Lodge 24; Gene Pronovost, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555; Maureen Thompson, director of Community Solutions for Clackamas County; and Julie Devlaeminck, office secretary of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and a member of Office and Professional Employees Local 11.

## Building trades’ Mohlis interested in PDC post

Organized labor has launched a campaign to get John Mohlis, executive secretary-treasurer of the Columbia-Pacific Building Trades Council, appointed to the Portland Development Commission, the quasi-independent development arm of the city of Portland.

Two of PDC’s longest serving members — Chair Eric Parsons and Secretary Doug Blomgren — will step down after their terms expire in July.

The five-person commission is appointed by Portland Mayor Tom Potter and must be confirmed by the City Council.

Potter already has appointed three commissioners since taking office in 2005. The newest commissioners are Sal Kadri, a business owner, Bertha Ferrán, a mortgage consultant, and Mark Rosenbaum, a partner in a financial services business.

Potter had indicated during his campaign and after his election in November 2004 that he would consider appointing someone from organized labor to the commission. Labor leaders were disappointed when that didn’t happen.

“The one thing lacking on this board for a long time has been a voice for the workers,” said Judy O’Connor, executive secretary-treasurer of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

## Portland City Council takes hard look at PDC over construction pay

By DON McINTOSH  
Associate Editor

After several fruitless years spent courting favor with the Portland Development Commission (PDC), building trades union leaders are now going around the agency. They’re taking their agenda directly to Portland City Council. Judging by recent meetings, a breakthrough may be nearing.

Construction unions have tried without success to get PDC to require contractors to pay livable wages and benefits on its projects. PDC is known as a funder of big-ticket construction projects — using public subsidies to spark private development. PDC divvies up \$200 to \$250 million a year, money it gets from special bonds that are repaid by a portion of the property taxes in “urban renewal” districts.

“We want to ensure that public tax dollar investment is used in ways that enrich working people’s lives, not just line the pockets of a few developers and contractors,” said Cherry Harris, organizer with Operating Engineers Local 701, at a June 7 Portland City Council meeting.

In meetings with PDC officials over the last four years, building trades union leaders have argued that PDC-funded projects should pay the “prevailing wage” rate. Under state law, workers on public construction projects can’t be paid less than the prevailing wage — the standard rate for the area, as determined by an annual wage survey conducted for the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). The

law is meant to ensure that contractors compete based on competence and efficiency, not based on who pays workers the least. It’s also meant to encourage contractors to offer training and benefits to their employees.

But PDC has said that unless a project is public infrastructure, it is exempt from the prevailing wage law, arguing the law applies only if PDC contracts directly with a construction contractor or actually owns the project at its conclusion.

BOLI, charged with enforcing the prevailing wage law, ruled that the law *does* apply to PDC on mixed-use, private-public projects that the agency helps fund. But PDC sued in May 2005 to overturn that interpretation, and won in Multnomah County Circuit Court. BOLI is appealing that decision.

PDC’s legal action outraged construction union leaders, like Jim Pauley, president of Iron Workers Local 29. Pauley says his blood boils at the thought of PDC paying lawyers with tax dollars to sue another government agency — all to avoid paying a decent wage to construction workers.

Pauley wasn’t the only one to react that way. Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard says he’s become increasingly exasperated by the PDC. The lawsuit shows PDC is out of sync with the current City Council, Leonard said; and City Council wasn’t consulted beforehand.

“They introduced this lawsuit basically on behalf of developers,” Leonard told the NW Labor Press.

At a June 6 City Council work session, Leonard invited Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner and PDC Executive Director Bruce Warner to explain to the council how the lawsuit came about.

Warner deferred questions to his attorney.

Gardner told the council PDC wanted the fight: He tried to resolve the dispute but his calls went unreturned. And a task force he appointed to look at how prevailing wage would apply to PDC failed to reach consensus.

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## Let me say this about that

—By Gene Klare



## Val Jack enters Hall

**VAL JACK**, a retired member of the Portland Federation of Teachers and Classified Employees AFT Local 111, is the latest honoree welcomed into the Labor Hall of Fame by the sponsoring Northwest Oregon Labor Retirees Council.

The Retirees Council is affiliated with the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and holds its meetings in the NOLC boardroom in Suite 100-G on the first floor of the Scandia Building at 1125 SE Madison St. in Portland.



VAL JACK

**MRS. JACK**, now 63, retired after a long career as an office secretary in the Portland School District. She spent 20 years at Roosevelt High School starting in 1971; followed by three years in the Roosevelt Cluster Office located at Kenton Elementary and three years in the Lincoln-Roosevelt Region Office at Terwilliger School. Then she served six years as the full-time president of Local 111. Local 111 is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers-Oregon, and the national AFT. She has been a member of the AFT-Oregon Executive Board since 1990. She has served as a vice president-at-large, as the AFT-Oregon E-Board secretary, and

currently is on the board as the representative of the organization's retirees.

After retiring, she organized the AFT-Oregon Retirees Association and is its president. She is a member of the Oregon Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans and holds the office of secretary on the Oregon ARA's Executive Board. She produces an every-other-month newsletter for ARA. The ARA represents seniors nationwide under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations — the AFL-CIO.

**IN HER WORKING YEARS**, Val Jack held vice presidencies in Local 111. She was the communications vice president and later the COPE vice president. In the Committee On Political Education post, she raised funds for the union's contributions to endorsed political candidates and to labor campaigns against anti-union ballot measures.

Mrs. Jack has represented Local 111 as a delegate to meetings of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and to conventions of the Oregon AFL-CIO. She served as recording secretary at state conventions in the 1990s. She's also attended conventions of AFT-Oregon and national conferences and conventions of AFT. She raised COPE contributions at the past three AFT-Oregon conventions by organizing a silent auction and contributing one of her quilts or crochet projects. At national assemblies, she has been active on a number of committees, which included planning a conference for local union presidents; and drafting a report on organizing part-time and contingent workers. She co-taught a class on how to gear-up local union political action in election campaigns, explaining what Oregon unions did to beat back anti-worker ballot measures.

Jack was appointed by First District Congressman David Wu as an alternate delegate to last year's White House Conference on Aging.

**HALL OF FAME** member Jack recalled in a NW Labor Press interview that she attended every day of the three-week civil trial in 2002 in which a Multnomah County Circuit Court jury ruled for AFT-Oregon and the Oregon Education Association in the two unions' landmark lawsuit against anti-union

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## Transit Local 757 elects officers; Jon Hunt will be new president

Members of Portland-based Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 have chosen new leaders.

In mail-in ballots counted June 6, Jon Hunt was declared the new president and Sam Schwarz the new vice president.

Tom Wallace returned to a second term as financial secretary-treasurer.

The three offices are full-time staff positions. Also elected were the union's Executive Board and unit liaison officers.

Local 757 has 4,100 members — mostly bus operators and mechanics — at 35 locations. TriMet, the Portland-area transit system, is the union's largest and oldest unit.

This year, 20 of the union's 49 elected positions were contested, and campaigning was intense for the top leadership spots. That likely increased turnout, which at more than 56 percent is considered high for union elections.

Hunt, currently the union's vice president, outpolled Art Winslow, Tom Bernards and James Perez to win a three-year term as president.

The current president, Al Zullo, will retire after his term expires June 30.

Schwarz, currently on the Executive Board, also bested three other candidates. Wallace won against two challengers.

At 35, Hunt is one of the youngest members ever elected to the local's



JON HUNT

highest office.

His father, Bill Hunt, is a retired TriMet bus driver and former Local 757 Executive Board officer. His brother Jeff also works at TriMet as a journeyman diesel mechanic and is a shop steward.

"I grew up talking about the union at the kitchen table," Hunt said. "As a kid, I helped out at the union picnics."

Hunt grew up in Vancouver, Washington, and graduated from Hudson's Bay High School. He served four years

in the U.S. Marine Corps, earning the rank of corporal, and then returned home to work at Burlington Northern Railroad as a crane operator and truck driver in maintenance. In 1995, he took a pay cut to work at TriMet, where he began as a bus driver working a split shift in the morning and evening rush hours while attending Portland Community College. Later he became a maintenance helper, washing and fueling buses at TriMet's Merlo Garage. He entered a diesel apprenticeship program, and graduated after three years. Along the way he was elected shop steward and Executive Board member, and vice president in 2003.

He lives in Beaverton with his wife and four children.

Hunt, along with other officers and staff, will be responsible for enforcing 22 union contracts, and renegotiating those that expire in the next three years. [The TriMet contract won't come up for renegotiation until December 2009.] Hunt is also expected to be appointed to a seat on the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board, which Zullo now occupies.

Hunt said he hopes to unionize non-union bus companies, and win better contracts for members by applying bargaining tactics learned in classes of the University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center.

Newly-elected officers will be sworn in July 3.

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# People, not statistics, lose their livelihoods to privatization

Four years ago, Portland Public Schools fired its 330 custodians and replaced them with lower-wage contracted janitors.

One of the fired custodians was Bob Sykes, lead custodian on the night shift at Vernon Elementary School in Northeast Portland.

Vernon principal Linda Wakefield sent him off with a tearful farewell and a glowing letter of recommendation.

Sykes had a wife and a 14-year-old son to provide for, and losing a job that paid \$15 an hour was a blow.

"They broke our contract. I feel like what they did was wrong," he said.

Sykes says he spent about six months on unemployment, and longer on anti-depressants.

A representative of the janitorial

contractor, Portland Habilitation Center, had assured the Portland Public Schools Board that fired custodians could apply for jobs (though of course at a fraction of their former wages and benefits). Sykes says he made a number of inquiries, but got the runaround. He felt PHC wasn't interested in hiring him, though he was a 14-year employee of the district.

"They made excuses," Sykes says.

PHC spokesperson Mike Delman says out of the 330 custodians, only one ended up working at PHC.

Sykes found work at a warehouse, then signed on as an on-call custodian for Centennial School District in Southeast Portland.

He'd been a regular at School Employees Local 140 union meetings, and



**Former Portland Public School employee custodian Bob Sykes says he would like to return to his old job at Vernon Elementary School.**

hired; he now earns \$15.70 an hour as a night custodian at William Walker Elementary School.

Local 140 fought the firings through the court system. Last December, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled the firings were illegal. Portland Public Schools is expected to offer reinstatement to the custodians next month.

Now 47, Sykes says he'd like to go back to work at Portland Public Schools. He says he likes Walker, but not the commute.

But the way back is still uncertain. Like others, he'll wait to hear what the district has to offer.

## It's time to make Labor Day picnic plans

Mark your calendars for Monday, Sept. 4 — date of the annual Labor Day Picnic sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

Oaks Park in Southeast Portland has been booked, and union locals are reserving space for what is the largest Labor Day bash in Oregon.

The Labor Council will sell food scrip for 25 cents each. Three scrip will get you a hot dog and chips, two scrip a

soda pop, and four scrip a beer.

A deluxe ride bracelet costs \$8.25 and is good from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year the roller rink will be open for those with ride bracelets.

Many unions also host special events for their members. Check for details with your local.

For more information, or to purchase scrip, contact the Labor Council at 503-235-9444.

kept in touch with his former co-workers. Some didn't make it. Abernathy Elementary School custodian James Granville, a friend of Sykes, died of heart failure not long after the firings. It was the district's heart that failed, but Granville felt the pain of it, he had told

Sykes at a church picnic.

Local 140 folded after the firings. It later merged with a sister local, Service Employees Local 503.

Eventually, Sykes heard from a friend about a custodial job at Beaverton School District. He applied and was

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Teacher, school unions give nod to Gov. Kulongoski

The Oregon Education Association and the Oregon School Employees Association have endorsed Gov. Ted Kulongoski for re-election.

Kulongoski, a Democrat, faces a difficult campaign against Republican Ron Saxton and independent Ben Westlund, a Republican state senator, who left the party this year.

OEA, the state's largest union with more than 45,000 members, took no action in the primary election, where Kulongoski faced two opponents.

The OSEA, which represents 20,000 educational employees in 140 Oregon school districts, community colleges, education service districts, Head Start, libraries, and park and recreation districts endorsed Jim Hill in the Democratic primary and Kevin Mannix in the Republican primary.

OEA President Larry Wolf said the endorsement "means that the OEA will recommend Kulongoski to the entire membership, and brings with it volunteer support and financial assistance."

OSEA President Merlene Martin said Kulongoski "is the only candidate with a real plan for increasing the funding of education, and who will support and promote other priority issues, such as lowering the cost of health care."

All of the major candidates for governor were invited to interview with OSEA's board of directors and members. Only Kulongoski and Senator Westlund chose to seek the union's endorsement.

OSEA officials said their primary focus in endorsement is the candidate's position on the issues that members have identified as critical to the health and enhancement of Oregon's public education system.

"Governor Kulongoski has committed to increase and stabilize funding of schools and to continue to fight to re-

duce the unnecessary costs our members are currently paying for their health care premiums," said Ed Edwards, director of OSEA government relations. "We have no doubt that endorsing Gov. Kulongoski is the right thing to do."

## Letter Carriers collect 1.4 million pounds of food

More than 3,000 Letter Carriers in Oregon and Clark County, Wash., collected a total of 1,401,454 pounds of food during the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive, exceeding last year's total of 1,358,819 pounds.

The NALC food drive takes place annually on the second Saturday in May. It is the largest one-day food drive in Oregon and in the nation.

Branch 82 letter carriers — covering Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, as well as McMinnville, Newberg, Sheridan and St. Helens — collected 620,827 pounds of food this year.

"What our letter carriers do on this one day is simply amazing," said Rachel Bristol, executive director of Oregon Food Bank. "We are grateful for their tremendous work. We also thank the hundreds of volunteers who stepped forward to help and the hundreds of thousands of postal customers who donated bags of high-quality food for their letter carriers to pick up on this day."

## Evergreen College to host summer school for women

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The Evergreen State College Labor Center is hosting its 16th annual Summer School for Union Women and Community Activists June 28-July 2. This year's theme is "Women Bringing It Back Together: Building Alliances Between Union and Community Activists to Realize Our Goals Locally and Globally."

For more information, call Nina Triffleman at 360-867-6525, or e-mail her at [triffen@evergreen.edu](mailto:triffen@evergreen.edu).



## New class of IBEW Local 48 apprentices graduate

Electrical Workers Local 48 recently graduated 154 apprentices from the NECA-IBEW joint electrical training center. One hundred and thirty two of the graduates are now recognized as licensed commercial electricians while 21 received their license in limited energy along with one licensed residential electrician. The apprentices received hundreds of hours of classroom instruction in a state-of-the-art facility in Northeast Portland. This year's graduates include: Daniel Aguirre, Robert Anderson, Dale Anderson, David Anderson, Boyd Bartholomew, William Bates, Mychal Baum, Jeremy Baxter, Robert Beal Jr., Christopher Behrman, Douglas Bell, Mark Bienerth, Bradley Brandenburg, John Brandenburg, Michael Bredall, Benjamin Brooks, Brian Caldwell, Marc Calkins, Bryan Campbell, Joshua Carter, Gabriel Caso, Paige Chambers, Jason Chandler, Dustin Clark, Cole Crenshaw, Kenneth Dailey, David Daniels, Robert Daniels, Troy Davis, Kyle Davis, Kevin Day, Bryce DeChand, Dean Dills, Nicholas Doering, Garland Dotson, Dolores Doyle, Ryan Dutton, Derek Earls, Scott Ernst, Scott Evans, Tyler Falconer, John Fenwick, Kipp Franklin, Paul Franklin, Stephen Fuentes, Ciro Galizia, Daryl Glover, Barbara Golden, Brian Gooch, Darrell Gore, David Granberg, Robin Greene, Jeffrey Grove, Brandon Hanson, Joseph Harvey, Russell Hayden, Jeff Heatherington, Donald Hester, Jason Hoyt, Dale Huskey, Hung Huynh, Nathan Jackson, Jason Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Neal Johnston, Robert Kee, Justin Keeble, Clarence Kemp, Kevin Kind, Garrett Kitchen, Paul Kitchen, Joshua Lewis, Gregory Lewis Jr., Dorian Libal, Timothy Linster, Matthew Lomax, Scott Loyd, Paul Lucas, Timothy Lucas, Lachlan Maclean, James Makin, Shannon Marsh, Marshall McGrady, Donald McGrady, Jason McKee, Johnathan McNeel, Todd McPherran, Corey Metzler, Ryan Meyers, Paul Miller, Randall Miller, Jory Mockenhaupt, Erik Moline, David Neuhauser, Paul New, Nick Nickolas, Damon Nordahl, Angela Nunes, Ryan Palmblad, Michael Petersen, Jeromy Peterson, Theodore Pitt, Michael Ray, Amy Reynolds, Erik Richardson, Rodney Richardson, Nicholas Rogers, Sasha Rotecki, Christopher Rowden, Steven Rushing, Louis Saenz, Joseph Saunders, Donald Selby, Lisa Serrano, Derek Shorb, Mark Simpson, Hans Slavens, Robert Slocomb, Eric Slothower, Christopher Smith, Daniel Smith, Matthew Smyth, Sara Stevenson, David Tankersley, Todd Thompson, Jeremy Tootoois-Didier, Patrick Trepina, James Webber, Alan Wiland, Mark Witham, Wesley Withrow, Michael Yager Jr., Timothy Zumwalt, Adam Best, Brett Coe, Valerie Conte, Sean Creighton, Kevin Flinn, Nathan French, David Fuhrer, Teruko Hall, Adam Hansen, Sara Hughes, Aaron Johnson, Terrance Jorissen, Eric Kauffman, Mitchell Knobbs, Eric Lindquist, Keith McCormick, Iain Nugent, Cynthia Olson, Chad Stewart, Eric Stiffler, Marie Stoppelmoor and Michael Brauckmiller.

## IBEW pension manager killed in bike accident

Sheryl McDaniel, a union pension benefit manager, died with her husband Darrel McDaniel in a May 29 bicycle accident south of Forest Grove.

The two were riding northbound on the shoulder of Oregon Highway 47 when a 2002 Saab hit them from behind at about 11:45 a.m. Sheryl McDaniel, 61, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. Darrel McDaniel, 65, died in a helicopter on the way to Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

Both wore helmets.

The Washington County sheriff's office ruled alcohol was not a factor in the accident, and decided not to press charges against the driver, Patricia Suhrbier of Hillsboro.

Sheryl McDaniel had worked for Portland-based Joseph H. Herrle & Associates, Inc. for over 30 years. She started as a personal secretary to the late company founder, Joseph H. Herle, who also founded A&I Benefit Plan Administrators. Later, she handled all aspects of pension benefits for the 20,000 participants in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) District 9 Pension Plan. She was planning to retire in May

2007.

Her husband was a retired lift truck driver who had worked at James River Corporation.

She was born May 20, 1945, in Hillsboro and graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1963. A memorial service was held June 5 at Sunset Presbyterian Church.

Remembrances can be made to the Alzheimers Association, Columbia-Willamette Chapter, 1131 NW 21st Ave., Portland, OR 97209.



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# ...Labor officials fight for family-wage pay scale from PDC

(From Page 1)

Leonard says the solution is to make PDC more directly accountable to the City Council. PDC, created by Portland voters in 1958, is unusual in that it's a semi-autonomous city department. It's governed by its own board, whose members are appointed by the mayor and approved by City Council. City Council also must approve new bonds and the boundaries of any new urban renewal districts. Other than that, PDC — the city's largest agency — is insulated from democratic accountability. It doesn't need to go before City Council to approve its budget or its priorities.

That has attracted criticism, most commonly that PDC is run by and for big downtown developers, with citizen input an afterthought.

But Mayor Tom Potter is seen as less close to developer interests than his predecessor Vera Katz. And since taking office, he made his wishes very clear: That PDC change its focus to helping small businesses.

Commissioner Leonard says he hasn't seen that change happening.

"Until recently, they argued that council couldn't even audit their books," Leonard says.

Last year, Leonard proposed referring to Portland voters a city charter change that would eliminate the PDC board and make PDC accountable to City Council just like other bureaus — and like development bureaus in most other cities. His proposal failed 4 to 1.

A year later, some think a proposal like that could pass.

"It's like the sun and moon and stars got lined up and all of sudden City Council is starting to pay attention to PDC," says Bob Shiprack, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

PDC invited hundreds of residents to help weigh competing bids for a Central Eastside development project on the East end of the Burnside Bridge — and then rejected the bid that got the most public support. And last year, a series of mini-scandals over misuse of funds led to a shakeup on the PDC board and the resignation of PDC's executive director.

So the time may be right for structural reform of PDC, Shiprack thinks.

In case City Council shrinks from the task, Shiprack's group, made up of construction unions in the AFL-CIO labor federation, is considering a ballot



**Pete Savage, regional manager of the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, testifies before the Portland City Council June 7 about the benefits of prevailing wage requirements on projects funded by PDC. With Savage are John Mohlis, executive secretary-treasurer of the Columbia-Pacific Building Trades Council, and Jim Francesconi, an attorney and former city commissioner.**

initiative along the lines Leonard proposed. Shiprack said he expects to hire a pollster to test Portlanders' receptivity to that change — or to a requirement that PDC abide by the prevailing wage law.

"We know there's public support for family-waged jobs," Shiprack said. In fact, a failed 1994 statewide ballot measure aimed at repealing the prevailing wage law got its strongest margin of victory in Portland.

To refer a charter change to voters, the City Council would have to act by mid August. At the June 6 meeting, Potter said he wanted to see what comes of his Charter Review Committee — a group of citizens picked by the mayor to look at the charter and propose changes. Though it hasn't released its formal proposals, the committee has reportedly rejected the idea of bringing PDC under council authority.

If PDC were brought in, City Council could scrap the lawsuit against BOLI, and pass an ordinance settling the matter of prevailing wages.

Whether that happens or not, building trades union leaders are increasingly making their agenda part of city policy discussions, responding to what they see as a welcoming mood on the council — and council interest in poli-

cies aimed at paying working people a living wage.

On May 18, Mayor Potter met with building trades union officials at a breakfast organized by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

Later that day, the Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG), a coalition of churches, unions and other community groups, brought City Commissioners Leonard and Erik Sten to

the stage at an assembly in the gymnasium of Concordia College — to hear the message that construction contractors should be required to provide comprehensive health care for employees and their families when public dollars are involved. Sten and Leonard said they agreed. [Last year, MACG won a non-binding commitment by PDC to increase funding for affordable housing, though its parallel demand — that

the building be done by workers earning prevailing wage — was rejected.]

City Commissioner Sam Adams might well have been at the MACG assembly, too, except that a city ordinance restricts more than two council members from meeting without declaring it an official public meeting.

For his part, Adams has assigned his labor liaison Terry Richardson to work with labor leaders to craft a proposed city ordinance codifying how the city deals with contractors.

One approach being considered is a "responsible contractor" ordinance, along the lines of what the national AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department calls "best value" contracting. It's also known as competitive sealed bidding; basically, it's a bidding process like that used by the Oregon Department of Transportation and many federal agencies — in which factors other than cost are considered in awarding contracts.

The city could require that contractors — and subcontractors — prequalify as responsible contractors before bidding on public work. For example, they could be asked to demonstrate that they offer training, have a good safety record, pay decent wages and benefits, including family health benefits, and offer opportunities for minority workers.

Richardson said the group is likely to seek support for a symbolic resolution by the end of June, and something more tangible by the end of the summer.



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# OFFICIAL NOTICES

## Auto Mechanics 1005

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, June 17, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop steward training class. Shop stewards must attend training class and regular meeting to be compensated.

Executive Board meets Wednesday, July 12, at 4:30 p.m. All meetings are held at our union hall, 3645 SE 32nd Ave. Portland, Oregon.

**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, June 27, followed by a 10:30 a.m. General Meeting, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland.

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 11, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 1

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

## Carpenters 247

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

## Carpenters 1388

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, at 276 Warner-Milne Rd., Oregon City.

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

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, June 22, 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, June 20 and June 27, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

## Communications Workers 7901

General membership meets 7 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the SEIU Local 49 Hall, 3536 SE 26th, Portland.

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at the SEIU Local 49 Hall, 3536 SE 26th, Portland.

## Electrical Workers 48

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, June 26.

Bylaws Committee meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, in the Executive Boardroom.

General Membership & Residential Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. pre-meeting dinner.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, at the Wasco PUD, 2345 River Rd., The Dalles.

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

EWMC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, in the Executive Boardroom.

Sound & Communication Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 21.

Electrical Women of Local 48 meet 6 p.m. Tuesday June 20, at NIETC, 16021 NE Airport Way.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, June 21 and July 5.

Meetings are at 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland, unless otherwise noted.

**DEATH ASSESSMENTS:** The following death assessments have been declared for June and are payable at 50 cents each: No. 2109, Neal O. McDowall; No. 2110, Michael S. Jost; and No. 2111, Leo R. Olson.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Members, pensioners and immediate family are invited to attend the IBEW Local 48 picnic 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 9, at Oaks Park, Area #1, Portland.

## Electrical Workers 280

Eugene Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, at the LU 290 Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Salem Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at the Salem Heights Community Center, 3505 Liberty Rd. S.

Salem.

Executive Board meets 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent, OR.

Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.

## Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, July 13, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland. NOTE NEW LOCATION.

## Exterior & Interior Specialists 2154

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

## Fire Fighters 452

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

## Glass Workers 740

Executive Board members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, July 6, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, July 6, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, July 10, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield. **PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION FOR ALL FUTURE MEETINGS.**

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

## Iron Workers 29

Members meet 7 p.m., Thursday, July 6, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir. #200, Portland.

## Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir. #300, Portland.

## Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 8 a.m. Friday, June 23, at Hometown Buffet, 7809-B Vancouver Plaza Dr., Vancouver, Wash.

## Laborers 483 Municipal Employees

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

## Laborers/Vancouver 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, July 3, 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, June 28, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

## Linn-Benton-Lincoln Labor Council

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, 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, June 22, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Executive Board meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 3, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, July 27, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## Machinists 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 5. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, July 8. Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

## Machinists 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at noon Wednesday, July 12.

Regular membership meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 12.

Shop stewards' training session 9 a.m. Saturday, June 17.

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

## Metal Trades Council

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Executive Board meets 8 a.m. Monday, July 10, at NOLC board room, 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

## Molders 139

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 20, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

## Northwest Oregon Labor Council

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, June 26, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland

## Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Local 10 is now accepting nominations for Trustee. Please call the hall if you are interested at 503 257-0589.

## Plasterers 82

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

## Portland City & Metropolitan Employees 189

General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 27.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 11. Meetings are at 6025 E Burnside St., Portland.

## Roofers & Waterproofers 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, July 6. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, July 13.

Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave, Portland. (Phone: 503 232-4807)

## Sheet Metal Workers 16

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Medford area members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, Abby's Pizza, 7480 Crater Lake Hwy, White City.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at UA 290 Hall, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, preceded by a 5 p.m. VOC meeting.

Coos Bay area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at the Labor Temple, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

**PLEASE NOTE: ELECTION OF ALL SMWIA Local 16 officers will take place at the following times and locations:**

Coos Bay area members vote 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 27, at Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

Medford area members vote 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, at Southern Oregon Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

Roseburg area members vote 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, at Roseburg Labor Temple, 742 SE Roberts, Roseburg.

Hood River/The Dalles area members vote 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Wednesday, June 28, at Hood River Plumbing and Heating, 1009 12th St., Hood River.

Bend/Redmond area members vote 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, at UA 290 Training Center, 2161 S. 1st St., Redmond.

Eugene area members vote 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at SW Oregon Training Center, 4748 Franklin Blvd., Eugene.

Salem area members vote 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at Neilsen Mfg. Company, 3501 Portland Rd. NE, Salem.

Vancouver area members vote 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at Carpenters Local 1715, 612 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver.

Portland area members vote 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, June 30, at Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

To receive a ballot, members must present a dues receipt showing membership in good standing – paid through April 2006 for this election.

## Southern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

## Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, July 3, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

## ATU 757

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 19, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 20, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, at the Red Lion Hotel, 3301 Market St. NE, Salem

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, June 22, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1116 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 22, in the McKenzie Conference Center, Salbasseon Suites, 1730 NW Ninth St., Corvallis.

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland school bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland.

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, June 25, at the Laborers Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Wash.

AMR Northwest Clark County members meet 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday, June 26, at Starbucks, Clark County OPS, 7720 NE Hwy. 99, Hazel Dell, and Multnomah/Clackamas members meet 6 to 9 p.m. Monday, June 26, at Izzy's, 1307 NE 102nd, Gateway District, Portland.

NOTE: Beginning this month the night meeting is back to 6 p.m.

Valley Transit -- See your liaison officer. **PLEASE NOTE:** ATU members are invited to attend any of the above-listed meetings.

## United Steel Workers 1097

Members meet 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, preceded by a 3:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

## Korean War Veterans

organization is looking for new members. The group meets the 4th Tuesday each month (June 27), at noon at Milwaukie Elks Lodge, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd. For more information, call Max Loucks at 503-286-1464



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# RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

## ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, June 22, preceded by a 9 a.m. Executive Board meeting, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave., Portland. All retirees are welcome.

The Executive Board will not meet on July 13. The next Executive Board meeting will be at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 27, preceding the membership meeting.

## ASBESTOS WORKERS 36

Retiree breakfast 9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 6, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

## BAKERS 114

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 22, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

## CARPENTERS

Retirees meet for lunch 11 a.m. Monday, July 10, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

The 11th annual picnic of Local 48 will be Sunday, July 9, at Oaks Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come and enjoy this special day. There will be good food, games, bingo, raffles, prizes, drawings and more. Our retired group will be in charge of bingo.

All retirees, wives and friends are welcome to a potluck picnic on Tuesday, July 11, at noon at the home of Mel and Marge Stearns, 15015 NE Multnomah, Portland. (Corner of 148th, across from Glendoveer Golf Course. The Club will provide chicken, coffee, punch and place settings. Bring one food item to share. Enjoy the afternoon visiting and reminiscing with photos and mementos from your vacations and hobbies. For more information, call Vera Larson at 503 252-2296.

## GLASS WORKERS 740

Retirees meet 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 20, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

## IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday,

July 12, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

## MACHINISTS

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland for bingo, a brief business meeting and lunch at a restaurant to be determined at the meeting.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, July 10, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison #100G, Portland.

## OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 20, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 503-239-9858, ext. 124.

## TRANSIT 757

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

# Vancouver auto mechanic and auto body shops fly Machinist flag

If you're in the market for auto body or mechanical repair, Vancouver, Wash., has two union shops that can take care of your needs.

**Marv's Auto Repair**, 6015 NE 88th St., has been under contract with Machinists Vancouver Lodge 1374

since 1955. Owner Marvin Hervi has three employees who work on all makes and models of automobiles.

"We've got fourth generations of customers coming in for car repairs," says Hervi, who opened his first shop on Highway 99. "There were no free-

ways or street lights when we opened," he said.

The cars his crew services also have changed since then.

"You have GMs and Fords with parts made in Bangladesh and Israel, and you have Toyotas and Hondas with parts made in America," Hervi said. "Do you know that GM and Ford have parts made in 27 different countries? It's crazy."

Marv's Auto Repair is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The phone number is 360-574-3961.

Mechanics are Dave Nute, John Erosky and Marvin Hervi Jr.



**Marv Hervi (right) has owned Marv's Auto Repair in Vancouver for 55 years, "when American-made cars had American-made parts." His three-man mechanical staff includes from left to right: Marvin Hervi Jr., Dave Nute and John Erosky. They are members of IAM Vancouver Lodge 1374.**

**Todd's Auto Body**, 15615 NE Fourth Plain, Vancouver, Wash., is a 40-year-old business that employs 11 members of Machinists Vancouver Lodge 1374. It is one of the last remaining union auto body shops in Southwest Washington.

Owner Vern Toedtli recently added a new paint shop behind the company's existing building, which sits on the family farm where he was raised. The company's total production space is 15,500 square feet and includes a pair of state-of-the-art downdraft Garmat paint booths with a mixing room in between.



**John Bister preps a section of an automobile that has been damaged in an accident. Bister is the shop steward at Todd's Auto Body, one of the last union shops in Southwest Washington. He has worked at Todd's since 1987 and is a member of Machinists Vancouver Lodge 1374.**

In 1966, Vern and his brother purchased the farm from their parents to open the auto body shop. Vern bought out his brother four years ago, so he now owns the shop with his wife, Doris.

Toedtli told the trade magazine *Parts & People* that some of his crew have worked there for more than 20 years.

"I've got a very good crew," he said.

## AFL-CIO files human rights trade complaint against China

By **MARK GRUENBERG**  
SHARON, Pa. (PAI) — George Bornes is concerned. He's been at his job making highly finished pipe for 38 years. He's the new president of his Steelworkers local. But by this time next year, he might be unemployed — thanks to China.

Take Bornes, who works at the Wheatland Tube Co., plant in Sharon, Pa., and multiply him by 930,000 people, and you have the impact of China's unfair and internationally-illegal lack of worker rights on U.S. workers, a new AFL-CIO trade complaint says.

The complaint, filed June 8 with the Bush Administration, invokes Section 301 of U.S. trade law to demand the administration investigate whether Chinese labor rights practices violate international agreements that China itself has signed, and the impact of those violations on U.S. workers. The Administration has 45 days to decide on a reply.

If past is prologue, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka admitted at a press conference announcing the filing, the Administration will bounce the complaint again, just as it did two years ago.

"China is violating international trade law and the Administration is doing nothing about it. Trumka said.

Trumka isn't betting that the Administration will act on the labor federation's complaint, even though conditions have worsened in China.

The AFL-CIO's case details ram-

pant Chinese violations of labor rights conventions it has signed and which the World Trade Organization's (WTO) rules let other nations complain about and act against, in self-defense against unfair trade.

The violations include 10 million to 15 million child laborers, several million cases of forced labor, workers whose average pay is three months behind, violations of China's own minimum wage and overtime pay laws, wages for workers of 15 cents to 50 cents a day — when they're paid at all — and beatings and jail for workers who petition for their pay. Those factors produce the cheap Chinese goods, many of them sold to U.S. firms.

Those violations in turn let Chinese goods come into the U.S. at 10.6 percent to 43.6 percent below market prices, costing U.S. jobs, the complaint adds.

They're jobs like Bornes', at the Wheatland plant in the northwestern Pennsylvania steel town, where workers manufacture pipes for everything from plumbing to natural gas lines.

"We had 400 workers there, but due to surging pipe imports, 300 of them have been laid off," Bornes told the press conference. "I'm tired of seeing the loss of our jobs from our government's failure to enforce trade laws."

Bornes explained that just rising steel and zinc costs for domestically-made pipe are \$700 per ton.

But even with the cost of shipping pipe across the Pacific, Chinese pipe sells on the West Coast for \$550 per

ton. And since China joined the WTO, whose trade rules it is supposed to obey, Chinese pipe exports to the U.S. have risen from 9,000 tons a year to more than 300,000 tons a year, Bornes said.

The reason for the difference is China's labor policies, the AFL-CIO complaint says. And those same policies cost an estimated 930,000 U.S. industrial jobs and more than 1.2 million overall, including spinoff jobs, the complaint adds.

The cost difference cut Wheatland's business and forced it to shut most of its production, he added.

Company managers have told those remaining that unless the firm gets more orders, they'll be laid off, too.

"Anyone at my pipe plant with less than 19 1/2 years employment is on layoff status. The furnace is shut down. We've got about 100 workers still handling orders, but the company says they are prepared to close the pipe mill. They cannot compete with China's finished pipe prices and surging volume."

The Wheatland workers who lost their jobs have scrambled to find other employment, Bornes said in an interview afterwards. And he wonders what to tell his grandchildren about where U.S. jobs will be. "These guys got TAA training," Bornes said of the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance program that gives workers who lose their jobs due to imports subsidized retraining for new employment. "But there are no jobs there to train them for."

Or at least no jobs that paid as

much as the ones they lost at Wheatland. "There's nothing left in Mercer County (Pa.), except Wal-Mart, K-Mart or to become a nurse," Bornes said. So the workers' only other choice is to sell their homes in a depressed local market and move elsewhere for jobs.

It's that type of impact the AFL-CIO trade complaint is designed to spotlight and to force the Bush Administration to investigate, Trumka said. Reps. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) and Christopher Smit (R-N.J.) joined the AFL-CIO complaint.

"The numbers are in and the situation is critical for workers... We're asking the U.S. trade representative to investigate, and we're convinced it'll show China is violating worker rights and it has cost us business and jobs in the U.S. and the U.S. should take action against China consistent with the WTO" rules, said Cardin.

"Poverty wages, prison labor, child labor" and denial of collective bargaining "are all part of China's violations of labor rights," Trumka added.

"China's policies drag down the entire world." Not just in the U.S., but in China, too.

That perspective came from former Chinese textile worker Lu Jing Hua, who joined an independent union there before the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests and crackdown, fled China afterwards to the U.S., and later became an organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, now part of UNITE HERE.

She described conditions in Chinese plants that were horrific, including one case of five underage girls forced to work in a factory in Hebei province for no wages at all. When their parents protested to authorities, they were jailed.

The girls tried to keep warm on cold winter nights in their unheated, unventilated factory by lighting coal fires. One night, two were asphyxiated and company officials buried the three others to cover up the abuses, Hua said.

Hua said Chinese workers are powerless because independent unions are banned. That leaves outside pressure, primarily from China's trading partners, as the only recourse — and that led to the AFL-CIO trade case.

The federation's complaint two years ago was dismissed, Trumka said, with Bush and his Cabinet promising there were other, better methods to get China to follow international trading rules. Brandishing a copy of the Administration's statements, Trumka said Bush has not only failed to carry them out, but he let the situation worsen.

"Global corporations from Wal-Mart to Procter & Gamble to Delphi to Dell relentlessly squeeze labor costs in Chinese affiliates and suppliers and use the threat of low-wage competition to roll back decades of hard-won gains in wages, benefits and dignified treatment for workers in the U.S. Severe exploitation of China's factory workers and contraction of the American middle class are two sides of a coin," the complaint adds.

## Signature deadline nears

# 17 initiative petitions being circulated

Once again in Oregon, voters will be asked to make the law, with initiatives crowding the November 2006 ballot.

Seventeen measures are actively circulating this year. Oregon initiative petitions campaigns have until July 7 to turn in signatures. Not all of them will make it. But the Oregon AFL-CIO is hoping to get the jump on political season, and has started to educate political coordinators at affiliated unions about some of the measures likely to be on the ballot.

The labor federation's Committee on Political Education (COPE) has taken positions on several initiatives. It will revisit those initiatives to decide a plan of action when it meets in mid-July.

Unions will likely oppose:

- *A state spending limit - i.e., limiting spending on schools, roads, prisons, seniors.* The measure creating the most anxiety is an amendment to the Oregon Constitution that would set a state spending limit. It's modeled after a measure passed in Colorado in 1992. If voters approve it, state government spending will not be allowed to increase at a greater rate than population growth, plus inflation. That might sound reasonable, particularly to those who think state spending is growing at too great a rate. But the measure's critics say the limit puts a straightjacket on the elected Legislature, preventing it from responding to crises — like a spate of crumbling bridges, an increase in crime, or high unemployment. Plus they say, "population plus inflation" ignores fiscal realities that are a little more com-

plex. For example, seniors require more public services than the average citizen, and as the baby boomers age, there will be more seniors. A population could stay the same, and yet get older and be more expensive to serve. Plus, a big part of the state budget is health care, and the cost of health care is rising faster than inflation, which is calculated based on the cost of a standard bread basket of consumer items. Colorado saw its state services dwindle dramatically as the spending limit took its toll year after year. Last year, Coloradans voted to suspend the limit.

- *A complicated tax limitation — i.e., Bill Sizemore's long shadow.* Union foe Bill Sizemore is hampered in his political work by a court order, after a jury found systematic use of fraud pervaded his ballot measure machine. But Russ Walker and former Sizemore disciple Carol Bobo are carrying on his legacy. Their current proposal, which was written by Sizemore, would allow an "income tax deduction equal to the federal exemptions deduction to substitute for the state exemption credit." Confused? There will be plenty of time to study it before ballots are due. But basically it's a way to rewrite the state tax code and cut taxes (and therefore state revenue, and therefore spending, i.e. schools, roads, prisons, seniors, the mentally ill.)

- *A revision of campaign finance laws.* Year after year, activists Dan Meek and Harry Lonsdale have pushed tougher campaign spending limits. As they've written them, the limits would

apply to campaign contributions and independent political expenditures by unions as well as corporations. The Oregon AFL-CIO opposes them on the grounds that working people have a hard enough time getting heard without further restrictions on their unions' political activity.

A handful of measures are expected to get union support, including several that are being actively led by unions:

- *Beefing up staffing at nursing homes.* Expect to hear a lot about bad conditions in nursing homes. Unions that represent nursing homes are hoping this will be a no-brainer: require nursing homes to meet an acceptable minimal level of staffing.

- *Declaring health care a fundamental right.* If state legislator Mitch Greenlick is right, putting health care in the Oregon Constitution (alongside education) will make the Legislature do something to make sure every Oregonian has access to health care.







- *Allowing any Oregonian without prescription drug coverage to join a state Prescription Drug Bulk-Purchasing Pool.* Last year, the Legislature was too timid or too bought-out to expand Oregon's fledgling prescription drug purchasing pool in a way that made the program big enough to be most effective. So, true to the original intent of the Oregon ballot initiative process, the proposal is being taken to the people, by the people (unlike a couple of the union-opposed measures, which are backed almost entirely by out-of-state money.)

# Local Motion

May 2006

Union election activity in Oregon and Vancouver, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employee Relations Board

## Elections held

Company	Date	Union	Location	Results:		
				Union	No Union	
<b>Umpqua Community College</b> (classified)	4/21	Oregon Education Assoc.	Roseburg	97	15	
<b>Armadillo Underground</b>	5/5	CWA Local 7906	Salem	8	0	
<b>CBS Radio Stations/KINK-FM</b> (decertification)	5/18	AFTRA	Salem	5	11	
<b>Oregon State Lottery</b>	5/23	SEIU Local 503	Salem	127	165	
<b>City of Forest Grove</b> (decertification)	5/25	AFSCME Council 75	Forest Grove	25	15	

## Elections requested

Company	Union	Location	# of employees
<b>Twin Oaks Rehab &amp; Specialty Care</b>	Service Employees International Union Local 503	Sweet Home	32
<b>Sherms Thunderbird</b> (decertification)	Bakers Local 114	Roseburg	7
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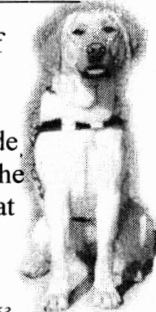
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# Temple retires as business manager of Cement Masons Local 555

Bruce Temple, a 35-year member of Portland-based Cement Masons Local 555, retired as the union's business manager on May 31.

Temple, 57, stepped down in the middle of a three-year term. He has held the post since April 1996.

Brett Hinsley, 39, was appointed to fill the unexpired term as business manager.

"It's time for some new blood to step in," said Temple from his new home in Ocean View, Wash. "It's a good time to leave. Work is good, all of our contracts are in place and the local is in good shape. We have a lot of good, young people in our local and it time for them to see what they can do."

Temple is an Oregon native. He graduated from Centennial High School, served three years in the Army, and returned to join the Cement Masons' apprenticeship program.

"I've pushed a wheelbarrow since I was 13," said Temple, whose late father, Charles, was a 37-year member of Local 555.

Temple didn't get active in the union until the mid-'80s. He moved his union book to Hawaii, where he worked in the trades for eight years. After returning to the Portland local he worked briefly as the apprenticeship coordinator, then as a business agent for former Business Manager Cliff Puckett.

Puckett was defeated in his race for the office in 1993 and three years later Temple successfully ran for the top post.



**Bruce Temple (center) shares a laugh with Cement Masons International Representative Del French and Norm Burr of the Small Contractors Association. Temple retired May 31 as business manager of Cement Masons Local 555. He has been a member of the union for 35 years, and has served as business manager since April 1996.**

Temple and his wife, Sue, have been married for 40 years.

Temple said the opening of the trowel trades office building and training center in August 2000 in Northeast Portland was a top achievement, along with a national reciprocity agreement with contractors, which allows cement masons to travel for work while keeping pension and health and welfare contributions with their home locals.

Local 555 represents approximately 750 cement masons and retirees. It has

45 people in its apprenticeship program.

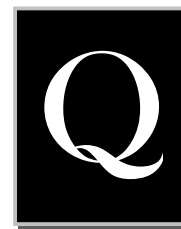
Brett Hinsley was appointed by the union's Executive Board to fill the unexpired term as business manager. He has been working as a business agent at the union since May 2005.

Hinsley, also a graduate of the Cement Masons' apprenticeship program, has been a member of the union for nearly eight years. He has served two terms on the Executive Board and as a trustee on the health and welfare and pension trusts, and has served on the

joint apprenticeship training committee, the NW Conference Committee and the Construction Industry Drug-Free Workplace Program.

Prior to joining the Cement Masons,

Hinsley was a member of Laborers Locals 320 and 483, where he worked at the Port of Portland. A graduate of Jefferson High School in North Portland, Hinsley is married and has four children.



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## Wanted: A more hopeful agenda for America's working families

Enough of the depressing reality shows about our vanishing jobs and declining incomes. We need to make time for more hopeful points of view.

Our economy is rebounding to record highs, but the back story in most American communities today is relentlessly downbeat. That story, which I have helped to tell in these columns over the past two years, goes like this:

We're losing the great middle-class of this country because corporate greed and cutthroat competition in the global economy are decimating and degrading our jobs. As family-wage jobs decline, our children face fewer opportunities and bleaker futures. And our public institutions can't do much to reverse these trends, because they're suffering from increasing financial constraints and declining public confidence.

All of this is true. Worst of all, we don't know what to do about these developments that appear to be so powerful, irreversible and grim. We're fumbling for answers. But maybe we should focus instead on the equally reasonable premise that the work we have done to create the richest country in the world can and should provide a foundation for a more prosperous future for our children — and that we can make it so.

I was reminded of the bleaker story when re-reading an article that appeared in the *New York Times* last February about the Caterpillar Corporation, which has slashed pay and benefits for its newer workers even though it remains a highly profitable company that dominates its niche in world markets. Analyzing the Caterpillar experience, the *Times*' Louis Uchitelle concluded: "The long-standing presumption that factory workers at successful companies can achieve a secure, relatively prosperous middle-class life for themselves and their families is evaporating."

Caterpillar has a strong union, the United Auto Workers. But that

union was forced to accept a two-tier system of pay and benefits that cut compensation for new hires by as much as 40 percent. The union's representatives rationalize this deal by saying that new hires at Caterpillar are still doing better than they did before they came to the company. But, to their credit, those leaders also say they will fight for the new hires in their next round of contract negotiations.

Still, the new hires don't sound grateful. And, the union leaders don't sound hopeful. If there's a common emotion shared by the older and younger workers at companies like Caterpillar, it's more resignation than resentment. And that may be the biggest problem we have to overcome.

This is why I think we need to pay more attention to trends in the global economy and in our nation's demographics, which can work to our advantage.

We in the baby boom generation may work later in life than our parents, but we're still going to retire. And when we do, we are going to free up a tremendous number of jobs in our workplaces. Most of those jobs are good jobs by any objective measure of their value to the economy. Whether you are a "knowledge worker" in an office, a crane operator on the docks or a millworker whose plant shaves wood from logs, you are probably using technology in ways that enhance your productivity far above what it was a decade ago.

And most of those jobs are still good-paying jobs. We have to keep them so.

This should open up new opportunities for cooperation between older workers and younger workers. Our unions' bargaining campaigns should focus on our fight for the workers who will succeed us, as the Machinists did in their successful negotiations with Boeing last year.

We should find new ways to em-

phasize what our generation can give back to those who come up behind us. We have a nursing shortage now, which will only get worse as more nurses retire. And we have a long list of young people waiting to get into our limited nurse training programs — because we don't have enough nurse educators. Maybe our unions can organize newly-retired nurses to become teachers and mentors for a new generation of health care workers.

Our building trades unions know what it takes to provide world-class training in skilled occupations, many of which are becoming more technologically sophisticated and challenging. They've developed apprenticeship programs that should serve as a model for more jobs and industries.

And, those newly-hired Caterpillar workers shouldn't be viewed as losers in the global economy. They are likely to be better educated, more flexible and more skilled in their jobs than we were in ours. We should make them and their counterparts in other industries the poster children of a new campaign for inter-generational equity in our economy.

Finally, we need a new narrative of hope and opportunity, especially in the public sphere. That narrative has to begin with the assertion that we deserve better for our contributions to the wealth of our country. It has to demand more from government, from reining in the excesses of "Caterpillaring" corporations to reorganizing our health care system in ways that protect family incomes.

Above all, it should pass along this lesson from our generation and the generations before us who created the great middle class of this county — that we can make a successful economy and enjoy prosperity again, if our work is fairly rewarded and our rewards are broadly shared.

*Tim Nesbitt is a former president of the Oregon AFL-CIO.*

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## ...More on G. Brown

(From Page 2)

political operator Bill Sizemore. The jury found that Sizemore's organizations, the Oregon Taxpayers United political action committee and its educational foundation used forgery and fraud to qualify several petition initiatives as ballot measures. Sizemore's anti-union ballot measures caused labor organizations to spend thousands of dollars to fight them.

Valeria Molinda Meistrell was born on Aug. 23, 1942, in Hood River and grew up in several Columbia River Gorge communities including Cascade Locks and Mosier. After graduating from The Dalles High School, she moved to Portland.

She and her husband, Everett Jack, make their home in Scappoose in Columbia County. They have a daughter, Sorena Dibble, who is following in her mother's footsteps by working as an office secretary at Portsmouth Middle School in Portland; a son, Everett Jack Jr., who is an attorney in Portland; and three grandchildren.

VAL'S LEISURE PURSUITS include sewing, knitting, crocheting and reading.

★ ★ ★

(Continued from Last Issue)

IN THE JUNE 2, 2006 issue, this column contained the start of a Labor Honor Roll article on George Brown, who was the first director of legislation and political education for the Oregon AFL-CIO. Prior to the 1956 merger in Oregon of the state organizations of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Brown had been the executive secretary-treasurer of the CIO State Council. The last article ended by reporting that Brown had served on a committee appointed by Portland Mayor Terry D. Schunk that started the ball rolling toward formation of the TriMet Transit System as a public agency to replace a privately-owned bus line in the Rose City.

Legislation to create the Tri-County Metropolitan Transit District was passed by the 1969 Oregon Legislature at the Capitol in Salem at the urging of a team of labor lobbyists whose key members were Brown, Oregon AFL-CIO President Edward J. Whelan and Mel Schoppert, the leader of Portland-based Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757. ATU Local 757 represented employees of the private bus company and continues to be the bargaining agent for TriMet workers.

GOV. TOM McCALL signed the TriMet legislation into law and appointed George Brown to the new transit agency's board of directors. At a 1970 retirement dinner for Brown, Gov. McCall described him as: "The square-shooter that God ever made ... a man without conceit or deceit."

Brown was the first recipient of the labor movement's Kelley Loe Memorial Award, which he received at a ceremonial dinner in 1958. The award to Brown was given by the Oregon AFL-CIO Community Service Activities Committee. Kelley Loe had been a lobbyist and research and education director of the AFL Oregon Federation of Labor for more than two decades. He was a printer-editor member of Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58 and had earlier worked for the Labor Press. Brown was presented the award in recognition of his many years of service to the Community Chest, Community Council, United Fund, Salvation Army, Child Guidance Clinic, Society for Crippled Children & Adults, and for his leadership in forming the AFL CIO Community Services Committee. That committee evolved into today's Labor Community Service Agency. The Loe awards were discontinued many years ago.

LIFE WAS NOT all work and no play for Brown. He enjoyed duck hunting, fishing, poker with cronies at the Legislature and at labor conventions, and lifting a convivial glass with friends — all the while smoking his favorite brand of non-filtered cigarettes.

George Brown died of lung cancer at age 71 on April 17, 1974 at his home near Milwaukie. He had returned home from an Oregon City hospital the day before. More than 400 mourners attended his funeral. He was survived by his wife, Alma, to whom he'd been married for 49 years; their son and a grandson.

AMONG THE TRIBUTES paid to Brown were these words by then-State Treasurer James A. Redden, who wrote: "With George Brown's passing, all of Oregon, every working person and every citizen of this state, lost a friend. He fought hard for the working person and for that he deserves the title 'Mr. Labor' in Oregon. But his concern went far beyond just labor issues. George fought hard for what was good for the State. Honesty and integrity were his trademarks. We are going to miss him more than words can say..."

In his own distinguished career, Jim Redden has served as a state legislator, state treasurer, state attorney general and presides as a senior federal judge in the U.S. District Court in Portland.

## PDC uses tax funds to undermine workers

By TOM CHAMBERLAIN and BOB SHIPRACK

The Portland Development Commission should be ashamed of the battle it's chosen: using taxpayer funds to undermine local family-wage jobs.

The PDC's legal fight to find a loophole in the state's prevailing-wage law will affect our community far beyond the hard-hat areas, and the Portland City Council would be doing the city a favor by reining in the PDC and ensuring that taxpayer funds produce community benefits in the way they were intended.

The problem is this: The PDC spends a quarter-billion dollars a year on construction projects. Because this is taxpayer money, the commission must comply with several standards that meet the community's priorities — including fair wages and benefits as determined by the state's prevailing-wage law. This law simply assures that developers who get public contracts pay the community's average market wage for a given trade.

The prevailing-wage law is a common-sense way to create family-wage jobs, keep dollars within a community and ensure that taxpayers get quality work done by skilled workers. It's a fair and reasonable law that results in in-

creased productivity and accountability.

But instead of better prioritizing its list of projects, the PDC has decided to balance its budget on the backs of working families. It has used ambiguous language in the law to circumvent it when the commission tangoes with private developers.

But partnering with private interests isn't a valid excuse to allow the PDC to ignore its responsibility as the steward of taxpayer money. If the PDC succeeds in undermining the prevailing-wage law, here's what Portland stands to lose:

- Return on our investment: Portland taxpayers invest in the roads, sewers and other infrastructure that make urban renewal possible. Low-ball contractors often are driven to import low-wage workers from other states and countries. These workers will not pay local taxes. That's not fair.

- Family-wage jobs: Portland needs more middle-class jobs, not fewer. The prevailing-wage law ensures that workers are paid enough to contribute to society rather than rely on public services. It's ironic that the city's development arm is leading the race to the bottom.

- Responsible business: We don't waive the state's minimum wage for

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businesses that say they can't afford it. We say they need to improve their product, service or business model. In this case, the PDC is saying that it wants to build lots of cool stuff, but since it can't pay for it all, wages should shrink. Rather than improve efficiency, budget accurately (remember the aerial tram?) and prioritize construction spending, the PDC is trying to bankroll its billion-dollar dreams on the backs of working families.

The solution? We suggest that the PDC decide its choices on what, when and how to build, rather than using tax dollars to pay lawyers, cut workers' wages and further reduce Portland's middle class. Since the developer-heavy PDC isn't likely to do this voluntarily, the Portland City Council should make the PDC follow the prevailing-wage law, and show that in Portland, public development should reflect our community's values.

(Editor's Note: Tom Chamberlain is the president of the Oregon AFL-CIO. Bob Shiprack is executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.)

## Unionists need to be active in politics

To The Editor:

The first thing I noticed at the Oregon Democratic Party convention June 3-5 was the absence of union members. It became really obvious in a couple of platform workshops that I attended.

In the labor platform workshop, a few of us union members had to explain not only the purpose and advantages of card-check recognition, but also what a card-check was. One young delegate actually thought it had something to do with playing cards on the job. I guess union members are so familiar with the issue that we assume everyone understands it. Well, they don't, and it's up to us to explain it.

This lack of understanding of labor issues by the general public is disturbing. A future state administration, unfriendly to unions, could take advantage of this, and we could wind up with a right-to-work-for-less law ... or even something worse. We've got to reach out to the public and let them know who we are and what we do. We've got to let them know that we are the good guys.

I found out in the energy and transportation platform workshop that most people don't have a clue about the damage done by deregulation in the transportation industries, especially trucking and airlines. Deregulation has led directly to the loss of wages, pensions and benefits by workers in those industries. But most people don't seem to make that connection. One connection they do make, though, is the effect deregulation has had on energy costs.

Labor must participate on all levels of the Democratic Party so that our message of providing jobs with decent wages, hours, and working conditions once again becomes the "hue and cry" of the Democratic Party. A good start would be for union members to fill the 800 open seats as precinct committeepersons in their respective districts.

But all of us were rewarded for the hard work put in on developing a platform when Gov. Ted Kulongoski addressed the delegates on June 4. I've heard the governor speak many times and this was one of his best. He threw

away his notes and spoke from his heart. He demonstrated his fighting spirit and made all of us proud to be Democrats.

The Democrats developed a labor-friendly platform and Gov. Kulongoski demonstrated again that he is the man to sell it to the voting public. We need to re-elect Gov. Kulongoski and give him a Democratic House instead of the obstructionist Republican House he has had to contend with. If we do that, the sky is the limit for Oregon.

Lynn Lehrbach  
Joint Council of Teamsters #37  
Portland

## Oregon Tradeswomen group thanks NW Labor Press for Career Fair help

To The Editor:

Thank you so much for your support of the 14th Annual Women in Trades Career Fair as both a media reporter/photographer, as well as one of our advertising exchange partners. Together, we reached 1,350 students and 540 adult female jobseekers who attended this unique career fair.

As you know, the fair is produced by Oregon Tradeswomen, with assistance from a wide range of industry stakeholders. Its \$110,000 budget is provided 100 percent from industry supporters. Donations and in-kind support, such as the advertising exchange arrangement with the Northwest Labor Press, cover the costs of producing the event, including coordinating school attendance,

funding student transportation, printing posters and brochures, extensive volunteer recruitment, and much more.

Through our advertising and media efforts you have helped us reach a targeted recruitment of female jobseekers. We will be placing these strong candidates into entry-level positions, accepting them into our Pathways to Success pre-apprenticeship program, and supporting them as they embark into apprenticeships and professional careers.

Thank you again for being part of the Women in Trades Career Fair.

Terri Wiley  
Communications Director  
Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.  
Portland

# U.S. Supreme Court rules 'No free speech at work'

By DON LOVING

The U.S. Supreme Court on May 30 restricted the free-speech rights of the nation's 21 million public employees, ruling that the First Amendment does not protect them from being punished for complaining to their managers about possible wrongdoing. However, a Portland labor attorney says Oregonians have some additional protections under state law.

In a split 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court said although government employees have the same rights as other citizens to speak out on controversies of the day, they do not have the right to speak freely inside their offices on matters related to their official duties.

"When a citizen enters government service, the citizen by necessity must accept certain limitations on his or her freedom," said Justice Anthony Kennedy, rejecting a lawsuit brought by a Los Angeles County prosecutor.

The 5-4 decision came in a case involving Richard Ceballos, a former Los Angeles County deputy district attorney. According to news reports, Ceballos says he was demoted, transferred and denied a promotion and that his superiors created a hostile work environment after he wrote a memo to his superiors asserting that false information was used to obtain a search warrant in a drug case.

Ceballos advised his superiors to drop the case related to the warrant — but instead, they proceeded with the prosecution. He then informed the defense team of his findings and, when subpoenaed to testify, he told the court about the lies used to obtain the search warrant.

It was after his testimony that Ceballos says his superiors retaliated against him. He then filed suit charging his First Amendment rights had been violated.

The AFL-CIO filed a brief in support of Ceballos.

Lawyers for government whistleblowers denounced the ruling as a major setback. They said it could threaten public health and safety. Public sector hospital workers who know of dangers may be discouraged from revealing them, while police and public employees may be dissuaded from exposing corruption, they said.

"This decision gives constitutional sanction to those who would fire a public worker for stepping forward to preserve the integrity of our public institutions as a government whistleblower," said American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees President Gerald McEntee.

"This is bad, very bad from a national perspective," said Oregon AFSCME Council 75 senior political coordinator Mary Botkin.

While agreeing that the national high court ruling is a setback, labor attorney Barbara Diamond of Smith, Diamond & Olney notes that Oregon has its own whistleblower law.

"First, the Supreme Court decision was 5-4, which means a similar case framed slightly differently could end with a different result," said Diamond. "And second, we do have some limited, added protections under Oregon law."

Oregon has a broad "freedom of speech" clause in its State Constitution; however, Diamond notes the Oregon Legislature has never written parallel statutes that create an easy mechanism for legal remedies.

"There's the constitution, and there's the law," noted Diamond. "While you can sue for legal protections under the constitution, it's much easier if there are statutes in the law to base a case on. Oregon's free speech laws aren't whistleblower protections per se, but they are part of the mix."

Oregon Revised Statutes 659(a) are in fact distinct whistleblower protections, though Diamond notes the law doesn't make people bulletproof or allow them to say anything they want to say, especially as an employee of a certain governmental agency.

"Really, this underscores the importance of our unions," said Diamond. "If you've got something to say — be it on the job, in a letter to the editor or whatever — make sure you're saying it as a citizen rather than as an employee, or better yet, when possible say it as part of the union. There's much more leeway for a union to be critical of an agency. Regardless, we would take strong action should a union member ever be fired for what we considered a whistleblower situation."

Some public employee union contracts also include "extra" protections that may not be "whistleblower" in name but offer some protections in the same vein.

For example, the AFSCME Local 3336 (Department of Environmental Quality) contract includes language governing "professional differences of opinion." Council 75 staff representative Issa Simpson said that clause has come into play once during her tenure.

"We grieved this article once and took it to mediation where we got what we needed for the member — reinstatement to a project where a regulated company had asked to have her removed from her duties on the project," said Simpson. "Following the company's request, the agency began addressing what it called 'communication issues' on the part of our member and removed her from the project. She had been recommending technically sound water quality testing procedures that would have cost the company more money than they wanted to spend, and this is an outfit with a lot of clout in Eastern Oregon."

"Ultimately, the member was returned to the project, but it was a difficult issue."

(Editor's Note: Don Loving is public affairs director of AFSCME Oregon Council 75.)



## What a day for the 'Unions For Kids' motorcycle ride

Nearly 300 motorcycle riders participated in the fourth annual "Unions For Kids" motorcycle 'Poker Run' June 10. "It was a record turnout, and we'll raise a record amount of money for the kids at Doernbecher," said Lee Duncan, a business representative of Portland-based Electrical Workers Local 48, who helped found the event.

All proceeds from the ride and raffle go to Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$16,000. The amount raised this year had not been finalized at press time.

Participating in the event for the first time was James (Jimbo) Brennan, a member of Painters Local 10 (photo right, on the motorcycle). Brennan and riding mates Teresa Chadwell and Gus Gustafson were stopped at a check-point in Sandy, Oregon, where bikes lined both sides of city block on Highway 26. A poker run consists of riders going to five check-points, where they draw a playing card for a poker hand. At the end of the ride — in this event, a 100-mile course that took riders past Crown Point on the Old Columbia River Highway (top photo) — the highest hand wins a cash prize.

A large portion of the "Unions for Kids" proceeds came from a drawing for a Harley-Davidson low-rider. In the photo below, 2-year-old Stirling Walker and her mom Shannon prepare to draw the winning ticket as Lee Duncan and Dave Tully quiet the crowd. The winner of the bike was Robert Borman of Gresham, a new member of Local 48.

