



NORTHWEST

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Portland, Oregon

City park rangers tell Mayor Hales they want a union

By DON McINTOSH
Associate Editor

They're "good will ambassadors" for the City of Portland. Wearing a uniform and a badge and working in pairs, they keep parks safe and clean, and serve as the front line of outreach to the homeless. Yet most of the City's park rangers make \$11 an hour, have no benefits, and get laid off after nine months. Could they please have a union now? That was the message a group of park rangers presented in a March 29 meeting with Mayor Charlie Hales.

"It was nice for him to take the time to meet with us," says ranger Sam Sachs. "Unfortunately, they didn't agree to recognize the union."

Every one of the City's 15 rangers signed a card saying they want to join Laborers Local 483, says Local 483 organizer Erica Askin, and nothing restricts the City from granting union recognition at that point.

"We certainly favor the workers' ability to join a union," said Hales' spokesperson Dana Haynes, "and we look forward to the park rangers being part of the Laborers union." However,

Haynes explained, the mayor believes workers should unionize through a secret ballot election, not "card check." A 2007 amendment to Oregon's Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act gave public employees the right to unionize through card check, but public employers can still refuse that method and insist on an election in cases where workers are seeking to join an existing union.

For the rangers, it makes a difference: Having the state Employment Relations Board schedule a union election delays the process by a month or two. And that's a problem for the 11 of the 15 rangers who are classified as "seasonal" employees, most of whom will be long gone by the end of the year. City rules require that the seasonals be laid off after 1,400 hours, the equivalent of eight months at 40 hours a week.

Making seasonal jobs permanent would be the Number One goal once they get a union.

"We're a unified group, the seasonals and the full-timers," says Sachs. "All of us who are permanent were seasonal
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Uniformed city park rangers argued that they've earned the right to permanent employment, and union representation, at a March 29 meeting with Portland Mayor Charlie Hales. By all accounts, Hales was cordial and a good listener, but in the end, rangers got the message: The City won't voluntarily recognize their union; they'll have to show a majority through a state-supervised election.

TriMet: Labor Press can observe bargaining, but bloggers out

Local 757 president adds former rival Heintzman to bargaining team in show of unity

At an April 27 meeting to discuss bargaining ground rules, TriMet management cleared up which media it wanted to exclude from observing labor negotiations: gadfly bloggers, and the Northwest Labor Press.

Alert Labor Press readers will remember that TriMet and Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 757 are in court over whether the public can be excluded from their union contract negotiations. Customarily, such talks are closed to non-participants by mutual agreement, but as Local 757 pointed out, state law says that public sector collective bargaining is by default open to the public unless both parties agree to close it. This time, Local 757 wants them open to the public, whereas TriMet has proposed the talks be observed only by certain media.

Bargaining was supposed to begin last November, but Local 757 initially declined to meet until the public access issue was resolved. Both sides pushed for an expedited court decision. But when the judge determined in early April that the case

would not be decided speedily, the union decided it was better to start bargaining while still waiting for the court decision.

TriMet had proposed at the outset that access be limited to "unaffiliated" media, a choice of language that the union interpreted as an attempt to exclude the Northwest Labor Press. TriMet later revised that language, proposing instead to allow the "mainstream media" to attend — seemingly a swipe at critics on the left and right, to say nothing of bloggers and other "new media." In effect, a tax-supported local government entity, its board appointed by the governor of Oregon, is proposing to pick and choose which press to grant access to, while keeping the general public out.

Local 757 asked TriMet to identify which media it considered mainstream. TriMet declined to do that, and the union suggested its own list of 16 print and online media outlets, including the Labor Press, plus television news generally.

"We have no particular interest in limiting attendance only to specifically named media organizations," replied labor relations director Randy Stedman in an April 18 letter to the union, "but instead prefer to have a mutually agreed ground rule that defines the media for purposes of attending and reporting on the proceedings. Any press or-

ganization meeting the definition agreed to should be able to attend." Details, Stedman wrote, would be revealed at the closed-to-the-press ground-rule-setting session April 27, held at a secure location owned by TriMet in the vicinity of Lloyd Center.

Ron Heintzman returns

Just as the meeting began, Local 757 President Bruce Hansen made a surprise announcement: He would be adding former Local 757 president and ATU International Union president Ron Heintzman — his rival in last year's union election — to the bargaining team. "We are a union family," Hansen explained in a written statement, "and when a family is threatened, differences in opinion need to be put aside, and we all need to work together to protect the family. In this case, TriMet has already signaled its intent to devastate its employees both financially and in the quality of their working conditions.... Ron Heintzman has bargained every TriMet contract since 1988. Management is trying to destroy all those gains."

At the meeting, true to promise, TriMet detailed its suggested press ground rule: "representatives of the news media," the public transit district proposed, would be defined as "a news-gathering representative of a commercial enterprise that ordi-

narily reports mainstream news in traditional print, FCC-licensed broadcast, or subscription electronic magazine format."

Stedman told the union bargaining team that neither the Labor Press nor the Portland Business Journal would meet that definition because they're specialized, not "mainstream." However, TriMet would make an exception, he said, and let the Labor Press and Business Journal attend. That would be contingent, in the union's understanding, on certain bloggers being excluded.

"Which bloggers?" the union wanted to know, listing three by name that had been quite critical of TriMet. Stedman, furious and using the "F" word, declared the meeting over.

That meant that no negotiation sessions were scheduled, something Local 757 had expected to happen during the ground rule setting meeting.

Stedman emailed Hansen the next day saying TriMet is still ready to bargain, and that he still hopes they can reach agreement "to open otherwise closed negotiations to the mainstream press."

"Once we have the union's proposals and a reasonable opportunity to review them, we are willing to schedule substantive negotiations," Stedman wrote.

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Union-affiliated cab company hits the streets of Portland

A union-affiliated cab company made its debut April 19, opening for business on the streets of Portland for a test run before a formal launch in late May.

Nearly all of Union Cab's 50 orange-and-blue vehicles are brand-new, most of them Toyota Prius hybrids, and they're equipped with dashboard computers and a digital dispatch system that uses GPS to help drivers respond quickly to service requests.

The launch is the culmination of a years-long effort by a group of immigrant drivers who campaigned against exploitation by several Portland cab companies, helped by Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7901 and the Oregon AFL-CIO. A City of Portland study found that taxi drivers, classed as independent contractors, average less than \$6.22 an hour after paying "kitties" of over \$500 a week to



companies like Broadway. But at the one driver-owned co-op — Radio Cab — kitties were lower, and earnings

higher. In November, Portland City Council approved 50 new taxi permits so that Union Cab could form as a sec-

ond driver-owned co-op. [Like most cities, Portland regulates the taxi industry, and limits the number of taxis that may operate.]

In January, Union Cab leased an office at 14415 SE Stark. Union Cab's new driver-owners haven't yet secured affordable health insurance, a major goal. But they're the first taxi drivers in Portland to have comprehensive auto insurance for their vehicles. They also plan to obtain occupational accident insurance, since as independent contractors, they aren't eligible for workers' compensation if they are injured on the job in a collision.

Customers can call 503-408-1234 — 24 hours a day, seven days a week — and be picked up by a Union Cab, driven by a member of CWA Local 7901.

Union Cab general manager Kedir Wako said plans for the grand opening

include a celebration with AFL-CIO and CWA Local 7901, and a day-long offer of free taxi service to the public. The date had not yet been scheduled as of press time.

If all goes as planned, later this year customers will be able to reserve a cab at Union Cab's web site, union-cabpdx.com; by text message; and even via a smartphone app.

...ATU #757

(From Page 1)

However, for TriMet to condition bargaining on prior receipt of ATU proposals would violate Oregon's Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA), Hansen replied April 29. PECBA says the two sides must meet and negotiate; neither side may require the other to submit written proposals in advance.

Hansen listed 16 dates the union could meet in May and June, and noted that the two sides *did* agree [before Stedman ended the talks] that 18 specific media organizations, plus radio and television, could attend.

"It is my hope that you will honor that small point of agreement," Hansen wrote, "and join with the Union in inviting those media representatives to our first bargaining session."

...City of Portland park rangers want a union

(From Page 1)

at one time."

Sachs (permanent) makes \$17 an hour and has health insurance, sick leave, vacation, and a retirement benefit. His partner (seasonal) does the same work for \$11 an hour, with no benefits and a looming termination date.

"Eleven dollars an hour. Honestly, it's insulting," Sachs said.

Armed only with pepper mace, the rangers patrol parks to enforce bans on camping, drinking alcohol without a permit, and letting dogs run off-leash outside of designated areas. After two weeks of training in "verbal judo," report writing, and radio handling, they head out to provide a security presence.

Last July, it was Sachs and his partner Asa Arden who — based on a description from a jogger who'd been attacked on the Wildwood Trail — led police to a homeless camper who was later convicted of several rape and sexual assault charges.

And last June, it was ranger Brian Tierney who discovered the body of teenager Mayra Sophia Cruz Rodriguez in Washington Park; a homeless man-

was later convicted of her murder and that of Nikayla Powell.

"We've shown our worth," says Sachs, who used to work as a Multnomah County Sheriff's deputy. "We're the eyes and ears of the City in the parks."

But at the end of an eight-month "season," most rangers have unemploy-

ment to look forward to. There's no guarantee of reemployment the following year, and generally, only about a third of them return.

"It's stressful for me and my family," says seasonal ranger Vicente Harrison, a 35-year-old father of two. Harrison — one of eight bike-riding rangers responsible for patrolling 21 downtown parks

— says he loves the job: interacting with people, helping visitors, directing the homeless to services. But come September, he'll be out of a job.

Askin says Local 483's campaign to unionize rangers is part of a larger campaign against City reliance on low-wage, no-benefit, part-time, temporary and seasonal workers.



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Cuts in retiree pension checks under consideration

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Union and employer representatives are lobbying Congress to modify the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) to allow severely underfunded multiemployer pension plans to reduce the paychecks of retirees and partially suspend accrued benefits for all vested participants in an effort to keep the plans from going under.

Nearly 100 multiemployer defined benefit pension plans (MEPPs) are headed for insolvency as a result of the dot-com crash of 2000-02, followed by the “Great Recession” of 2008. Participants in insolvent plans get some protection from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), but it’s only fractions on the dollar — and the agency itself is facing insolvency.

About 10 million workers and retirees are covered by roughly 1,500 multiemployer pension plans in the United States. MEPPs are maintained under collective bargaining agreements between a union and multiple employers, typically smaller businesses.

At a hearing March 5 before the U.S. House subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions, representatives from management, labor,

the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., (PBGC), and the non-partisan Government Accountability Office (GAO), painted a grim future for multiemployer pension plans.

Besides the two large stock market crashes, other contributing factors to struggling plans include a declining unionized workforce, more unionized employers going out of business, and — due to a still sluggish economy — fewer hours being worked by actives, thus fewer contributions going into the plans.

Joshua Gotbaum, director of PBGC, said 30 years ago, three-quarters of all participants were active and only one quarter were retired or waiting to retire.

“Today, the situation is largely reversed: by 2010, 39 percent of participants were active and 61 percent were inactive,” he said.

PBGC estimates that in the 2012 plan year, just over half of all multiemployer participants were in endangered (yellow) or critical (red) status plans. Further, the agency believes that 80 to 85 plans will be unable to recover.

According to a 2011 survey of 107 critical status plans conducted by the Segal Company, 28 plans had deter-

mined that no realistic combination of employer contribution increases and participant benefit reductions would enable them to emerge from critical status, and their best approach is to forestall insolvency for as long as possible. Among these plans, the average number of years to expected insolvency was 12, with some expecting insolvency in less than five years, and others not for more than 30 years. The majority of these plans expected to go under in 15 or fewer years.

Such is the case for the Western

States Office and Professional Employees Pension Fund. Last month the trust told participants — many of them members of Vancouver-based OPEIU Local 11 — at a special-call meeting that despite implementing a rehabilitation plan in 2009 that increased employer contributions and reduced worker benefits, the fund will likely be insolvent by 2030.

When a multiemployer plan becomes insolvent, PBGC loans the trust money to pay participants a “statutorily guaranteed benefit” for the rest of their lives. (Unlike its insurance of single-employer plans, PBGC does not take over the plan, or its assets and liabilities; the agency funds the plan’s guaranteed benefits and operating costs, and audits to ensure they are reasonable.)

The problem with PBGC’s “guaranteed benefit” is that it doesn’t cover full benefits. It calculates the benefit based on the amount of a participant’s benefit accrual rate and years of credit service earned. Specifically, PBGC guarantees 100 percent of the first \$11 of a plan’s monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33 of the accrual rate, times each year of credited serv-

ice. Currently, PBGC’s maximum guarantee is \$35.75 per month times a participant’s year of credited service. Thus, a participant who retires at normal retirement age (65) with 30 years of service would receive \$12,870 annually — \$1,072.50 a month.

“Without PBGC, participants would be left with nothing when a plan runs out of money,” Gotbaum said.

Gotbaum said PBGC paid \$95 million in financial assistance for benefits and plan expenses to participants in 49 insolvent multiemployer plans in fiscal year 2012. This allowed those plans to continue paying guaranteed benefits to about 51,000 retirees; 21,000 additional participants will receive benefits from those plans when they retire. There are 61 more plans that have terminated and will run out of money in the next few years.

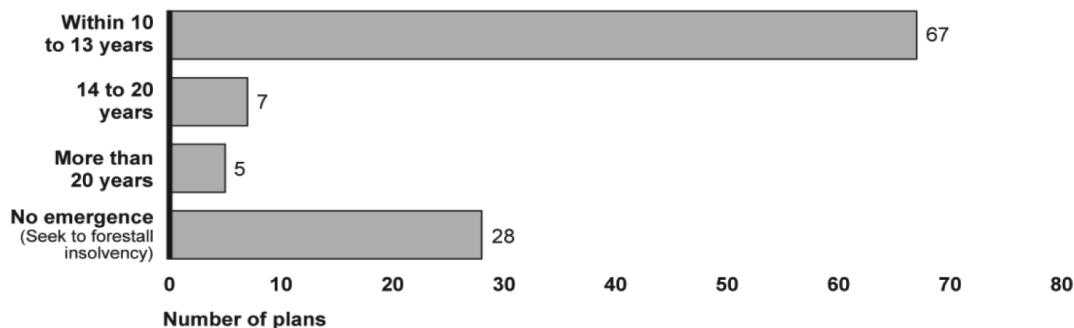
Which only adds to the problem.

Charles Jeszeck, director of the pension section of the GAO, told lawmakers PBGC has been designated as a “high-risk” federal program, whose financial future is uncertain.

“Existing and anticipated plan in-

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Plans’ Expectations about Emergence from Critical Status



Source: GAO representation of data compiled by Segal Company.

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...Multiemployer pension plans face uncertain future

(From Page 3)

solvencies threaten to drive the PBGC's multiemployer insurance fund into insolvency in about 2023," he said. "If this occurs, retirees depending on the PBGC multiemployer insurance fund would see their pension payments

reduced to a small fraction of their original value — or nothing at all."

In an effort to prevent that from happening, the National Coordinating Committee on Multiemployer Plans (NCCMP) established a Retirement Security Review Commission more than a year ago to craft reforms that tackle the structural problems plaguing the system — and that have the support of both business and labor.

The report — "Solutions, Not Bailouts" — was presented to the House subcommittee on March 5.

It recommends modifying ERISA's anti-cutback rule to allow for partial suspension of accrued benefits for active and inactive vested participants, and to partially reduce benefits of retirees already collecting a pension check. NCCMP says reductions would be limited "to the extent necessary to prevent insolvency," but would never

go below 110 percent of the PBGC guaranteed amounts.

NCCMP also seeks additional security for plans that weathered the crash; plans that are on the path to recovery measured by rehab blueprints; and plans "that, with expanded access to tools in the Pension Protection Act (PPA) and (in) subsequent relief legislation, will be able to achieve their statutorily-mandated funding goals."

Additionally the report recommends giving trustees flexibility to create new multiemployer plan designs to help prevent insolvency.

Anthony Perrone, secretary-treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers, testified before the subcommittee that his union recently worked out a new plan design with Kroger to let the grocery chain merge four shaky plans into one larger whole, and borrow \$1 billion at low interest to bring it from 71 percent funded to 100 percent funded.

UFCW co-manages more than 60 plans with its employer partners, covering 700,000 active workers and another 700,000 retirees. The largest of them — the \$5.2 billion UFCW Industry Pension Fund — covers 92,000 workers at more than 500 employers.

Critics have already surfaced, characterizing the proposals as a "union bailout."

"... the clear message from Congressional leaders that no bailout would be forthcoming to protect the private multiemployer pension system overall, despite having provided enormous financial relief to those in the financial services industry whose actions precipitated the depletion of the pension funds' assets."

FROM THE REPORT: 'SOLUTIONS NOT BAILOUTS'
NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR MULTIEMPLOYER PLANS

The NCCMP report itself notes up front "the clear message from Congressional leaders that no bailout would be forthcoming to protect the private multiemployer pension system overall, despite having provided enormous financial relief to those in the financial services industry whose actions precipitated the depletion of the pension funds' assets."

Harold Force, president of Force Construction of Columbus, Indiana, speaking on behalf of Associated General Contractors, told the House subcommittee that multiemployer pension plan relief is not a union bailout.

"Contributions to these plans are funded entirely by employers, not unions," he said.

Trust plans are overseen by an equal number of labor and management trustees.

"Trustees of a plan must be given the flexibility to make changes," Force testified. "New tools are needed to try to revolutionize the pension system and save the defined benefit system — both for the directly interested parties such as employers and participants, but also for the PBGC."

Funding provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) expire on Dec. 31, 2014.

(Editor's Note: Press Associates Inc. contributed to this report.)

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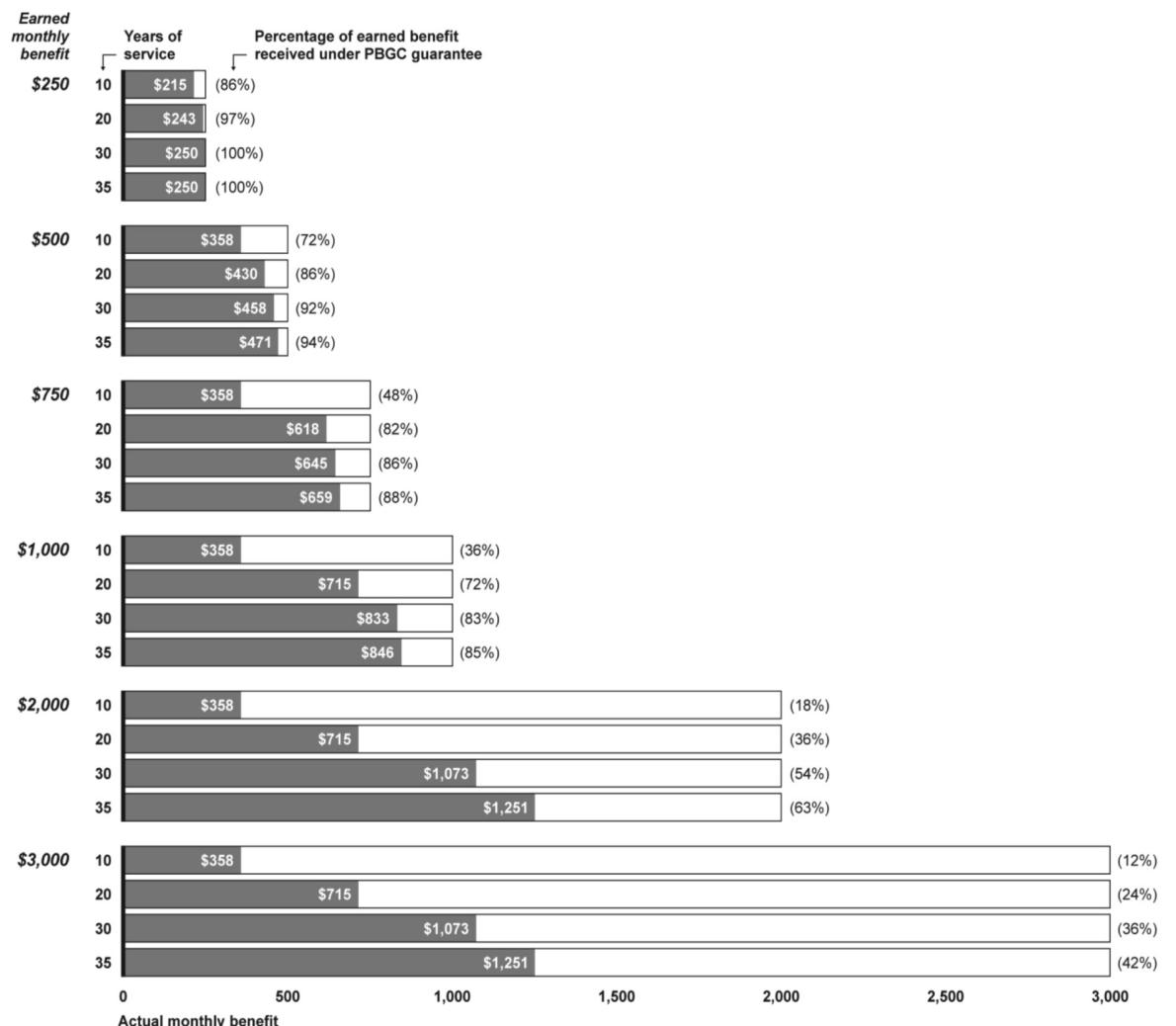
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Illustration of PBGC Guaranteed Benefit Levels



Source: GAO analysis of PBGC data.

Note: Although the maximum monthly benefit based on a 30-year working career is about \$1,073, as this chart shows, a greater benefit can be earned if a worker retires after a longer career.

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2013 shaping up to be an active legislative session for labor

SALEM — Oregon's House of Representatives passed a bill April 25 outlawing public sector union-busting. One of dozens of bills labor unions are following in the State Capitol this year, **HB 3342** prohibits public employers from using public funds to deter (or assist) union organizing, or from using public property to hold meetings whose purpose is to deter (or assist) union organizing. The bill, sponsored by State Rep. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) passed 34-26 along party lines, and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Since the 2013 legislative session began in February, three labor-backed bills have passed:

- **HB 2800** — authorizing \$450 million for an I-5 replacement bridge over the Columbia River — was signed by the governor March 12.

- **HB 2787** — which lets students who graduate from Oregon high schools pay in-state tuition at public universities, regardless of legal residency status, was signed into law April 12.

- **SB 833** — which authorizes drivers licenses to Oregon residents regardless of legal status — passed the Senate 20-7 April 23 and the House 47-7 April 29.

Other labor-backed bills have made it through at least one chamber thus far:

- **HB 2657** — which makes it harder to rezone land that is set aside for industrial use — passed the House 31-24 April 29.

- **HB 2820** — making it easier to site utility-

scale solar development on non-arable land in Eastern Oregon — passed the House 43-12 April 29.

- **HB 2950** — which allows workers to take up to two weeks unpaid leave to deal with the death of family member, passed the House April 12 by 40-18. The bill is the long-time dream of Bakers Local 114 member Robin Zimmerman, whose wife died of cancer in May 2008.

- **HB 2646** — to require prevailing wage on all construction projects on public university land, even if it's donor-funded — is in the Senate Business and Transportation committee after passing the House March 21 by 47-10.

- **SJM 5** — a non-binding resolution urging the U.S. government to investigate Chinese subsidies to paper manufacturers — passed the Senate unanimously March 18 and is now in the House Business and Labor Committee.

Other bills of note to labor were still in committee as of press time, including **HB 3390**, which would mandate seven days of paid sick leave per year at employers with six or more employees.

Democrats occupy the governor's office and have a 16-14 majority in the Oregon Senate and 34-26 in the Oregon House. But that doesn't mean the session is a cakewalk for labor.

Unions opposed **SB 822** — a plan to trim cost-of-living increases for public employee retirees — but the bill passed the Senate April 11 by 16-13 and the House April 24 by 33-27, with Democrats

making up the yes votes in both cases, and Republicans saying the bill didn't go far enough in cutting the costs of the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System (PERS). It had not been signed by the governor as of press time, but it was his own proposal, so that seems assured. A coalition of public sector unions plans to challenge it in court the moment it is signed.

And Democrats were unable to come up with the three-fifths supermajority required to approve a new tax measure in the case of **HB 2456**, which would have raised \$150 million a year in additional revenue, mostly by raising taxes on the 2.4 percent highest-income Oregonians and on a small percentage of very large corporations. Instead, the House unanimously passed a watered down version of the bill on April 24, raising an estimated \$18 million a year by cracking down on corporations attributing income to operations in countries where they have little, if any, economic presence. The revenue raised is dedicated to the Mental Health Services Fund.

Two days later, the union-backed non-profit Our Oregon filed six initiative petitions aimed at the November 2014 ballot. With titles like "Large Corporations Should Pay Their Fair Share" and "If Corporations Are People, Let's Tax Them Like It," the prospective ballot initiatives would be available for signature gathering once official ballot titles are approved.

Meanwhile, the Oregon AFL-CIO took a stand against a symbolic bill, **SJM 7**, that tells the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) not to use its strongest sanction, known as the "hot goods" provision, when farm employers violate the Fair Labor Standards Act. DOL is cracking down nationwide on child farm labor and minimum wage law violations in the blueberry industry, both of which are often disguised by the use of workers who are not on the books. The resolution declares that using the hot goods provision was, "coercive and extortive." The measure passed the Senate April 2 by 26-3, with only Jackie Dingfelder, Diane Rosenbaum, and Elizabeth Steiner Hayward voting no. It's now in the House Business and Labor Committee, and the AFL-CIO says it's working with other groups to prevent it from reaching the governor's desk.

The Legislature is expected to wrap up the session by June 21, and self-imposed deadlines have ostensibly killed several bills. To be considered for further action, bills were supposed to have had at least one committee work session by April 18. Bills can be resurrected, however, either as amendments to other bills, or because the speaker of the House and the president of the Senate choose to move a bill through their chamber's Rules Committee.

A union-opposed bill requested by TriMet — to restore transit workers' right to strike (and thus get rid of their right to binding arbitration) — was one that died without a hearing.

TriMet Pensions: A Question of Fairness

It's fashionable these days to call frontline workers and retired frontline workers "greedy." That's what TriMet management wants you to think about us. Yet, over the years, we took less in wages partly so we could supplement our social security benefits. That is how we saved for retirement. Many of us have small TriMet pensions. Sometimes they are completely gobbled up by medical costs. When the numbers are viewed side-by-side, it is clear TriMet management places a higher value on themselves than they do on the front line employees—those who have the most demanding jobs in the organization.

Pension Class Comparison

	TriMet Union	TriMet Non-Manager Non-Union	TriMet Managers	TriMet Former General Manager
Average Monthly Pension Benefit	\$1,581	\$1,956	\$3,786	\$16,000
Years Worked to Qualify	10	3-5	3-5	7
Minimum Age for Eligibility	58	55	Unknown	Unknown
Paid Life Insurance	\$25,000	\$150,000	\$500,000+	\$800,000 (current Gen. Mgr.)

Note, TriMet pensions are NOT part of the state's Public Employee Retirement System Plan (PERS). Unknown = Information requested but not received.

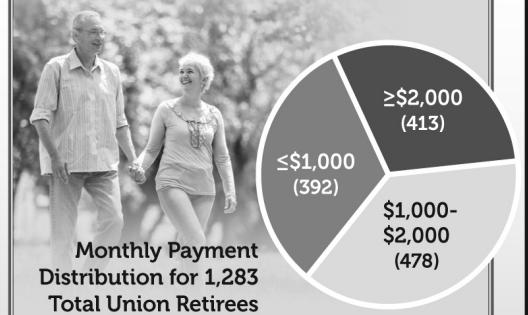
What we are talking about is economic justice. Corporate America is excessive when it comes to executive compensation. Should our public agencies follow suit? What happens when top management receives compensation far in excess of that received by most of their employees? Does that gap in overall compensation create a sense of superiority or inflated self-worth? Does it taint their relationship with the agency's workers, customers and the community? We think it does. We believe TriMet has strayed from its mission. We are working with the community to put it back on course – providing the safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable public transportation our community deserves.

Sincerely, Your Transit Workers

Not So Golden Years: Retiree Profiles

John: "I drove a bus for 26 years. I often worked 16-hour days due to driver shortages. I seldom got breaks and had to eat on the run. The stress of tight schedules, city traffic and no breaks caused chronic health problems. I've had a triple by-pass and live with diabetes. My TriMet pension is \$1,454 per month. So far this year, I've paid almost \$1,400 toward my health care."

Betty: "I am a fifteen-year TriMet employee. Faulty operator seats crushed three of my vertebrae, and I had to have surgery. The constant use of my right leg on the bus pedals ruined my knee, so I've had to have it replaced. My pension from TriMet is \$748 per month."



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Official Notices

BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY, TOBACCO WORKERS AND GRAIN MILLERS 114

Executive Board meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 201, Portland. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.

BOILERMAKERS 500

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, May 11, at 2515 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

CEMENT MASONS 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, at the Social Justice Center, 155 NE Irving Ave., Bend. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE DUE TO THE HOLIDAY.

COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, May 7 and May 14, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, in the Dispatch Lobby.

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, in the Meeting Hall.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, in the Executive Boardroom.

Washington Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver.

The Electrical Workers Minority Caucus May meeting has been canceled.

IBEW Local 48 100th Anniversary Gala at Oregon Convention Center, Friday, May 17, at 6 p.m. Must RSVP. Please visit www.IBEW48Gala.com for details and to purchase tickets.

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

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: No. 2348, Richard D. Walker; and No. 2349, Troyce A. Walker. The May 2013 assessment is \$1.50.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 9, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

FIRE FIGHTERS 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, WA.

FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego. PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE.

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GLASS WORKERS 740

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, May 6, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

INSULATORS 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 8. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9. Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

IRON WORKERS 29

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

IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, May 9. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, May 18. PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE. Meetings are at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

LABORERS 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave., Portland.

LABORERS 483

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, May 6, 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, May 22, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, May 22, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN

LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, preceded by a 7 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

Portland Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, May 6, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

MARION-POLK-YAMHILL

LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, preceded by a 6:30 Executive Board meeting, at 2110 State St., Salem.

METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, May 9. Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 28. Meetings are at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

MID-COLUMBIA

LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at 3313 W. 2nd, The Dalles.

MOLDERS 139B

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

EMPLOYEES 88

General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 15.

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 5. Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON

LABOR COUNCIL

The May 27 meeting has been canceled.

OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL

EMPLOYEES LOCAL 11

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at 3815 Columbia St., Vancouver. PLEASE NOTE: Installation of officers will be held at this meeting.

PAINTERS & DRYWALL

FINISHERS 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, at the Asbestos Hall, 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: www.iupatlocal10.org

PLASTERERS 82

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

ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS

49

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9. Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, June 6. Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave., Portland. (Phone: 503 232-4807)

SALEM BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, June 6, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave.,

Portland.

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at the Local 16 Hall, 1887 Laura St., Springfield.

Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

Women of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 (WOSM) meet 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 17, at Beaulahland, 118 NE 28th Ave., Portland. Children are welcome.

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

SIGN PAINTERS & PAINT MAKERS 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

SOUTHERN OREGON

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 23, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at Pied Piper Pizza, 12300 NE Fourth Plain Rd., Vancouver. (Please note change in location.)

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 17, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane, Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28. Please contact Craig Spjut at 707-496-1767 for location information.

Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at 4816 S 6th St., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at 950 Industrial Cir., White City.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, May 20, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, at the Eureka Training Center, 634 California St., Eureka.

UNITED STEELWORKERS 1097

Members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, preceded by a 3 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office building, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

On June 8...

Northwest Oregon Labor Council's recognition dinner

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council hosts the 16th annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night.

The dinner and awards ceremony, which serves as a fundraiser for Labor's Community Service Agency, will be held at Milwaukie Elks Lodge, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd.

Dinner tickets are \$20 per person. Raffle tickets also will be sold for \$1 each or seven for \$5.

The labor council is accepting cash and prize donations for the raffle.

For more information or to order tickets, call 503-235-9444.

Unions for Kids Motorcycle Poker Run and Chili Cook-off

The 11th annual Unions for Kids Motorcycle Poker Run & Chili Cook-Off starts and finishes at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

You can register on the day of the event between 9 and 10:30 a.m., or you can pre-register online.

A raffle to win a Harley Davidson motorcycle autographed by the Zac Brown Band will be held at 3 p.m. Tickets are still available for \$10 each, with only 5,000 tickets sold.

The event also features a chili cook-off competition, vendors, and a silent auction that will feature a guitar autographed by rapper Snoop Dog aka, Snoop Lion.

All money raised benefits Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

For more information, call Lee Duncan at 503-260-5905.

Jefferson-Jackson dinner and auction at Vancouver Hilton

VANCOUVER — Union members are invited to attend the annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner and auction at the Vancouver Hilton and Convention Center. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Carl Wolfson, a comedian and progressive online talk show host, will be master of ceremonies and auctioneer. Tickets are \$70 each (until May 16, when the prices go up), tables of 10 are \$700.

The event, named for Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, is a fundraiser for the Clark County Democratic Central Committee. For more information, call Temple Lentz at 360-798-0043 or Paul Stuckenschneider at 503-860-7004.

2-1-1 can be a lifesaver

2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their communities. In Oregon, it is run by 211info, in partnership with United Way. It can be access on line at www.211info.org.

Retiree Meeting Notices

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED

AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, May 9, followed by an 11 a.m. General membership meeting at 1125 SE Madison, LCSA board room #103B, Portland.

All retirees are welcome to attend.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, at Yaws Top Notch Restaurant, 11340 NE Halsey, Portland. For more info, please call Glenn Hodgkinson at 503 656-0028.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 5, at Denny's Restaurant,

12101 SE 82nd Ave., Happy Valley.

IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 12 noon Wednesday, May 8, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., Portland for a catered lunch.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, May 13, in the Oregon AFL-CIO lower conference room, (elevator available), 3645 SE 32nd, Portland. (Please note new location.)

OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 21, at the AFSCME office,

6025 E Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 503-239-9858, ext. 124.

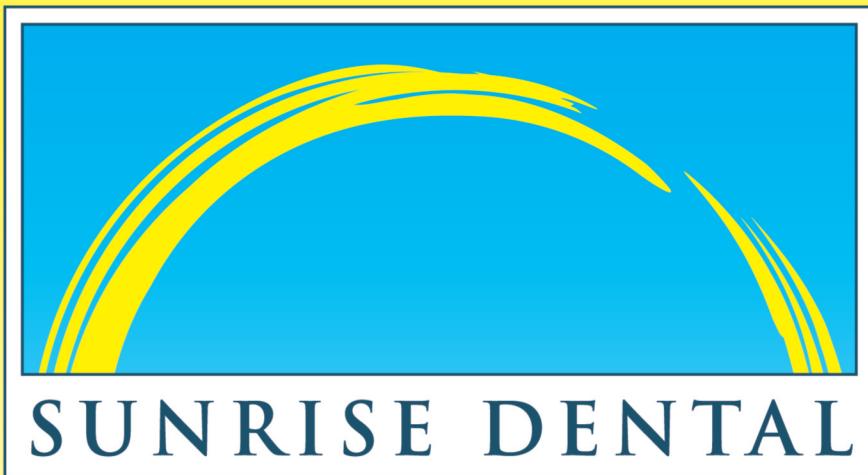
SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 9, at Elmer's Restaurant, 100th and Sandy Blvd., Portland.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, May 16, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Salem retirees meet at noon, Wednesday, May 8, at Almost Home Restaurant, 3310 Market St. NE, Salem.



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New officers and executive board members of Oregon AFSCME Council 75 take the oath of office at the conclusion of the council's biennial convention April 21. Delivering the oath is Executive Director Ken Allen. (Photos courtesy Oregon AFSCME Council 75)

Klatke elected president of Oregon AFSCME #75

BEND — Jeff Klatke is the new president of Oregon AFSCME Council 75.

Klatke, a member of AFSCME Local 3135 employed at Home Forward (formerly known as the Housing Authority of Portland), defeated Tina Turner-Morfit of Local 2376 (Corrections Security Plus) to win the open seat. He succeeds Gary Gillespie, who did not seek re-election.



JEFF KLATKE

The election was held at the Council's biennial convention

April 20 in Bend.

Gillespie, 61, works at the Eugene Public Library and is a member of AFSCME Local 1724. He's held a number of jobs with the City of Eugene since first hiring on in 1987, and he's held a number of titles with Local 1724 as well, including a couple of different stints as president of his local union.

He served as president — the Council's top post — for 12 years.

"It has been an honor to lead this organization, and it's a job I am proud to have held the past dozen years," says Gillespie. "But it's time for me to pull back a little on union responsibilities and make way for a new president."

During his tenure, Gillespie pushed to expand the membership, both by sheer numbers and internally by both age and interest. He's pleased, for example, that the Council takes stands on environmental issues, and he's proud that the Next Wave (under 35) movement was launched under his watch.

There were no changes in the next two spots in the Council's membership-based chain of command. Michael Hanna of Multnomah County Local 88 ran unopposed as first vice president; as did Bryan Branstetter of Local 3361 (Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution) as second vice president.

Annette Skillman of Local 2376 ran unopposed for secretary. She succeeds Marci Jo Carlton of Local 328 (OHSU), who did not seek re-election. In a contested race for treasurer, Marc Abrams

of Local 1085 (Oregon Justice Attorneys) defeated Debbie Hussey of Local 189 (City of Portland) in a close contest.

Those five statewide officers are joined on the Council's Executive Committee by six sector vice presidents, five congressional district vice presidents, and the retirees chapter president.

Over 200 delegates and alternates, along with Council 75 staff, guests and others, packed the Riverhouse Convention Center in Bend April 19-21 for the convention.

In delivering the convention's keynote address, AFSCME International President Lee Saunders said unions are under attack in ways not seen since the Great Depression.

"Last year, public sector union membership dropped for the first time ever since those statistics started being kept," Saunders warned. "We are done with 'fair weather friends.' This is not about party, this is about standing with us. If you don't, we don't care if there is a D or an R after your name, we're through. We stand together, or you don't stay with us."

Also speaking at the convention was Oregon U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley.

(Editor's Note: Don Loving, communications director of Oregon AFSCME Council 75, contributed to this report.)

Conflict at KBOO sparks effort to unionize

KBOO-FM, Portland's community non-profit radio station, may soon be a union shop. A petition filed April 18 asks the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to conduct a union election to determine whether the station's 10 employees want to join Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7901.

Employees contacted the union after station manager Lynn Fitch implemented a package of personnel policy changes over which they had no say. Among the changes: Paid maternity leave was cut in half to three weeks; paid sick leave was cut in half to 40 hours a year (and the number of hours of paid sick leave employees could accrue was cut to 40 from 480); and employees were designated as "at-will."

Eight of the 10 employees signed union authorization cards, and at an April 2 staff meeting, asked Fitch to voluntarily recognize the union. But that didn't happen. So on April 18, with a mass firing rumored to be in the works, the union asked the NLRB to oversee an election.

The April 22 meeting of the KBOO board of directors was packed with union supporters there to urge recognition. Retired letter carrier Jamie Partridge — one of a crew of volunteers who host the station's weekly Labor Radio program, said the board seemed resolute in backing the changes. Partridge predicts a protracted struggle at the station.

In an interview with the Labor Press, Fitch, the station manager, disputed any

suggestion that KBOO is not a progressive employer. One employee was given permission to bring her infant to work every day, for example. But the station — which was managed collectively by staff for several years prior to Fitch's hire as executive director last fall — has been in a prolonged decline financially and in listenership.

Given a mandate by KBOO's elected board to address the decline, Fitch said she set about to bring policies in line with what's sustainable, legal and standard at other non-profits. Further policy changes are frozen, however, while the union process is resolved. Under federal law, once workers give notice they want a union, an employer is supposed to hold off making changes until it can be determined whether it's supposed to negotiate those with a union. In most cases, the NLRB holds an election about six weeks after workers request it.

No election date has been scheduled.

To discuss the recent changes, the KBOO board has called a membership meeting for May 4 at 1 p.m., at Tabor Space, 5441 SE Belmont St., Portland.

Track CEO pay

The AFL-CIO released Executive PayWatch 2013, a searchable database tracking the excessive pay of corporate CEOs. To view the database and compare your own pay to that of a CEO, go to <http://tinyurl.com/cauuvka>.

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Union protests force feds to yank plan to allow knives on planes

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — Union protests, led by the Association of Flight Attendants, forced the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on April 24 to yank its plan to let airplane passengers bring small knives aboard planes.

Now AFA, an affiliate of Communications Workers of America (CWA) and its allies — Teamsters, Machinists, the Transport Workers, and Air Line Pilots — want to make sure the ban is permanent.

TSA won't admit that yet: It said it mishandled the rollout of the knife plan.

TSA Administrator John Pistole unveiled his knife plan on March 5. He also would allow small baseball bats onto planes. Terrorists and hijackers can use both knives and bats as weapons to overwhelm flight crews and take over planes, as the al-Qaeda terrorists used box cutters to commandeer planes on Sept. 11, 2001, the unions said.

"In order to accommodate further input from the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from the aviation community, passenger advocates, law enforcement experts, and other stakeholders, TSA will temporarily delay implementation of changes to the prohibited items list, originally scheduled to go into effect April 25," Pistole said

in a memo to his staff.

"In the face of a huge backlash from Flight Attendants, nearly every other stakeholder in aviation and the public, TSA postponed its plan to allow knives on U.S. flights," AFA said. "But the 90,000-member Flight Attendants Union Coalition, which opposed the ill-advised plan from the start, remains resolute: No knives on planes ever again.

"The United States has banned all knives from commercial flights since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks for good reason: Knives were the terrorists' weapons of choice in bringing down four jetliners and murdering thousands of Americans. All knives should be banned from planes permanently," the unions added.

If Pistole wants to enact "this drastic departure" in policy, he should try to do it the legal way, by putting his proposal out for public comment and reaction, which he did not, the coalition stated. If he did that, the coalition predicted, public reaction would reject it.

The coalition also garnered support against letting knives on planes from other unions, such as the Steelworkers, from passenger groups and from dozens of lawmakers. Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass) and Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) both said they would introduce legislation overturning Pistole's plan unless he withdrew it.



Kaiser dental hygienists protest

Dental hygienists at Kaiser Permanente demonstrated in front of Kaiser's headquarters in Northeast Portland April 24 to protest the health care provider's move to eliminate the periodontal hygienist classification within its dental system. Periodontal hygienists do specialized work in conjunction with periodontists to provide treatment of advanced gum disease. Twenty periodontal hygienists — in a bargaining unit of 140 registered dental hygienists — are members of the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals Healthcare Local 5017. The union filed a grievance claiming the action violates their collective bargaining agreement. The dispute has gone to binding arbitration. A date has not been set. "It is extremely disappointing that Kaiser has recently promoted Dr. (Kenneth) Wright to the vice president of Dental Services, while at the same time he is eliminating an entire classification of specialized care, which will clearly impact the quality of care that Kaiser Dental has historically provided," said Local 5017 Executive Director Edward Burke. The union pointed to Kaiser's own statistics showing the region's dental membership has increased from 190,000 in 2011 to 205,000 in 2013. "This growth is based on the excellent and focused care each patient receives," Burke said. The union said it plans to conduct more demonstrations at various dental clinics throughout the region on a random and unannounced basis. In the photo above from left to right, registered dental hygienists Jackie Farlinger-King and Kay Fun hold the union's banner along with Local 5017 organizers Jeff Carr and Sharon Culley, and Executive Director Burke.

Sizemore files bankruptcy to skirt paying unions

Perennial union foe Bill Sizemore filed bankruptcy April 9, listing assets of \$10,796 and debts of \$21 million — most of it to the Oregon Education Association (OEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in a set of court cases that have been under way

since 2000.

In 2002, a Multnomah County Circuit Court jury found that two groups controlled by Sizemore engaged in a pattern of racketeering, having used fraud and forgery to place two anti-union measures on the 2000 ballot. A judge ordered the groups to pay \$2.5 million in damages to the unions, and later found Sizemore personally liable. The amount was later reduced on appeal.

In 2009, OEA and AFT filed a new

lawsuit seeking \$18 million in damages, charging that Sizemore and his longtime funder, Nevada millionaire Loren Parks, hid and misused money funneled through Sizemore's new group to qualify a new set of 2008 ballot measures, all of which failed at the polls.

Sizemore told the Oregonian that his bankruptcy filing was part of a strategy to avoid potential debts from the unions' lawsuits.

"Hopefully I can draw a line and make this go away," Sizemore told reporter Jeff Mapes.

Sizemore declared bankruptcy once before: In 1987 a court discharged \$358,000 when he liquidated his carpet business. At the time of his 1998 run for governor, he also had about \$795,000 in debt for a defunct toy business, most of it owed to members of his church and softball league who had loaned him money.

But a person whose debts are the result of fraud can have a hard time qualifying for bankruptcy protection, Oregon AFSCME attorney Jennifer Chapman said.

In 2011, Sizemore pled guilty to three felony charges of tax evasion and spent 18 days in Marion County Jail. He previously spent a night in Multnomah County Jail in 2008 for contempt of court, after he refused a judge's repeated orders to file tax forms for a group he set up.

In the current bankruptcy filing, he also listed \$10,500 owed to the Oregon Department of Revenue and \$41,000 to the IRS.



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Republicans in Congress gunning for OT pay

Oregon Rep. Walden, Washington Rep. Herrera Butler cosponsor bill to replace overtime pay with comp time

WASHINGTON, D.C. — House Republicans have introduced a bill (H.R. 1406) that would end the 40-hour work week, dismantling an important component of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938 and hurting middle-class families across the country.

Sponsored by Rep. Martha Roby (Ala.), the dubiously-titled "Working Families Flexibility Act" (H.R. 1406) would remove the requirement that employers pay a cash premium for overtime work and instead allow them to

offer employees compensatory time off. The effect would be an FLSA that is undermined of its only incentive against excessive hours, and a cheaper way for employers to demand mandatory overtime.

The House Education and the Workforce Committee on April 17 passed H.R. 1406 out of committee on a partisan vote.

Democrats offered several amendments to give workers flexibility without jeopardizing their overtime pay. One, presented by Oregon Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, would protect comp time wages by requiring that unpaid overtime wages be deposited into an interest-bearing account, protected from bankruptcy.

"H.R. 1406 is effectively an interest-free loan made by a worker to his or her employer," Bonamici said. "While

holding these wages, employers can use the dollars for any purpose they choose. They can even deposit the wages into an account and keep the interest."

Republicans on the committee voted unanimously against each of the Democratic amendments.

Rep. George Miller of California, the senior Democrat on the committee, said the bill will not provide greater flexibility to working families.

"This bill is not about providing employees with greater flexibility. It's about providing employers with greater flexibility," he said.

H.R. 1406 could go to the House floor at any time. The bill has 166 cosponsors — all Republicans — including Oregon Congressman Greg Walden and Washington Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler.

Machinists International Union President Tom Buffenbarger wrote a letter to Congress encouraging them to vote against the bill.

"Employers can already work within the existing laws to allow workers adjusting work schedules around family needs without changing the 40-hour workweek," Buffenbarger wrote. "Comp time proposals let the employer decide whether workers can use any accrued compensatory time. Additionally, nothing would prevent the employer from forcing workers to take time off individually or limiting whether workers can use the compensatory time at all if it is too burdensome to the workload."

Eileen Appelbaum, a senior econo-

mist with the Center for Economic Policy and Research, says the bill is not just a problem for individual workers. "The labor market remains a wild card in an economy still struggling to solidify a fragile recovery," she said. "With nearly 12 million people counted as unemployed and another 7.6 million part-time workers looking for full-time hours, both Republicans and Democrats in Congress have promised to focus on job creation. This comp time bill does exactly the opposite. Instead of encouraging employers to increase hiring when business picks up and help jump start a more robust recovery, it gives them a strong incentive to increase the overtime hours of current employees instead."

Young union members to discuss future May 23

Young union members will talk about the future of organized labor and then "Party Like It's 1999" Thursday, May 23, at the Vancouver Hilton and Convention Center.

The event for young workers, put on by young workers, is sponsored by the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Y.O.U.N.G. (Young Organizing Unionists of the Next Generation). It is being held in conjunction with AFGE District 11's annual training day.

A panel of young union members

will be featured at a "Solidarity Symposium" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Following the symposium, AFGE District 11 will hold a political action committee benefit with music, dancing, light refreshments, and a silent auction.

"The theme — This is OUR Movement — was determined based upon the fact that it is we, the younger generation, that must step up and take responsibility, leadership roles, understand different methods of organizing and mobilizing which may resonate more with a younger demographic,"

said Amanda Schroeder, national women's advisory coordinator for AFGE District 11, and a member of the AFL-CIO's Oregon YELL (Young Emerging Labor Leaders).

The event is free and open to all young workers, laborers, student groups, and constituency groups. RSVP through Facebook at www.facebook.com/events/150670848430397/ or email Schroeder at amandaschroeder.nwacd11@yahoo.com. She also can be reached by phone at 503-936-0253.

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Labor Council issues endorsements for May 21 election

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC) issued endorsements for several ballot measures, and in several political races for the special election May 21.

Ballots are in the mail today. They must be at a county elections office or designated dropsite by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, for your vote to count. Postmarks don't count.

NOLC endorsed **Measure 26-152 — Restore Our Natural Areas** — put on the ballot by Metro to generate operating and maintenance funds for open space that it owns. The request for endorsement came from AFSCME Local 3580, which represents most employees at Metro.

If passed, homeowners in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties would pay 9.6 cents per \$1,000 of their home's assessed value. The owner of a \$200,000 house, for example, would pay an extra \$19.20 a year. The levy would raise \$10 million annually for five years.

Measure 26-152 is supported by

AFSCME 3580, IBEW 48, Oregon AFSCME Council 75, and Laborers Local 483.

NOLC also endorsed **Measure 3-423 in Oregon City**. The measure amends the City Charter to eliminate the automatic rollback of water rates to near 1994 levels.

A 1996 City Charter amendment enacted by Oregon City voters requires the City to roll back water rates to 1994 levels in 2014. The Charter also restricts water rate increases to no more than 3 percent per year without a vote of the people. The chief petitioner of the initiative was Dan Holladay. Holladay successfully led the May 2011 referendum that killed Clackamas County's \$5 annual vehicle registration fee assessment earmarked to help pay to replace the Sellwood Bridge.

The resetting of the water rates didn't occur in 1996. That's because shortly after the measure was adopted, a group of bond holders sued the City to avoid the rate setback and ensure that their bonds could be repaid. A federal

court judge ordered the City not to implement the provision until the bonds were repaid. Those bonds are scheduled to be repaid in 2014.

"If the rate setback goes into effect, it would decrease water revenue by approximately 27 percent, and those rates would not cover current operating costs and maintenance requirements, resulting in significant changes to the City's water system operations and maintenance programs," said Oregon City Commission President Kathy Roth, who made the appeal for endorsement to NOLC's Executive Board.

Roth said Oregon City has 154 miles of water pipe, with many over 40 years old and some over 100 years old. "Seventy-five miles of pipe are leaking and need replacement quickly," she said.

The request for endorsement came from AFSCME Local 350-2, which represents employees at Oregon City.

NOLC failed to garner enough support among delegates attending the March 25 night meeting to endorse **Measure 26-151**, a Portland City Council initiative to fluoridate Portland's water supply. The vote to endorse fell two votes shy of the required two-thirds majority.

The endorsement request was brought to the labor council by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555.

Measure 26-151 has received endorsements from Local 555, the Oregon Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals Local 5017; the Oregon Nurses Association; and Service Employees International Union Local 49 and Local 503. "This is a social justice campaign that advances public health, one that will benefit our communities, particularly children without access to proper dental care," said Theodora Ko Thompson, Local 503's Civil and Human Rights Committee co-chair.

NOLC endorsed the re-election of **Vivian Scott** to the North Clackamas School Board, Position 5. She is being challenged by businessman Steven Schroedl, director of the Cascade Heights Public Charter School.

North Clackamas is Oregon's fifth-largest school district, serving 17,300 students. Scott has served on the seven-member School Board since 2005 — the last two years as chair.

A former career counselor and music teacher, Scott has worked as an education and workforce development manager, including three years at Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. She holds a masters degree in Education from Humboldt State University and has carried union cards of the Retail Clerks Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in Northern California.

At its April 22 meeting, NOLC delegates endorsed three candidates for the five-member **Clackamas River Water** board of directors. **Larry Sowa, Kenneth Humberston, and Hugh Kalani** are running for full terms on the volunteer board. All three were appointed by the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners in November, following a

successful union-led recall of board member Patricia Holloway in March.

Last September, water district employees — members of AFSCME Local 350 — took a vote of "no confidence" in the board and demanded they all resign. Workers took the drastic action following years of in-fighting amongst board members that resulted in more than \$1 million spent on lawsuits and special audits. It reached a point where the board was unable to accomplish even routine business, which threatened the water district's ability to obtain liability insurance.

Two "friendly" board members — Barbara Kemper and board president Kami Kehoe — heeded the call and resigned in October. Holloway and board member Grafton Sterling refused to step down, which led to the recall. [An effort to recall Sterling at the same

time as Holloway failed due to a clerical error that disqualified the petition.]

Now, Sowa is running unopposed for Position 3, but Humberston (Position 4) and Kalani (Position 5) face opposition.

Kalani is being challenged by former Clackamas River Water board member Warren Mitchell, who was an ally of Holloway before losing his bid for re-election in 2009.

Humberston is being challenged by Sterling (yes, current board member Grafton Sterling). According to an Oregonian report, if Sterling, a former Oregon state trooper who has two years remaining on his term, wins the seat, he'll have to resign either his current seat or the new one. Either way, the board would have to appoint a replacement for a still-vacated seat.

Graduates of Labor Candidate School file for public office

For many years, unions have encouraged and supported members to run for public office. Last year, nine Oregon unions formed the Oregon Labor Candidate School. Participants undergo a six month course in the mechanics of political campaigns. Alumni

champion policies that positively impact the middle class and working Oregonians, including retirement security, living wages, a strong education system, access to quality and affordable health care, and collective bargaining rights.

The following are graduates of the Class of 2012 who have filed to run for office.

Trish Stephens of **Oregon School Employees Association** is running for **Amity School Board**, Position 1. Stephens is a special education instructional assistant in the Willamina School District. She faces one other candidate for the open board seat.

Erick Flores, a member of the **Oregon Education Association**, is running for an open seat on the **Parkrose School Board**. Flores is a teacher in the David Douglas School District. Two other candidates are seeking the Position 5 seat.

Nicole (Nikki) Milam, an office secretary with the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**, is running for **Medford School Board**, Position 1. The board has been divided in recent months over the performance of its superintendent. Milam is in a three-person race that includes the incumbent.

Francisco (Frank) Acosta is a member of **Portland Federation of School Professional Local 111** running unopposed for the **Multnomah Education Service District Board**, Position 3. A campus monitor at Franklin High School, Acosta also attends Corban University and is pursuing a masters degree in education.

Teachers unions endorse in several school board races

The Portland Association of Teachers has endorsed **Steve Buel, Pam Knowles, and Tom Koehler** for Portland Public Schools board. The teachers union also endorsed Nels Johnson and Francisco (Frank) Acosta Jr. for the Multnomah Education Service District board.

The Beaverton Education Association has endorsed **Tom Colett, Anne Bryan, Susan Greenberg, and LeeAnn Larson** for school board seats.

The Hillsboro Education Association has endorsed **Jaime Rodriguez, Rebecca Lantz and Janeen Sollman** for school board seats.

The Tigard-Tualatin Education Association has endorsed **Barry Albertson, David Matheson and Maureen Wolf** to school board seats.

Portland Community College Federation of Faculty and Academic Professionals Local 2277 has endorsed **Kali Thorne Ladd** for PCC director, Zone 2.

Reynolds Education Association endorsed **Diego Hernandez** for Reynolds School District Board of Directors Position 2.

Union activist takes a run at Hillsboro School Board seat

Jaime Rodriguez, a member of the Portland Community College Federation of Faculty and Academic Professionals Local 2277, American Federation of Teachers (AFT), is running for the Hillsboro School Board, Position 2.



JAIME RODRIGUEZ

Hillsboro School District serves 23,000 students at four high schools, four junior high schools, 25 elementary schools, an alternate school, and an online charter school.

Rodriguez works as an employment specialist at Portland Community College's Workforce Development Department, where he has helped hundreds of job seekers and students since 1999.

He serves as vice president of political action for Local 2277, and represents the local as a delegate to the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC), which endorsed his candidacy.

This is Rodriguez' first foray into elected office.

Rodriguez is a graduate of the first class (2012) of the Oregon Labor Candidates School. OLCS trains, prepares, and empowers rank-and-file union members representing all sectors of the economy to run for elected office. Participants learn practical skills for running for office — from fundraising, to communications, to campaign planning.

"I got a lot out of it," Rodriguez said. "I think I'm a better candidate for it."

Rodriguez, who has a bachelor's degree in public administration/political science from Fresno City College in California, is active in the

Democratic Party in Washington County.

As a founding member of the Oregon chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, a constituency group of the AFL-CIO and Change to Win labor federation, Rodriguez volunteered to do outreach to the Latino community for Suzanne Bonamici in her January 2012 special election victory for Congress.

Later in 2012 he was elected a delegate from Oregon (and a labor delegate) to the National Democratic Convention in Charlotte, N.C..

"The speeches at the convention were highly motivating," he said. "I listened to President Obama and it really inspired me. I came back (to Oregon) and the opportunity to run for school board came up."

Rodriguez has lived in the Hillsboro School District for 15 years. His daughter is a junior at Century High School. He has served on the Hillsboro School District Citizen's Advisory Curriculum Committee and the Ladd Acres Elementary site council.

Rodriguez is one of three candidates seeking the open seat for Position 2. The other candidates are businessman Glenn Miller and internet consultant and charter school board president Miklosch Sander.

In addition to NOLC, Rodriguez has endorsements from Local 2477; the Hillsboro Classified Employees Association; Hillsboro Education Association; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48; and Painters and Tapers Local 10.

For more information about Rodriguez, or to donate to his campaign, go to his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/JaimeRodriguezforSchoolBoard.

Five protesters arrested at Salem mail processing facility

SALEM — Five people were arrested for trespassing at the Salem mail processing plant April 17. The “occupiers” were protesting the scheduled June closure of the facility, which will eliminate approximately 100 union jobs and delay mid-Willamette Valley mail delivery.

About 40 protesters held a noon-time rally at the front entrance to Salem’s main post office at 1050 25th Street, SE. They carried signs and chanted “Save Salem’s mail, or go to jail.” Among the protesters were State Reps. Brian Clem of Salem and Val Hoyle of Eugene. Clem’s father was a letter carrier in Coos Bay for more than 40 years.

“Postal management needs to stop and reverse these closures and cuts which are sending our beloved postal service into a death spiral,” said Rev.



Retired letter carrier Jamie Partridge was among five people arrested April 17 for refusing to leave a mail processing plant in Salem that is slated for closure in June. The five were taken to the Marion County jail and cited for trespassing. (Photo courtesy of Greg Zurbrugg)

John Schwiebert, one of five protesters who went inside the sorting plant and unfurled banners reading: “No closures! No cuts!” and “Save Salem’s Mail!”

The five protesters demanded that acting-manager Rick DeWolfe suspend the closure and allow Congress to fix postal finances. DeWolfe said the closure was not his decision. When they refused to leave, DeWolfe had them arrested for trespassing.

In addition to Schwiebert, those arrested were retired letter carrier Jamie Partridge, Rosalie Pedrosa of the Service Employees International Union, AF-SCME retiree Jack Herbert, and Fernando Gapsin, an organizer for the

Oregon School Employees Association.

Since July, the USPS has closed 114 mail sortation facilities, one third of the nation’s mail processing capacity. The agency announced in March that it was accelerating plans to close even more mail processing facilities. The USPS said it will consolidate 71 plants this year that were originally scheduled for possible closure in 2014. Salem, Bend and Pendleton plants are on that list.

(Editor’s Note: State Reps. Hoyle and Clem introduced House Joint Memorial 15, with 30 co-sponsors, urging Congress to pass the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013.)

DeFazio files bill to save USPS; starts ‘We The People’ petition

Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio has filed a bill (H.R. 630) to end the requirement that the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) pre-fund 75 years of retiree health care benefits. The mandate, passed by Congress in 2006, is unprecedented, as no other private or public entity has to meet such a standard. It is the key factor driving Postal Service deficits and defaults and has led to proposals to end Saturday service, close rural post offices, and lay off postal workers.

DeFazio met with supporters at a rally April 30 at the State Capitol in Salem, where he asked the crowd to sign a “We the People” petition to the White House.

The petition: “Save the Postal Service — Save American Jobs,” must obtain 100,000 signatures in order to be reviewed by officials in the Obama Administration and have an official response issued. (Obama favors ending

Saturday mail delivery.)

The petition reads: “About 80% of USPS financial losses since 2007 are due to a Congressional mandate to pre-fund 75 years of future retiree health benefits over 10 years. In 2012 USPS lost a record \$15.9 billion, but \$11.1 billion of that loss went to pre-fund healthcare. This must change.

“USPS shouldn’t move to 5-day delivery. This would only save 3%, risk further revenue losses, and slow mail delivery.

“USPS needs to re-establish overnight delivery standards to ensure the timely delivery of mail and prevent the closure of mail plants.

“USPS needs to generate more revenue by ending a 2006 ban prohibiting USPS from offering new products and services.

“Does the Administration support HR 630 and S 316 to make these

changes, save American jobs, and allow USPS to remain competitive?”

The petition was created on April 24. As of press time it had 13,333 signatures. It must reach 100,000 signatures by May 24 to qualify for a response.

Go to <http://wh.gov/t95i> and follow the instructions to sign the petition.

Letter Carriers Food Drive May 11

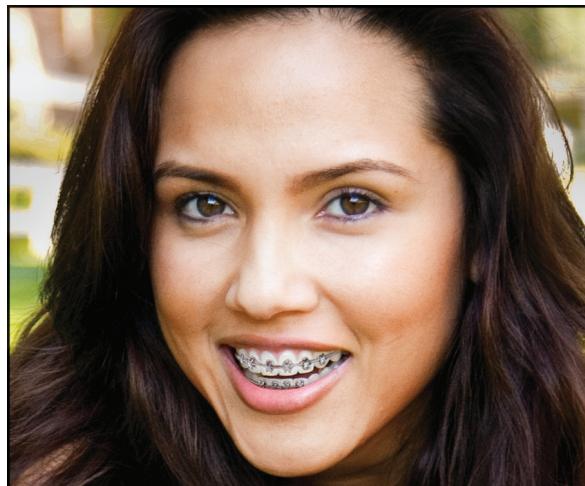
Letter carriers in the Portland metropolitan area and in Clark County, Washington will help “Stamp Out Hunger” on Saturday, May 11, part of the 21st annual National Association of Letter Carriers and U.S. Postal Service Food Drive.

Prior to May 11, plastic bags will be delivered to every household, along with a postcard reminder. All you have to do is fill the bag with nonperishable food items such as canned meat, fish and soup, cereals, pasta and rice, and leave it at your mailbox on the morn-

ing of Saturday, May 11. (Please do not include glass items, homemade items or previously opened containers.)

Letter Carriers will collect the bags and deliver them to drop points, where volunteers will sort the donations and forward them to the Oregon Food Bank. Food collected in Clark County will benefit Clark County hunger-relief agencies.

The Food Drive is the largest one-day food collection of the year in Oregon — and across the nation.



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