

# NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

## IN THIS ISSUE

**LABOR 100 YEARS AGO** A look back at the front page stories of the Oregon Labor Press, Feb. 5, 1916. | Page 9

A digital version of the front page can be seen on our web site at [www.nwlabourpress.org](http://www.nwlabourpress.org)

Mayoral debate p.3 Meeting Notices p.6

VOLUME 117, NUMBER 3

PORTLAND, OREGON

FEBRUARY 5, 2016

# Workers at Portland Specialty Baking ready for union vote

Taken totally by surprise, company wages an intense — and formulaic — anti-union campaign

By Don McIntosh  
Associate editor

On Monday, Jan. 11, two dozen workers at Portland Specialty Baking surprised company president Josh Richardson in his office, announced that they and their co-workers intend to form a union, and asked him to respect their choice. By the end of the week, they had their answer: The company lawyered up, hired a union-busting consultant, and began a cookie-cutter anti-union campaign.

The company employs 180 production workers at its Gresham industrial bakery making pretzels, cakes, bagels, and muffins for Starbucks, Franz, Safeway, Costco and Winco. It's an overwhelmingly immigrant workforce, with pay hovering around \$10 an hour.

Workers had been meeting with union organizers for up to eight months, yet not a whisper of that ever reached management's ears. If that doesn't show how little the company knows its workforce,



Workers at Portland Specialty Baking are voting on whether or not to form a union with Bakers Local 114.

this does: It put out anti-union fliers in English, despite the fact that as many as 12 languages are spoken on the shop floor. [By contrast, the union campaign has spent over \$14,000 on interpreters, and puts out its written messages in five

languages.]

"We believe having a union at Portland Specialty Baking would change our culture, and not in a good way," one company flier says. "Instead of all working together, it could turn into 'us' versus

'them,' and we don't want that to happen."

Other elements of the company's messaging follow the usual formula: Try to scare workers with what-ifs, plead with workers to give the company another chance to make things better *without* a union, and emphasize union dues, while ignoring the union wages that might make those dues a bargain.

By week two, management was holding mandatory-attendance anti-union group meetings almost daily before each shift, and summoning workers one by one to meet with managers during the work day.

The union campaign is led by organizers dispatched by the national and state AFL-CIO. Bakers Local 114, the union the workers want to join, represents workers at other industrial bakeries in the area. Its members at Franz, Safeway, Bimbo/ Oroweat, and Kroger are paid wages more than twice what workers at Portland Specialty Baking make.

Over 100 Portland Specialty Baking workers have signed union cards, and

Turn to Page 4

There's a lot at stake for working people in the month-long session of the Oregon Legislature that began Feb. 1. Labor lobbyists and legislators are hopeful that a major increase to the minimum wage may pass, as well as bills to crack down on wage theft and give cities the right to mandate the construction of affordable housing. Here are some of the top items legislators will discuss between now and March 5:

### Minimum wage

Thanks to a union-backed 2002 ballot measure, Oregon's minimum wage now stands at \$9.25 and rises with inflation. But it's still so low that a single worker working full-time year-round qualifies for food stamps. Oregon lawmakers failed last year to raise the minimum wage. But the prospect of not one but two ballot measures has stiffened their spines. One ballot measure would raise the wage to \$15 over three years; the other would raise it to \$13.50 over two years, and lift a state ban on local jurisdictions going higher. On Jan. 14, Gov. Kate Brown announced her own proposal: a two-tiered raise in the minimum wage over six years. Under her proposal, by 2022, the minimum would rise to \$13.50

## Oregon Legislature: A lot at stake for working folks



statewide and \$15.52 in the Portland metro area (within the urban growth boundary.) Brown's proposal doesn't lift the ban on local minimum wages.

### Wage theft

The law says employers have to pay employees at least minimum wage for hours worked, with paid breaks, time-and-a-half for overtime after 40 hours, and the "prevailing" wage and benefits on government construction projects. But the law only works if it's obeyed, and evidence is mounting that there's

an epidemic of employer wage and hour violations known as "wage theft" — especially in construction, restaurant work, and agriculture. Last year, lawmakers were asked to crack down on wage theft, but instead they backed down, under pressure from employer groups. This time, led by labor lawmakers like State Sen. Michael Dembrow, a bill is being reintroduced that contains the least controversial elements of last year's rejected bills. Business lobbyists representing Associated Building Industries and Associated Oregon Industries still testified against it at a Jan. 13 pre-session hearing, but labor unions and allies are making it a bigger priority. The bill would

require employers to provide workers with detailed pay stubs spelling out pay rates, hours worked, and any deductions. Employers would have to maintain those records for three years, and make them available within 45 days upon request by employees. The bill would give the state Bureau of Labor and Industries the power to require repeat offenders to post a bond guaranteeing their workers will be paid. It would also free up funds to increase enforcement,

Turn to Page 2

# NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)

Established in 1900 in Portland, Oregon as a voice of the labor movement. Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co. Inc., a non-profit mutual benefit corporation owned by 20 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 120 union organizations in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

**Office location:**  
4275 NE Halsey St., Portland, Oregon

**Mailing address:**  
P.O. Box 13150, Portland, OR 97213  
Phone: (503) 288-3311

**Web address:**  
<http://nwlaborpress.org>

**Editor & Manager:** Michael Gutwig  
**Associate editor:** Don McIntosh  
**Office manager:** Cheri Rice

Printed on recycled paper, using soy-based inks, by members of Teamsters Local 747-M.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Individual subscriptions are \$13.75 per year for union members, \$20 a year for all others. Send a check for that amount, indicating mailing address and union affiliation, to P.O. Box 13150, Portland, OR 97213. For 25 or more subscriptions, group rates of \$9.60 a year per person are available to trade union organizations. Call 503-288-3311 for details.

**CORRECTIONS:** See an error? Please let us know at [editor@nwlaborpress.org](mailto:editor@nwlaborpress.org) or by phone at 503-288-3311.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID  
AT PORTLAND, OREGON.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE:** Three weeks are required for a change of address. When ordering a change, please give your old and new addresses and the name and number of your local union.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to  
NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS  
P.O. BOX 13150  
PORTLAND, OR 97213-0150



# ...Oregon Legislature: A lot at stake for workers

From Page 1

and it would make certain prevailing wage violations a Class C felony.

## Unemployment for locked-out workers

State Rep. Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis) is pushing a bill that will help the 180 locked-out union Steelworkers at ATI Technologies in Albany. Currently workers who are locked out by their employers in a labor dispute — through no fault of their own — are eligible for six months of unemployment. Rayfield's bill would extend that to 12 months. That could make a real difference for the ATI workers, who believe their employer has a strategy to starve them out once their unemployment benefits run out this month.

## Inclusionary zoning

In Portland and around the state, there's a housing affordability crisis under way: Rents and home prices are fast becoming unaffordable to many working people. With labor support, housing activists tried but failed last year to get lawmakers to



Several hundred supporters of a \$15 minimum wage rallied at the State Capitol in Salem on Jan 14.

move a ban on local governments mandating that a certain percentage of new units be affordable. But the problem has only gotten worse. This month, they'll consider a bill to let cities mandate that up to 30 percent of new units meet a definition of

affordable. The bill is backed by the Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, and the Service Employees International Union.

Oregon AFL-CIO Political Director Graham Trainor said it's a symptom of how rampant income inequality has become

that lawmakers are ready to take up such momentous issues in a one-month off-year legislative session.

"We can't wait another year for movement on the most pressing issues facing working people," Trainor said.

## IRS PROBLEMS?

- Haven't filed for ... years?
- Lost records?
- Liens - Levies - Garnishments?
- Negotiate settlements.
- Prepare offer in Compromise.

**Call Nancy D. Anderson**  
Enrolled Agent  
NPTI Fellow/America's Tax Expert  
LTC-1807

[www.nancydanderson.com](http://www.nancydanderson.com)  
**503-244-2577**



## We Shop the Insurance Companies for You!

We'll find the right coverage at the best price for all your personal insurance needs.

- Independent agency
- Fully union owned by Teamsters Federal Credit Union

**Insurance Agency**

503-251-2398  
Toll Free 866-312-2399  
[www.cuinsuranceagency.com](http://www.cuinsuranceagency.com)

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family



## Too Many Credit Card Payments? Now's the Time to Take Control of Your Credit Card Debt

### VISA BALANCE TRANSFER PROMOTION

- No Balance Transfer Fees
- Low Interest Rates
- Convenience Of One Monthly Payment
- Very easy process...contact the Credit Union for complete details

**Apply Today...503-253-8193 ext. 340**



9955 SE Washington Street \* Portland, OR 97216  
(503) 253-8193 \* (800) 356-6507

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family

# Two Portland mayoral candidates square off at labor council meeting

Portland mayoral candidate Jules Bailey questioned whether his opponent, State Treasurer Ted Wheeler, is committed to staying in office for more than one term if he is elected in November. Bailey made the remark at a debate Jan. 25 held by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council prior to its monthly delegates' meeting. More than 100 people were in attendance.

Responding to a question about the combative relationship between workers and management at the city, both candidates agreed that labor relations are broken, and that the next mayor needs to be more actively engaged in a leadership role to fix it.

"We currently have a culture at City Hall that is standing in the way of progress," Bailey said. "(Portland) needs a mayor who is going to be there, not just for four years, but for eight years. We've had too many one-term mayors, and we need somebody for whom being mayor is their first choice —

and is really going to make it a priority to have a mayor who is really going to change the culture."

Wheeler fired back in his rebuttal. "I think that was a jab at me, but I'm not sure. So let's review the videotape. Jules, in the last three months, according to the newspapers, you have looked at running for Multnomah County chair, Metro president, county commissioner, which you did, and a year and three months into your first term as a district county commissioner you are now running for mayor. So, I don't think you're in a position to talk to me about my commitment to a political job."

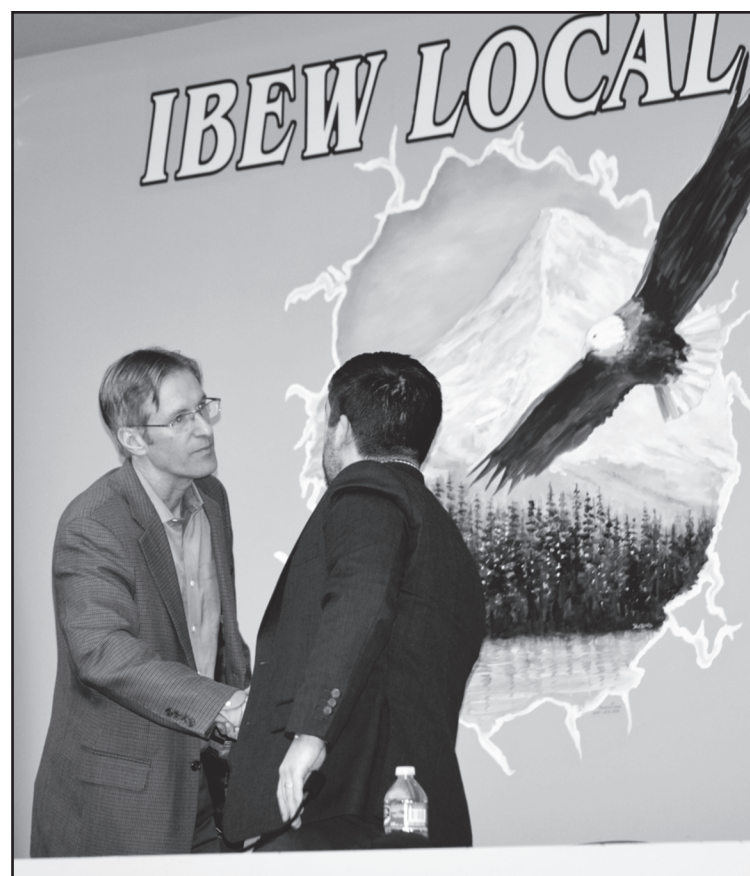
Wheeler, 53, served for 3-1/2 years as Multnomah County chair before being appointed treasurer. [Gov. Ted Kulongoski appointed him to the post following the death of Ben Westlund.] He was re-elected in 2012, but is term-limited from running again. It is no secret that he has aspirations to someday run for governor.

Bailey, 36, is a former state legislator serving in his first term as a Multnomah County commissioner.

Right now, both men want to succeed Mayor Charlie Hales, who is not seeking re-election after one term.

Both candidates are Democrats and are well-respected in the labor community. Both say they are committed to helping working families, and both point to their political track records for proof.

They are in broad agreement on most labor issues. They oppose right-to-work laws; they believe workers who don't want to belong to a union should at least have to pay "fair share" fees; they don't support contracting out unless it is a unique situation that can't be done in-house, and then done responsibly; they support project labor agreements, community policing, and a variety of other issues. Both candidates also have made housing affordability and income inequality key features



Portland mayoral candidates Ted Wheeler (left) and Jules Bailey shake hands following a 90-minute debate Jan. 25 hosted by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

of their campaign. (See NW Labor Press, Jan. 15, 2016, or read online at [www.nwlabourpress.org/2016/01/mayor](http://www.nwlabourpress.org/2016/01/mayor) for more on where they stand.)

Since they can't draw much distinction between their public policies, the candidates touted their leadership skills, experience, and ability to collaborate. Both gave shining examples of their work at Multnomah County.

"Labor relations reported to me as chair of Multnomah County," Wheeler said. "When I got there, we had a dysfunctional board, a lack of communication, silo leadership, labor practices that were concerning to people, lots of grievances, unfair labor practices, and bargaining that, at best, was sticky. By the time I left, three-and-a-half-years later, we had signed long-term contracts, every labor leader met with me on a monthly basis, I had an open-door policy, every labor leader had my personal cell phone so we could address problems for issues before they bubbled up into something significant."

Wheeler said the City of Portland has a similar situation. "I will do what I did at Multnomah County and rebuild that operation, improve communications and performance. You won't have to wonder if I'll do it, because it's something I've already done."

Bailey said as commissioner he was the first to propose paid family leave at the county, at a

"We've had too many one-term mayors, and we need somebody for whom being mayor is their first choice — and is really going to make it a priority ... to change the culture."

— Mayoral candidate  
Jules Bailey

time when no other public jurisdiction had it.

"The word I got back from management was, 'that's something we're going to have to bargain over.' I said absolutely not. There will be plenty of things to bargain over. This is just the right thing to do. Let's work with our labor partners and let's get it done. We did it. We got it done. The city followed suit. That's the kind of thing that can happen when labor and management work together."

The two candidates also sparred over campaign contributions.

Bailey said he was limiting contributions to \$250 per person. Wheeler said he is not limiting campaign contributions, but will publicly disclose all contributions — and will not take any third party money.

"The biggest threat to you is dark money coming in through independent expenditure ac-

## INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT LIVING

### Westmoreland's Union Manor

6404 SE 23rd Ave.  
Portland 97202  
503•233•5671

### Kirkland Union Plaza

1414 Kauffman Ave.  
Vancouver 98660  
360•694•4314

## Manors Make the Difference

- Studio and One-Bedroom Apartments
- Affordable Rent includes Utilities (EXCEPT PHONE AND CABLE)
- Planned Events, Clubs, and Activities
- Ideal Locations offer easy access to Bus Lines, Shopping, and Entertainment
- No Costly Buy-In or Application Fees
- Federal Rent Subsidies Available (MUST QUALIFY)




### KIRKLAND UNION PLAZA

*Opened in March of 2002*



LABOR LEADERS IN THE PORTLAND BUILDING TRADE MOVEMENT ORGANIZED THE UNION LABOR RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION IN 1962, WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.

"We believe that everyone earns the right to retire, free from pressures of earlier years." 

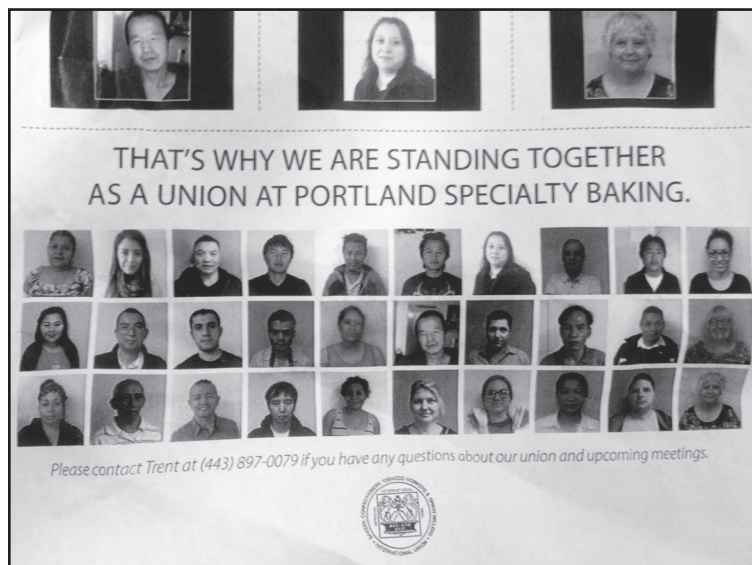
### Kirkland Union Manors

3530 SE 84th Ave.  
Portland 97266  
503•777•8101

### Marshall Union Manor

2020 NW Northrup  
Portland 97209  
503•225•0677

WWW.THEUNIONMANORS.ORG



**WE ARE THE UNION:** Thirty-three workers at Portland Specialty Baking publicly declare their support for unionizing in a pro-union flier.

## ...Bakery vote this week

From Page 1

three dozen of them turned out to a high-spirited Jan. 16 union organizing meeting. At the meeting, workers laid out why they want a union: better treatment, better equipment, better scheduling practices, and better pay and benefits.

Safety is also a major issue. Many workers on the bagel baking line have permanent scars from burns, and at least three workers were significantly injured by a bagel dough cutting machine before the company installed an emergency stop device. Last March, Oregon OSHA fined the company \$28,125 for willfully violating the law after a worker's hand was crushed in that machine. The agency found that despite a pattern of injuries, the employer continued to ignore safety rules and failed to provide adequate safety training.

Since the company refused to voluntarily recognize the union,

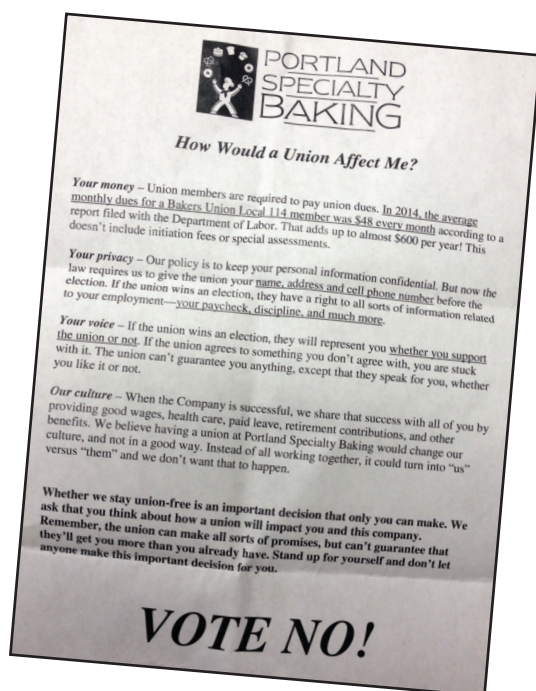
the campaign asked the National Labor Relations Board to conduct a union election. The agency set a vote for Feb. 4 — after this issue went to press.

*(Editor's Note: Portland Specialty Baking shows a street address of 3423 NE 172nd Place, Portland. However, the business is located in Gresham city limits. In 2010, the Gresham City Council granted the company a five-year tax abatement when the company upgraded its production line with a \$1.2 million investment. Portland Specialty Baking saved about \$76,000 in property taxes, and paid the city \$6,700 in community service fees.)*

### DID THEY WIN? FIND OUT ONLINE

We had to send this issue to the printer on Feb. 2, before voting took place on Feb. 4. Visit [nwlaborpress.org/2016/01/portland-specialty-baking-vote-results](http://nwlaborpress.org/2016/01/portland-specialty-baking-vote-results) to see if they won. And/or look to our Feb. 19 issue for the full story.

A company anti-union flier urges workers to vote "no."



## ... Mayoral debate at NW Labor Council

From Page 3

counts, where you don't know who the source of it is," Wheeler said. "That's why I signed Elizabeth Warren's 'People's Pledge.' I am not taking any third party money; I'm not taking 'dark money.' I asked my opponent to sign that pledge with me, he declined."

Bailey pushed back. "I think we can recognize a campaign stunt when we see it," he said. "The reality is that Oregon election laws are the most transparent in our country. I think its really important that we have candidates who are going to live by their values. My values say that I'm not getting bought by large, huge contributions of ten thousand dollars or more from big developers and big corporations."

Asked what they see as the major cultural difference between state, county and city governments, Bailey said some of the city's most successful mayors have had a legislative background, such as his.

"I think the biggest thing to understand, is being mayor of Portland isn't about being an executive. It's about being a leader. And someone who is a collaborator who can work with City Council to get things done ... it's

"The biggest threat to you is dark money coming in through independent expenditure accounts, where you don't know who the source of it is. That's why I signed Elizabeth Warren's 'People Pledge.' I'm not taking any dark money ... I asked my opponent to sign that pledge with me, he declined."

— Mayoral candidate  
Ted Wheeler

about coalition building," he said.

Wheeler said Portland has a unique form of government. "On one hand, it requires you to be a legislator, on the other hand it also requires you to be a manager or a leader. Day one when you're elected ... you're put in charge of a bureau or bureaus that may have hundreds of employees, and budgets of one hundred-million-dollar-plus magnitude— in some cases approaching a billion dollars. And you may or may not have man-

aged anything larger than a three-person shop. And, so from my perspective, it's the marriage of the legislative issue with the leadership and the management issue. And there's a lot of questions when someone is elected mayor. We've had successful mayors; we've had unsuccessful mayors. I think you already know how I am going to perform (referencing his time as county chair and as treasurer)."

In rebuttal, Bailey said he appreciated that Wheeler has been an executive, "including an executive at Bank of America. I'm not positive that's the exact kind of executive experience that we need."

"I was not an executive at the Bank of America," Wheeler retorted. "I was 20 years old and I was the research assistant and the guy who knew how to make Lotus 1-2-3 work."

At the conclusion of the hour-long debate the candidates shook hands, said they respected each other, and that they considered themselves friends.

"Although we've taken some jabs at each other tonight, I hope, mostly good-naturedly," Bailey said, "I think the House of Labor should feel good about the fact that you have two candidates who I think are both committed to working families."

NOW HIRING

BUS now-I'm-really-going-places DRIVERS.

TRIMET

[trimet.org/driveforus](http://trimet.org/driveforus)



"I believe that when people have benefits from organizational representation, it's not unfair to ask them to participate in the costs of the association that gave them those benefits."

— Washington Governor  
Jay Inslee

## SW Washington union officials meet with Gov. Inslee

VANCOUVER — In an hour-long meeting Jan. 13 with Southwest Washington union officials, Gov. Jay Inslee said he supports an initiative to raise the minimum wage, he supports paid sick leave for workers, and he will continue to work to find consensus for an I-5 replacement bridge.

The meeting was arranged by the Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington. Chairman Ed Barnes said it is the first time in 18 years that a sitting governor has met with labor leaders in Southwest Washington.

Inslee, a first-term Democrat from Seattle, said despite the country's growing economy, working people simply aren't benefitting.

"Frankly, it's going to the higher echelon in the corporations," he said. "In 1965, the difference between the average workers' wage to that of the CEO was 20 to 1. Today it's 300 to 1."

According to Inslee, Washingtonians are producing more products and services per hour than at any time in the state's history. "Yet, the real wages for many, many working people are not keeping pace with inflation. They're less than they were 10 years ago in real dollar terms for a variety of segments of our population," he said. "So it's my view that we have to work on some policies that will make sure that this economy works for everyone."

Inslee said the U.S. Supreme Court could further hurt the middle class if it rules in favor of *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*. In this case, the court could impose a right-to-work standard for all public employees. Workers earn less in right-to-work states, and research indicates the middle-class share of income has declined as union membership has declined.

"I believe that when people have benefits from organizational representation, it's not unfair to ask them to participate in the costs of the association that gave them those benefits," he said.

"If it goes the wrong way, against working people,



we're going to have to do some hard thinking here," he continued. "We cannot allow this continued diminution of the middle class in this country."

Inslee said a multibillion dollar transportation package passed by the Legislature last year was the largest in the history of the state and will create 200,000 jobs.

Asked about the failure to include an I-5 replacement bridge between Vancouver and Portland, Oregon, Inslee blamed Southwest Washington legislators. "I want to make it really clear what happened here: The state was ready to move on this. I was ready to move on this. We had the 'go' button. We had the money. The local legislators killed it," he said.

Inslee said that if he is re-elected in November he will do everything he can to help jump-start the project. "I will try to be as positive as I can to come up with a unified plan that can have unified support," he said. "But you've got to have a real financing plan, okay? And that's going to be a challenge. It's a very expensive project now that the federal money has probably disappeared."

Asked about the controversial Vancouver Energy Project at the Port of Vancouver, which if approved

would be built all union under a project labor agreement, Inslee said: "I have to be extremely judicious on my comments on this subject because I serve in a quasi-judicial position. So, I literally can't say anything about it. I can share with you this right now: I do not have any pre-determined view on the subject right now. I have an open mind about this subject."

The governor has final say over the \$210 million project proposed by Tesoro Corp. in a joint venture with logistics firm Savage Cos. The energy infrastructure project has been endorsed by the Washington Building and Construction Trades Council and the Southwest Washington Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Asked about proposed carbon taxes or caps and the impact on industrial and high tech jobs, Inslee said there are two proposals being floated. One is a citizen's initiative (I-732) that is a tax on carbon. The other is a plan being drafted by the state that would set limits on some of the largest emitters in the state.

"What we are doing ... it is not a tax, it doesn't have a direct revenue application. It is a permitting system that over time would reduce emission of carbon dioxide," Inslee said.

"I'll tell you this, I'm not going to do something that's going to woefully injure the economy of the state of Washington — I'm not going to do that."

Inslee said he has looked at other states and counties that have implemented similar policies "and we have not seen economic dislocation associated with their programs."

On other topics, Inslee said he fought hard to get modest raises for teachers, and that he will continue to fight in this legislative session to create a framework to fully fund the state's public education system.

"Washington is short 7,000 teachers in the classroom," he said. "We hire new teachers, and they leave in five years because they aren't being paid adequately. We have

## UNION MEETING NOTICES

### AFSCME 189

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9.  
General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23.  
Meetings are at 6025 E Burnside, Portland.

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

Executive Board meets 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, followed by an 8:30 General Membership meeting at the Comfort Inn on 82nd Avenue. **PLEASE NOTE:** One vacant Executive Board position will be filled at this meeting. Please contact the Local if interested.

### Cement Masons 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

### Electrical Workers 48

RENEW meets 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month in the Executive Boardroom.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month in the Executive Boardroom.

Coast Unit meets 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Hall.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the Dispatch Lobby.

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month in the Meeting Hall.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

Washington Unit meet 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at the Longview Meeting Hall, 1145 Commerce Ave, Longview, WA.

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Hall.

General Membership Meeting meets 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Meeting Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

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

**DEATH ASSESSMENTS:** The following death assessments have been declared for February: No. 2463; Raymond L. Knudsen; No. 2464; Henry R. Phillips; No. 2465; John T. Kiphart; No. 2466; Edward D. Rasmussen; No. 2467; Charles J. Thompson II; No. 2468; Ronald J. Harmsen; and No. 2469; Albert R. Cole. The Feb. assessment is \$1.50.

### Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, preceded by 5 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

### Fire Fighters 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at 2807

NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver.

### Fire Fighters 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

### Glass Workers 740

Executive Board members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

The following meetings are **SPECIAL CALL** to vote for Delegate to DC5 and Local President.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Best Western Plus, Mill Creek Inn, 3125 Ryan Drive SE, Salem. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

### Insulators 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10. Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12.

Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

### Iron Workers 29

Members meet 7 p.m., Thursday, March 3, 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, Feb. 11. Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25.

Meetings are at 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, Portland, OR.

### Laborers 483 Municipal Employees

Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

### Laborers/Vancouver 335

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

### Linoleum Layers 1236

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25.

**SPECIAL CALL TO VOTE FOR 2 E-BOARD POSITIONS and WAGE NOMINATION AND ALLOCATION**

Meetings are at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

### Office & Professional Employees Local 11

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at 3815 Columbia St., Vancouver. **PLEASE NOTE:** Nominations will be held at this meeting for the following positions: Utilities (2 year term); Public Employees (2 year term); Labor Organizations (2 year term); At-

Large (2 year term); and Trustee (3 year term).

### Operating Engineers 701

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8, at North Bend/Coos Bay Labor Center, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Holiday Inn Express, 285 Peninger Rd., Central Point.

### Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: [www.iupatocallo.org](http://www.iupatocallo.org)

### Sign Painters & Paint Makers 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

### Plasterers 82

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

### Plumbers and Fitters 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin. The following locations will be able to participate remotely in the Regular Business Meeting at 7:30 on the 3rd Friday of every month: Bend, Eugene/Springfield, Eureka, Medford, and Salem.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane, Astoria.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23. Please contact Craig Spjut at 707-496-1767 for location information.

Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 4816 S 6th St., Klamath Falls.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

### Roofers & Waterproofers 49

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11.

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, March 3. Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave., Portland. (503 232-4807)

### Sheet Metal Workers 16

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland. Please Note: New Market Recovery Plan will be reviewed and voted on at the February Regular Union Meeting.

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Sheet Metal Local 16 Hall, 1887 Laura St., Springfield. **PLEASE NOTE:** Meeting to be broadcast with the Portland meeting.

Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:

In our Jan. 15 issue, an article about the Portland mayor's race contained several inaccuracies. The article reported that candidate Ted Wheeler worked as an executive at Bank of America. In fact, Wheeler says, he was a research analyst in the bank's corporate planning unit, and was not an executive there.

The article also reported that candidate Jules Bailey voted against legislation that cut cost-of-living increases for retirees in the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS). Bailey did vote against proposed PERS cuts in a September 2013 special legislative session, but he voted for an earlier set of cost-of-living cuts in April 2013.

Women of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 (WOSM) meets 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, at Beaulahland, 118 NE 29th Ave., Portland. Children are welcome.

## CENTRAL LABOR CHAPTERS

### Central Oregon

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29, at the Social Justice Center, 155 NE Irving Ave., Bend.

### Lane County

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

### Linn-Benton-Lincoln

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

### Marion-Polk-Yamhill

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, preceded by a 6:30 Executive Board meeting, at 4735 Liberty Rd, S., Salem.

### Southern Oregon

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

### Southwestern Oregon

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, March 7, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

## CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS

### Northwest Oregon

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

### Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at the LIUNA hall, 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vancouver.

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCILS

### Columbia-Pacific

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 9 and Feb. 16, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

### Lane, Coos, Curry & Douglas

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, Feb. 24, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

### Salem

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, March 3, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

## METAL TRADES COUNCIL

### Portland and Vicinity

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11. Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Meetings are at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

## HAPPENINGS

### Portland Jobs with Justice Faith and Labor Breakfast

Portland Jobs with Justice is hosting the 14th annual Faith and Labor Breakfast. The gathering aims to unite participants from faith institutions and labor organizations. Worker speakers and leaders from diverse faith traditions come together to share their stories and encourage community members to support justice and dignity for all workers. The goal of this breakfast is to raise awareness of labor issues and motivate participants to take action on behalf of worker justice.

A highlight of the morning is the presentation of the Lucinda Tate Award, which is given to a faith or labor leader who embodies her wonderful spirit and her tireless effort in search for social, racial, and worker justice. For more information, call 503-236-5573.

- **Time:** Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7:15 a.m.

- **Place:** St. Andrews Catholic Church, 806 NE Alberta St., Portland

### Schrader breakfast scheduled for Feb. 17

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC) is hosting a legislative breakfast with Oregon Congressman Kurt Schrader (D-5th Dist.) on Wednesday, Feb. 17, starting at 8 a.m. in the labor council's board room at 9955 SE Washington Street, Suite 220, Portland.

Schrader met with the NOLC Executive Board for 30 minutes Dec. 14 to explain his vote on a Fast Track measure that speeds up future approval of free trade agreements. There wasn't enough time to discuss completely several other actions Schrader has taken that have raised union ire. Before leaving the Executive Board meeting, Schrader agreed to meet again.

Cost for breakfast at the Feb. 17 meeting is \$10. Seating is limited. To register, call 503-235-9444 or email [officemgr@nwolc.org](mailto:officemgr@nwolc.org).

## RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

### AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the AF-SCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954, ext. 226.

### Alliance for Retired Americans Oregon Chapter

The regular meeting of the Executive Board has been canceled. The founding convention of the Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans Education Fund will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Oregon Labor Center, 3645 SE 32nd, Portland.

### Bakers 114

Retirees meet 11:30 Thursday, Feb. 25, at Izzy's Pizza, Gateway Shopping Center, 1307 NE 102nd Ave., Portland.

### Elevator Constructors 23

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, at Home Town Buffet, 10542 SE Washington St., Portland.

### Glass Workers 740

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at Izzy's Pizza, Gateway Shopping Center, 1307 NE 102nd Ave., Portland.

### Insulators 36

Retirees meet 9 a.m. Thursday, March 3, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

### Sheet Metal 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at Sizzler, 3737 SE 82nd, Portland.

### United Association 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin for class entitled "A Bumper Crop of Gardening Benefits." This class covers types of plots, what and when to plant and what to do with your harvest. Tammy Rodriguez, Master Gardener and wife of 290 member, Jose, will lead the class. Tammy and Jose run Laughing Sprouts Farm in Sandy, Oregon.

**Tumbles in Wisconsin****Union membership slips in Oregon, grows in Washington**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The ranks of union membership in Oregon dropped by 8,000 members in 2015, a new report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows. Density and numbers both dropped — from 243,000 unionists (15.6 percent) in 2014, to 235,000 last year (14.8 percent).

In the State of Washington, a half-million residents belonged to labor unions in 2015, up 9,000 members from a year prior. Washington has the fifth-highest union density of any state, with 16.8 percent of the workforce being union members. Only New York (24.7 percent), Hawaii (20 percent), Alaska (19.6 percent) and Connecticut (17 percent) are higher.

Wisconsin saw the largest decrease in membership, by far, as Republican Gov. Scott Walker's anti-union program fully kicked in. His 2011 agenda stripped public unions of bargaining rights, and he later pushed through a right-to-work law. Wisconsin lost 83,000 union members in one year, dropping to 223,000. Density dropped from 12.6 percent to 8.3 percent.

BLS calculated that, nationwide, unions had 14.795 million members last year, up 219,000 from 2014. Union density was unchanged at 11.1 percent.

Public workers are still five times more

likely to be unionized (35.2 percent) than private-sector workers (6.7 percent), with teachers and public safety workers leading the way. Public and private densities changed little from 2014. The public sector added 23,000 union members, to 7.241 million last year. That's slightly fewer than the 7.554 million private-sector union members.

According to the BLS report, median weekly earnings of full-time union workers (\$975) were more than 25 percent higher than those of nonunion workers (\$776) in 2015.

"That's not pocket change — it comes to more than \$10,000 per year," U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez said in a press statement. "That goes a long way toward writing the mortgage check, paying down the car loan, or even just keeping the kids in snow boots. And, that doesn't even account for the superior benefits, safer workplaces and other advantages that come with union representation."

The annual survey follows another federal report — The National Compensation Survey — that showed union members are far more likely to have employer-provided retirement and health care benefits than their nonunion counterparts.

The report found:

- 95 percent of union workers had the option of an employer-sponsored health care plan, compared to 69 percent of nonunion workers;
- 94 percent of union workers had the option of an employer-sponsored retirement plan, compared to 65 percent of nonunion workers; and
- 93 percent of union workers had the option of an employee-sponsored prescription drug insurance, compared to 67 percent of nonunion workers.

In addition, the quality of the benefits provided to union workers typically was better, the data showed. For example, workers were expected to contribute 19 percent toward the cost of the family's health care under union-negotiated benefits plans, while nonunion workers were forced to shell out 35 percent of the cost, which amounts to 84 percent more in out-of-pocket costs.

"With this report, we are reminded again that the labor movement continues to be one of the most powerful forces for strengthening the middle class and providing economic stability, for members and non-members alike," Perez said.

*(Editor's Note: Press Associates Inc. and the Washington State Labor Council's The Stand contributed to this report.)*

**WSLC opposes Initiative 732 carbon tax**

SEATTLE — The Executive Board of the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) voted Jan. 28 to oppose Initiative 732, a statewide ballot measure that would create a new tax on carbon emissions while cutting other state taxes.

WSLC President Jeff Johnson said that although I-732 proponents intended the measure to be "revenue neutral," the state Department of Revenue now estimates it will cost the state \$914 million over the next four years.

"At a time our state is struggling to fund basic services — including public schools, mental health facilities, and many other essential services — I-732 would send Washington in the wrong direction and create more damaging austerity choices," Johnson said.

The WSLC is part of the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, a coalition of labor, environmental, business, and community groups working on a comprehensive carbon policy that addresses I-732's shortcomings.



**Convenient locations throughout  
Washington and Oregon**

**Beaverton**  
503.914.4003

**Gresham**  
503.914.4005

**Chehalis**  
360.639.3377

**Longview**  
360.639.3388

**Eugene/Springfield**  
541.622.0602

**Salem**  
503.914.4007

**Salmon Creek**  
360.639.3399

**Western Washington**

Arlington - 360.282.0803  
Auburn - 253.220.4104  
Bellevue - 425.201.0600  
Bellingham - 360.282.0804  
Bonney Lake - 253.220.4105  
Bothell - 425.201.1703  
Carnation - 425.201.1934  
Everett - 425.201.4343  
Federal Way - 253.220.4106  
Issaquah - 425.201.4411  
Kent - 253.220.4107  
Lakewood - 253.220.4108  
Lynnwood - 425.201.4422  
Maple Valley - 425.201.4433  
Marysville - 360.488.4400

Monroe - 360.639.3300  
Mount Vernon - 360.639.3311  
Olympia - 360.639.3322  
Poulsbo - 360.639.3344  
Puyallup - 253.220.4109  
Redmond - 425.249.3415  
Renton - 425.249.3416  
SeaTac - 206.432.4706  
Seattle - 206.432.4707  
Sequim - 360.639.3355  
Shoreline - 206.432.4708  
Silverdale - 360.639.3366  
Snohomish - 425.577.6755  
Tacoma - 253.220.4110  
Tukwila - 425.577.6775

**Eastern Washington**

Ellensburg - 509.361.5500  
Kennewick - 509.361.5511  
Moses Lake - 509.361.5522  
Pasco - 509.361.5533  
Spokane - 509.361.5544  
Spokane (North) -  
509.361.5566  
Spokane Valley - 509.361.5577  
Wenatchee - 509.361.5588  
Yakima - 509.361.5599

Give your sweetheart the gift of

**LIFETIME  
FREE  
TEETH  
WHITENING!**

*For new patients only; as long as the patient keeps  
6 month checkup appointments (ask for details)*



**August 27, 2016**

*(date had to be changed, please make note)*

# Retirees speak out against proposed TPP trade deal

Two dozen retirees and concerned citizens braved the cold and rain Jan. 12 outside the Portland office of U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden to express their opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The rally took place just hours before President Obama's State of the Union address, at which he was expected to (and did) push for passage of the TPP trade agreement between 12 countries. More than 20 rallies — sponsored by local chapters of the Alliance for Retired Americans — were held across the country, including one in Seattle.

"It's cold and rainy, but not as cold-hearted as the politicians who support this trade deal," said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain. "TPP is not a job creator; it is a wealth creator."

Chamberlain said lawmakers can talk all they want about "stronger enforcement rules" in the proposed TPP. "But if it isn't funded, enforcement rules aren't worth the paper they're written on," he said.

Scott Blau (pictured right with bullhorn), president of the Oregon chapter of the ARA, said the TPP "will be bad for jobs and bad for consumers who rely on prescription drugs." He said Americans already pay the highest prescription drug prices in the industrialized world, and that last year prescription drug prices went up by 13 percent — more than eight times the rate of inflation.

"TPP is very likely to add a whole other level to that, because of the way the drug companies will be able to hold onto their patents and not allow generic



(ABOVE) Scott Blau, president of the Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans, speaks out against the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement during a rally Jan. 12 outside the Portland office of Oregon U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden.

drugs to be made, which lowers the cost of drugs," he said. "We are calling on Congress to oppose this agreement that will lock in high drug costs and line the pockets of the pharmaceutical industry."

In Oregon, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, both Democrats, say they will oppose the TPP.



## PEOPLE

### Two from labor tapped for workers' comp committee

SALEM — Kevin Billman of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, and Diana Winther, staff attorney for IBEW Local 48, have been nominated to the Workers' Compensation Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) by Gov. Kate Brown.

Brown submitted a list of state board and commission appointments to the Oregon Senate last month. The Senate will consider the nominations Feb. 9.

If confirmed, Billman will replace John Mohlis, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building Trades Council. Mohlis is retiring later this year.

Winther will fill the seat once held by Elana Pirtle-Guiney of the Oregon AFL-CIO. Pirtle-Guiney stepped down last year to accept a job as labor and workforce policy adviser for then-governor John Kitzhaber. She now works for Gov. Brown.

The eight-member MLAC advises the governor and Legislature on workers' compensation-related issues.

## Ritchey retires as business manager of Laborers #335

VANCOUVER — Dave Ritchey has retired as business manager of Vancouver Laborers Local 335. He has served in that post since 2001. His last day was Dec. 31.

Shannon Stull, the local's president, was appointed to fill out the remainder of Ritchey's term that expires in May 2017.

Local 335 has 500 active and retired members who work in private-sector construction, at the public-sector Clark County Health Department, and as federal employees at Bonneville Power Administration.

Ritchey joined the union in 1979 at the encouragement of his father, Bill, who is a retired member of Local 335. After graduating from Washougal High School in 1978, Ritchey was working at a minimum wage job pulling green chain at a nearby plywood mill.

"After joining the union, I



Dave Ritchey

was making twice as much money, with a pension and other benefits," he said.

During his career Ritchey worked on several large projects, including the second power house at Bonneville Dam, at Crown Zellerbach Camas Paper Mill's modernization project, and on the Spirit Lake Tunnel. The tunnel project involved work under ground shoveling rock and dirt onto a conveyor called "The Mole."

"We would hit underground springs where water would run down the back of your neck," he recalled. "We got so far back underground that you could hardly see the entrance of the tunnel."

Ritchey later returned to Bonneville Dam to work on the juvenile fish bypass. There, he got to work on the same crew as his

father. Ritchey spent 12 years working as a hod carrier for Ballard International. In that job he traveled to paper mills up and down the West Coast working 12-hour shifts during mill shutdowns building high density tanks and chests for pulp storage.

His last job before becoming business manager was as a foreman for Howard S. Wright.

Always active in his union, Ritchey was recruited for the job of business manager. During his tenure he signed 58 new contractors and 76 project labor agreements. Twice he was named "Labor Leader of the Year" by the Southwest Washington Labor Roundtable.

Today, Ritchey is co-chair of the Labor Roundtable. He's not sure if he'll continue in that role. Ritchey plans to do more hunting, fishing and snowmobiling, and is planning a trip across the United States with his wife, Vanessa.

## Eugene City Council votes to oppose Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal

EUGENE — The Eugene City Council voted Jan. 11 to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement.

The resolution against the trade deal was presented by City Councilor Claire Syrett. It passed unanimously.

Syrett cited the impact of previous trade agreements on Oregon's manufacturing economy, workers' rights, and the environment as she presented the resolution.

"Those of us who were paying attention to these things during President Clinton's Administration saw the terrible impacts of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) on our manufacturing industry as just one example, and negative impacts on communities in other counties that were party to that treaty."

Syrett also explained why it's important for local governments to pass resolutions like Eugene's.

"While adding our voice in opposition may not prevent this from going forward, it will put

this city on record as opposing a treaty that has real potential to harm our local and state economy."

Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain responded to the vote by calling for more cities to pass similar legislation:

"Since the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, over 50,000 Oregon workers have been certified by the Department of Labor as having lost their jobs due to trade," he said. "It's time for localities, like the City of Eugene did, to say no to policies that ship their citizens' jobs overseas, threaten the rights of workers, and lower the standard of living for all of us. I hope that more local governments see Eugene's example and follow it."

The resolution is a result of local labor and community-based organizations working together as Oregon Strong Voice Lane County, which held a series of actions in the area to call attention to the TPP, including a rally with Congressman Peter DeFazio last spring.

# Labor 100 Years Ago — Feb. 5, 1916

## \*Labor's Letter-Writing Week

Resolution Number 17, adopted by the thirteenth annual convention of the State Federation of Labor, deals with "Letter Writing Week." The resolution says in part, "The motive and intent of the promoters was only to attract

tourist travel;" further the resolution instructs the officers of the State Federation to prepare a concise letter containing information, first, relative "Wages and conditions in Oregon industries;" second, "Labor supply;" third, "What In-

terests control the natural resources of the state."

In Oregon's basic industry, lumbering, there is scarcely any activity at the present time. The depression in logging and manufacturing still continues. Weather conditions preclude

the possibility of operations. Though some might have been misled by the action of the Ad Club, which paraded the streets of Portland in shirt-sleeves and palm-leaf fans to deposit their letters to "Eastern tourists," this in spite of the rigor of an unusually severe cold snap. They are to be congratulated upon their hardihood if not upon

their sincerity.

There has never been a shortage of labor in Oregon despite the low wages paid. The Winter of 1914-15 saw more suffering and unemployment than in previous years. This Winter the same conditions prevail.

The Y.M.C.A. advertises, "Labor at your own price." In the Morning Oregonian, of February 1, these head-lines appear, "Thousands of men with families are idle." Men have stood in line for hours waiting for a job **shoveling snow**.

This is enough to serve the purpose of the resolution relative to wages and labor supply.

In Governor West's message to the Legislature the following relative to ownership and control of natural resources appears. "One holder of timber acreage, the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, controls 22.5 per cent. Thirty holders control 19.5 per cent. Not over 5 per cent of the holders of timber acreage reside on the land. Sixty-eight holders are reported to control 56 per cent of the privately owned timber acreage."

In Oregon 58 per cent of the developed water-power is controlled by the General Electric Co. In Washington 55 per cent is held by the same company."

The above is quoted from "Other People's Money" by Louis J. Brandeis, who in turn quotes from the United States Bureau of Corporations.

Relative to the ownership of the land and wealth the following will suffice: "In Multnomah County," say Roadmaster Yeon, "1.5 per cent of the taxpayers own 75 per cent of the wealth and only 20 per cent of the entire population are taxpayers." Mr. Yeon doesn't say, however, where the 1.5 per cent of the population gets its money to pay taxes with.

In keeping with the spirit of the resolution you are therefore urged to write to friends in Eastern states conveying this information in order that the workers of the East may understand true conditions in Oregon.

### HERE'S CHANCE TO AID SUFFERERS AT HOME

Whereas, There is registered at the Municipal Employment Bureau nearly three thousand married unemployed workers with women and children dependent upon them

And Whereas, It is stated by the city authorities that employment cannot be obtained for a major portion of these, our unfortunate fellow-workers,

And Whereas, Thousands of other workers in the city, ranging from young girls making a heroic struggle against the forces of evil, to adult workers with wives and children dependent upon them, are in a similar condition to that of these registered and unemployed workers,

And Whereas, Though the present storm has provided a measure of work for the more robust of some of these workers it has caused untold suffering from cold and hunger to be endured by thousands of our un-

employed and ill-housed workers and their women and children.

And Whereas, The employed workers are to a large extent responsible for the conditions of the workers as a whole.

Therefore, Be It Resolved By the Central Labor Council of Portland and Vicinity, That it does hereby most earnestly urge upon all employed wage-earners, organized and unorganized, however employed, in our city, to recognize their duty towards their unfortunate fellow-workers by contributing from their individual earnings to a relief fund, the purpose of which shall be to alleviate suffering at home from cold and hunger.

And Be It Further Resolved, That the Central Labor Council hereby proclaims the week beginning Sunday, February 6 and ending Saturday, February 12, as "Workers' Relief Week" and hereby pledges the re-

sources of the Council in distributing this fund, impartially, without any cost to said fund, thereby insuring every cent contributed shall be expended on relief work and that further, the office of the Civil Service Employees' Association, 311 Gerlinger Building, Southwest corner Second and Alder Streets, is hereby designated headquarters for the receiving of contributions to the Fund.

And Be It Further Resolved That the Council hereby calls upon all newspapers in the city to publish this resolution that the employed workers may each know of and have an opportunity to aid in creating this fund.

Adopted in the name of Labor, Thursday, February 3, 1916  
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OF PORTLAND AND VICINITY,  
E. J. STACK, Secretary.



Formerly The Portland Labor Press.

Owned and Controlled by Organized Labor.

Volume XV. Number 43

Portland, Oregon, Saturday, February 5, 1916

Whole Number 835

### Candidates For President State Federation

(At a meeting of the candidates for the office of president of the State Federation, held in the Labor Press office, Monday, January 31, T. H. Burchard, Otto Hartwig, C. M. Ryneron and E. J. Stack being present, it was agreed that each candidate should write a letter of acceptance of not more than 500 words, to be printed in this week's issue of the Labor Press. Copy to be submitted not later than Thursday.—Editor.)



OTTO HARTWIG



C. M. RYNERON



T. H. BURCHARD

The convention just closed had any matters of interest before it, were referred to the incoming executive board, with instructions of their disposition. It will be the duty of the president to see to it that the instructions are faithfully carried out and, in doing so, he should always be willing to do more than his share of the work necessary to bring about the desired results. He should have a broad, comprehensive knowledge of the labor movement, to the end that he may intelligently represent the rank and file of the organizations affiliated with the State Federation of Labor. He should possess a fair quantity of common sense and should possess the courage to use it when occasion demands.

While he should realize and appreciate the responsibility of the office, he should also recognize the fact that in electing him to office a membership did not confer any "wise rights" or "superior intelligence." He should always be open to advice and counsel from those who represent. The actions and activities of the executive officers of the State Federation of Labor, as advised by S. F. of L. should always be guided by mature thought and judgment. Besides the work planned by the convention for the executive board, it should be the duty of the executive officers to be unceasing in their efforts to organize and educate "labor" throughout the state, especially the great element known as unskilled labor, which, as every one knows, far exceeds in numbers the so-called skilled element. The reasons for doing so need not be stated here, because every student of the labor movement knows why. Bringing about the above results it will be necessary to enlarge the scope of the Oregon Labor Press, which should be done as soon as

the unions are entrusted to the officials, it stands to reason that the executive officers of the State Federation of Labor should always be alive and alert to the interests of those they represent. Respectfully,  
OTTO R. HARTWIG.

In accepting the nomination for the office of president of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, I realize fully the responsibilities that will rest upon me as the chief executive officer of the organized labor movement of this state.

I believe, first of all, the man who is president of the State Federation should be in close touch with the problems of all the workers; should possess an intimate and technical

knowledge of the organized labor movement and should be able to apply that knowledge in a manner that will build up and strengthen the cause of the toilers.

If I am elected I will use my best endeavors to build up the State Federation and make it a power for good.

I am a member of Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58 and have been actively connected with the labor movement of the state for the past 10 years. Am now and have been for the past year and a half editor and manager of the Oregon Labor Press.

My position is of such a nature that I can assume the duties of pres-

ident with a distinct advantage to both the Labor Press and the Federation. Similar combinations of the two offices have been made in other states and results have been good. Believing absolute faith in your judgment, and promising to boost for a bigger and better State Federation whether I am elected or not, I submit my candidacy to you.  
C. M. RYNERON.

Up to the time of going to press Mr. Burchard had not submitted a statement of any kind.—Editor.

#### LOAN SHARKS OUSTED.

The City Welfare Department, of Dayton, Ohio, reports that 10 loan shark establishments have been put out of business since the establishment of the department's division of legal aid, in 1914. The division has also given legal advice to 1,494 persons and aided them in defense against oppressive litigation by settling controversies amicably.

#### CARPENTERS, ATTENTION.

Owing to the inclement weather the joint meeting of the Carpenters' Locals No. 50 and 808 was not held last Tuesday evening. It is presumed that by next Tuesday evening the weather will have moderated sufficiently so that it will not interfere and all members of these two locals are urged to attend the meeting on that date. The details of the consolidation of the two locals will be completed and officers elected.

### Brandeis' Appointment Is Pleasing To Labor

Probably no action of President Wilson's official life has caused so much favorable comment from the labor movement of the United States as has his appointment of Louis J. Brandeis.

As was to be expected, the representatives of special privilege in the Senate are moving heaven and earth to prevent confirmation of the appointment.

Brandeis has earned an enviable reputation as a champion of the cause of the common people, and "big business" doesn't want a man of his calibre in any judicial position.

It would seem though that they should be willing to concede the appointment of one member of this court who has not spent his life in the service of special privilege corporations and whose whole purpose in life seems to be to further the interests of the aforesaid corporations.

Brandeis would act as a balance wheel for the court, and his appointment should be confirmed.

Commenting on the appointment, E. J. Stack, Secretary of the State Federation of Labor, said: "The nomination of Louis J. Brandeis, of Boston, Mass., for the Supreme Court of the United States, marks an epoch in changing conditions. No man in America, known in pub-

lic life, is better fitted for the position. Law and the courts are supposed to be based on justice. The courts are men, and unless men are just, the courts cannot be.

"Mr. Brandeis' life has been spent in a fight for justice. Such a man is the need of the hour on the Supreme bench.

"The confirmation of his appointment by the Senate will be worth more to the American people than any other act it can perform.

"The people of this country should let the Senate of the United States know that President Wilson's nomination ought to be confirmed."

Eugene E. Smith, President of the Central Council, said of the appointment:

"In nominating Louis D. Brandeis as a member of the Supreme Court of the United States, President Wilson has recognized the 'submerged Tenth'—something never before done except in the abstract, by a ruler of any government.

"To any one familiar with the functions and powers of our Supreme Court this is significant, for it marks with a distinct marking the beginning of the end of 'man's inhumanity to man.'

"The gentlemen who framed our Constitution provided a Senate, intended by them and now admitted by all to be the rack upon which the 'interests' build.

"Secondly, they provided a Supreme Court, the members of which must be confirmed by the Senate.

"A pretty scheme and a successful one until Oregon's people became imbued with the idea of popular selection of U. S. Senators, an idea that has spread to such an extent that the poor Senators are now confronted with the choice of affirming a people's nominee for Supreme Justice or suffer political Hari Kari. Let every worker boost for Brandeis."

## \*Labor's Letter-Writing Week

Portland, Oregon, February 1, 1916.

To All Organized Labor in Oregon, Greeting:

Resolution Number 17, adopted by the thirteenth annual convention of the State Federation of Labor, deals with "Letter Writing Week." The resolution says in part, "The motive and intent of the promoters was only to attract tourist travel"; further the resolution instructs the officers of the State Federation to prepare a concise letter containing information, first, relative to "Wages and conditions in Oregon industries"; second, "Labor supply"; third, "What Interests control the natural resources of the state."

In Oregon's basic industry, lumbering, there is scarcely any activity at the present time. The depression in logging and manufacturing still continues. Weather conditions preclude the possibility of operations. Though some might have been misled by the action of the Ad Club, which paraded the streets of Portland in shirt-sleeves and palm-leaf fans to deposit their letters to "Eastern tourists"; this in spite of the rigor of an unusually severe cold-snap. They are to be congratulated upon their hardihood if not upon their sincerity.

There has never been a shortage of labor in Oregon despite the low wages paid. The Winter of 1914-15 saw more suffering and unemployment than in previous years. This Winter the same conditions prevail. The Y. M. C. A. advertises, "Labor at your own price." In the Morning Oregonian, of February 1, these head-lines appear, "Thousands of men with families are idle." Men have stood in line for hours waiting for a job **shoveling snow**.

This is enough to serve the purpose of the resolution relative to wages and labor supply. In Governor West's message to the Legislature the following relative to ownership and control of natural resources appears, "One holder of timber acreage, the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, controls 22.5 per cent. Thirty holders control 19.5 per cent. Not over 5 per cent of the holders of timber acreage reside on the land. Sixty-

\*\*\*\*\*  
 + Portland, Ore., Feb. 2, 1916. +  
 + Editor Oregon Labor Press: +  
 + In a recent issue of the Labor +  
 + Press I noticed with much sur- +  
 + prise a request from the secre- +  
 + tary of the Building Trades +  
 + Council asking you to deny that +  
 + the Northwest Labor Building +  
 + was unfair to Labor. +  
 + I do not believe that this was +  
 + necessary as we publish the un- +  
 + fair list of organized labor in +  
 + the Labor Press, but I believe +  
 + that the true status of the +  
 + Northwestern Bank Building +  
 + should be in the possession of +  
 + Labor. +  
 + This building as well as some +

# Southern Oregon University pays \$2.5 million wage settlement to workers who built new campus dorms

By Michael Gutwig  
Editor & Manager

A \$2.5 million wage settlement announced in December by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) on a construction project at Southern Oregon University (SOU) in Ashland had nothing to do with rogue contractors cheating workers. It was about how the public university handled the bidding process.

The \$56.6 million project — the largest construction project in Ashland's history — included nearly 200,000 square feet of new residence halls and a 25,300-square-foot dining hall/common area. The 700-bed Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified facility replaced the university's Cascade dormitory with two, four-story buildings.

SOU was the contracting agency on the project, which was completed in September 2013.

Several sub-contractors were union shops.

SOU has undergone more than \$130 million in scheduled and completed capital improvements since 2010. According to the Medford Mail Tribune, about \$47 million of the funding was state-allocated, roughly \$29 million was paid for through student fees, and the remainder — \$56 million — was part of a public/private investment agreement tied to the two new residential halls.

A report on SOU's web site in March 2012 (prior to the start of construction of the dorms and dining hall) stated that the university had entered into a partnership with the publicly-traded Texas-based American Campus Communities (ACC) and its team of general contractor Adroit Construction of Ashland, and SERA Architecture of Portland to build the dorms.

The university said the partnership "allows SOU to enter into a ground-lease arrangement that results in the university owning the structures at the end of the lease. The project is financed through a separate non-profit foundation, freeing capacity to fund other campus projects. No public funds are spent on the project."

Construction union leaders say public/private partnerships are often schemes used to skirt



state prevailing wage laws. Under the state "little" Davis Bacon Act, construction workers on public works projects must be paid wages and benefits that prevail in that region of the state. BOLI regularly establishes prevailing wage rates for commercial work, and a separate wage rate for residential work, which is lower than commercial rates.

According to BOLI's investigation, SOU put out a single request for qualifications, stating that the demolition of the existing residential/dining facility "will require the development of a new dining hall that will accommodate the updated resident total. The dining facility replacement should be integrated into the development concept." SOU's request for proposals also referenced the "ground lease" arrangement, with the developer to build the dorms and replacement dining facility, referring to both aspects as "The Project."

Jon Flegel, a business agent for IBEW Local 659 and head of the Southern Oregon Building Trades Council, said two electrical sub-contractors on the project were union shops. He said the union — using BOLI's prevailing wage determination book — advised its signatory contractors to bid at state residential prevailing wage rates for the dormitory work, and at state commercial prevailing wage rates for the dining hall work. Flegel said no issues were raised about wages. When electricians worked on the dorm they were paid at union-scale residential rates. When they worked on the dining hall they were paid commercial prevailing wage rates, he said.

Drew Waits, a union rep for

Plumbers and Fitters Local 290, said he initially advised signatory contractors not to bid the dorm, concerned that they might not be able to find enough workers to staff the project because of the lower residential pay scale. Two signatory contractors went ahead and bid it at union scale for residential, and Peninsula Plumbing of Portland won the contract.

Plumbing on the dining hall went to a nonunion company.

Starting in late 2013, BOLI's Wage and Hour Division initiated a series of prevailing wage audits after questions arose

about the SOU project during a separate investigation. Investigators determined it to be a single project that was improperly divided. As such, it should have been bid as a public works project under commercial prevailing wage rates.

Charlie Burr, a spokesman for BOLI, told the Labor Press that in making that determination, investigators found in part that SERA designed all three buildings; their drawings and specifications referred to the entire project as the "SOU North Campus Village;" and the drawings and specifications for the dining hall were included with the drawings and specifications for the residence halls. The agency also noted that Adroit Construction acted as general contractor on the whole project, and most of the first-tier subcontractors worked on both the residence halls and the dining hall. All three buildings, which are adjacent to each other, were completed in the first week of September 2013.

The prevailing wage inquiry — comprised of 80 audits — determined that 383 workers employed by 44 contractors and/or sub-contractors on the

dorm project weren't paid in accordance with state commercial prevailing wage rates, and were owed \$2,569,387. On the plumbing side alone the difference was \$124,502.85.

In late December 2014, BOLI sent wage demands for the unpaid wages. The agency secured \$52,000 in wage payments for 58 workers. Not surprisingly, the remaining contractors and sub-contractors refused to pay.

BOLI said that according to Oregon statute, as the contracting agency, SOU was liable for the unpaid wages.

SOU hired the law firm of Stoel Rives to argue their case. Following months of negotiations, a deal was reached on Dec. 7, 2015. As per the agreement, the university sent a check to BOLI in the amount of \$1,508,542.88 on behalf of 179 workers. The agency mailed payments to those workers on Dec. 30, 2015. One member of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 received a check for about \$14,000, Waits said.

For the remaining 146 workers — collectively owed around

Turn to Page 11



James Coon



Raymond Thomas



Cynthia Newton



Chris Frost



Cheryl Coon



Charley Gee



Melissa Haggerty



Sydney Montanaro

The team at  
**SWANSON, THOMAS,  
COON & NEWTON**  
can help you:

**A work injury may involve workers' compensation, social security and personal injury, the three main areas of concentration for our law firm.**

Workers' Compensation  
Construction Injuries  
Death Claims  
Personal Injury & Product Liability  
Medical Malpractice  
Social Security Disability  
Mesothelioma



SWANSON, THOMAS,  
COON & NEWTON  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
820 SW Second Ave, Ste. 200  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
[www.stc-law.com](http://www.stc-law.com)

Call us today at  
**503-228-5222**  
Straight answers.  
No cost for consultation.  
Our law offices are located on the MAX  
Light Rail at SW 2nd & Yamhill.

## Hillsboro School Board opposes minimum wage hike

The Hillsboro School Board on Jan. 12 voted 4-3 to oppose raising Oregon's minimum wage to either \$13.50 or \$15 per hour.

Two initiative petitions to raise the minimum wage are gathering signatures for the November ballot — one to \$13.50 and the other to \$15. And Gov. Kate Brown recently announced her own plan to raise the minimum wage. Her plan will be brought up for debate during the 2016 legislative session that began this month.

Voting in favor of the school board taking the position to oppose the minimum wage increase were board members Glenn Miller, Erik Seligman,

Wayne Clift, and Monte Akers.

Voting against were Lisa Allen, Kim Strelchun and Janeen Sollman. Allen, who is in her first term on the board, was endorsed by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

The Portland Tribune reported that school superintendent Mike Scott admonished board members about taking a position on the issue. Scott said 50 percent of the families the school district serves live below the poverty level. Additionally, he said, there are district employees who earn less than \$13.50 an hour.

"I don't know if that's a position a school board should be

taking. There's a sensitivity around it," he said.

On Jan. 26, a group of union members and activists from 15 Now Oregon held a rally and press conference at the school district administration offices prior to a regularly scheduled school board meeting.

"This vote was taken despite the fact that half of the students in the Hillsboro School District live below the poverty line. Forty percent of the district's students are Latino, and 60 percent of Latino workers make less than \$15 per hour," a press release stated. "None of the school board members live in poverty. None are Latino."

## ... SOU settlement

From Page 10

\$1 million — BOLI is contacting each worker to secure individual releases of claims so that it can collect and distribute the additional payments. BOLI anticipates that all workers will receive payment by May.

The settlement agreement releases SOU, ACC, Adroit and all other parties from future wage claims, while admitting no wrongdoing or liability on the disputed wages.

In a press statement, SOU said: "Though SOU disagreed with BOLI's conclusion that additional wages were owed on the project, due to the time and cost of litigating the dispute, the SOU administration concluded that it was in the best interest of all involved to mutually resolve the dispute. SOU is looking forward to moving on from the issue and continuing to serve our students and community."

Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian told Oregon Public Broadcasting, "when we do an investigation, we investigate both the government agency

and the contractor to make sure the law is being followed. There's a responsibility of both the contractors and the government body to ensure that workers are being paid the amount of money that they're due."

Avakian said contractors and public agencies will often check with the agency before initiating a project, to see if it falls under the state's prevailing wage laws.

"It's unfortunate that did not happen in this case, which is what led to the investigation and now the settlement," Avakian told OPB. "But, that said, we're very pleased that Southern Ore-

## FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

### HOUSING

ROCKAWAY OCEAN FRONT rental  
http://rockawaybeachfrontrental.com  
Sleeps 13, call 503-777-5076

### MISCELLANEOUS

NORDIC TRACK, like new, make offer.  
503-244-1672  
GRASS HAY \$6 a bale. 503-983-4656

### SPORTING GOODS

ESTATE SALE, Winchester rifles and shotguns, email 1894winchesters@gmail.com for list, Eugene area

WINCHESTER model 24, 12 ga, sxs, 28" barrel, nice gun, \$400 or trade. 503-349-8180

RUGER Redhawk Talo nib \$695, Ruger speed six .357 mag w/xtras. \$450. 541-980-9979

OUTBOARD MOTOR, 2.5 Suzuki, 2007 used twice, perfect for trolling.

503-647-2153

### WANTED

OLD WOODWORKING tools, planes, levels, chisels, handsaws, slicks, adzes, wrenches, folding rulers, axes, hatchets, 503-659-0009

CASH PAID, old fishing tackle, wood plugs, reels, creels, salmon fishing photos, etc. 503-775-4166

COLLECTOR PAYS cash for older toys, oil paintings, American art pottery, and costume jewelry. 503 703-5952

NEED 1916 INDIAN PARTS for cannonball run; Harley parts for restorations. 503-351-5054

1974 FORD F-250 pickup body parts. 503-852-6791

### CLASSIFIED AD GUIDELINES

Subscribers may place one free classified ad per issue. Ads should be 15 to 20 words, all in lower case (NO CAPITAL LETTERS). Ads *must* include a phone number, including area code, or they will not be published. No commercial or business ads.

### HOW TO SUBMIT A CLASSIFIED AD

Indicate which union you are a member of, and send your ad to michael492@comcast.net or by mail to PO Box 13150, Portland OR 97213. We publish the first and third Fridays of each month, and the deadline is one week prior to that.

### STAT OF THE MONTH

A Harvard Business School analysis of \$2.4 trillion in S&P 500 company profits has found that 54 percent of that income went to stock buybacks that help boost executive pay, 37 percent to dividends that enrich shareholders, and 9 percent to R&D and training and raises for workers.

From the Institute for Policy Studies



Providing auditing and accounting services to labor organizations and employee benefit plans since 1941

**MKA** MILLER KAPLAN ARASE LLP  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS SINCE 1941

Jeffrey Goss / Catherine Gardner  
971.255.0546  
MillerKaplan.com

## New Year's Resolution!

Membership  
Subscription to

## NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

Annual Group Rate of  
25 or more  
subscriptions only

**\$10.08 each**

That's only 42 cents  
an issue!

### Members receive:

- Local labor news
- Official Meeting Notices
- Free Classified Ads

CALL  
**503-288-3311**

## Broadway Floral

for the BEST flowers call  
**503-288-5537**

1638 NE Broadway, Portland

## Low Prices!

**WHITE & WESCO**  
"Always the best Quality"  
**10" SMOKE JUMPER**  
**16" LINEMAN**  
HUGE SELECTION  
WATERPROOF BOOTS  
SIZES IN NARROW,  
MEDIUM & WIDE  
**AI'S SHOES**  
5811 S.E. 82ND • 771-2130

Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9:30-5:30, Sun 12-6

Your Oregon & Washington  
Union Mail House.

**MORE LINK**  
Print anything, mail anywhere.  
Formerly Wilham and Dickey

Proud Mailers of the  
Northwest Labor Press

www.morelink.biz | 503-736-0111 ext. 140

# Laid-off Oregon union millwright goes to D.C.

Steve Phillips of AWPPW was Rep. DeFazio's guest at State of the Union, and didn't like what he heard

By Don McIntosh  
Associate editor

Steve Phillips is the wandering millwright ... but not by choice.

In 1974, right out of high school, he went to work at the Menasha corrugated paper mill in Coos Bay where his father worked. But the 2003 closure of the mill, then owned by Weyerhaeuser, would only be his first. In 2004 he moved to Albany and got a job at a Weyerhaeuser paper mill there. That too closed, in 2009. In 2010 he went to work at the SP Fiber Technologies paper mill in Newberg. It closed indefinitely in November 2015.

And Phillips isn't even the unluckiest member of his union, Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW). One fellow union member is called the "black cloud," because he's gone through so many layoffs and closures.

In January, Phillips got a chance to tell his union's story in Washington, D.C., when Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio invited him to be his guest for President Obama's final State of the Union Address. Phillips was there to serve as a flesh-and-blood rebuttal to the president's happy talk about the pending Trans Pacific Partnership, a NAFTA-style deal with Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, and eight other Pacific Rim nations.

Phillips has repeatedly felt the impacts of America's trade policy. Paper is a capital-intensive industry, relying on expensive machines that Phillips, as a millwright, kept up and running. A millwright is an industrial mechanic, a highly-skilled jack of all trades. Phillips worked 13 years at the Coos Bay mill before he was able to become a millwright apprentice, and after three years of training, became a journeyman in 1990.

But paper is also a trade-sensitive industry. In recent decades, U.S. paper mills have faced stiff competition from Canada and developing countries like China and Indonesia. Cardboard boxes are used to ship goods, and as more and more goods were made overseas, it made more sense to make the boxes there too. Trade was officially deemed a factor in

all three of the closures Phillips went through.

As a union officer—he was recording secretary at several locals—Phillips was several times drafted to serve as a "peer advocate," helping his laid-off co-workers access retraining, relocation and extended unemployment benefits through the government's Trade Act program for workers dislocated by trade.

So he was a fitting choice for DeFazio — a fierce critic of America's NAFTA-style trade policy — to take to D.C. To help DeFazio showcase the effects of that policy, AWPPW, a division of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, paid Phillips' airfare. So on his first-ever visit to the nation's capital, Phillips got to take part in an anti-TPP press conference, tell his story to Carpenters Political Director Tom Flynn, and meet former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at an after-hours party in the Capitol Building.

Phillips remembers the glory days of Oregon's unionized wood products industry. When he went to work at the Coos Bay mill in 1974, his starting wage was \$4.82 an hour—at a time when the minimum wage was



\$1.65. "I didn't have any dreams of going to college, but I wasn't planning on staying there, but boy, you get that first paycheck, it's like, 'Oh, my god.' The money was just incredible."

High wages enabled Phillips to buy and restore an old Victorian house, feed his motor-head appetite for muscle cars, and eventually, to afford a vacation home in Sunriver. Those opportunities are no longer available to younger generations. When he began, the paper mill was just one option; there were also chip, plywood, and lumber mills through-

out Southern Oregon. But in the 1980s, logs started being shipped overseas, and those mills began to close. By the time Phillips' mill closed in 2003, there were no similar jobs in the area.

That didn't have to happen, Phillips says, and he blames U.S. trade policy.

Thanks in part to that trade policy, Phillips is laying down his tools at age 59. He never married, so he's the end of a family line in the wood products industry: His grandfather was a logger, his uncle drove log trucks, and his father and

brother, both now deceased, were millwrights.

At the State of the Union, Phillips promised DeFazio he wouldn't boo the president. But he didn't promise not to grit his teeth at what he heard.

"I felt just really disappointed that he could just stand up there and lie to the American public," Phillips says.

"We forged a Trans-Pacific Partnership," Obama declared, "to open markets, protect workers and the environment, and advance American leadership in Asia. It cuts 18,000 taxes on products Made in America, and supports more good jobs. With TPP, China doesn't set the rules in that region, we do. You want to show our strength in this century? Approve this agreement."

"Everything he said," Phillips says, "was a lie... From a blue-collar millworker, voter and taxpayer point of view, the first thing that scares me about the TPP is: They spent seven years negotiating it in private, behind closed doors. They kept it from Congress. They kept it from the American public. If this thing was so great, if this thing was so needed, why would they do it that way?"

**Bright Now!® Dental**  
General • Specialty • Orthodontics

Serving Union Members  
and their families for  
Over 35 Years.

- General, Specialty & Orthodontic Dentistry under one roof
- Convenient locations & extended hours
- Same-day emergency appointments
- **No Cost to Participate** – there are no additional membership fees or dues
- **No Restrictions** – No Per Visit Charges
- Acceptance is *guaranteed*
- We accept dental insurance, self-funded Union plans & reduced rates for uninsured

New patient check-up package\*

**\$39 Exam & X-rays**

For more information please call:  
**Dave Surrige (503) 502-2557**

**BrightNow.com**   

Several locations to serve you:

**Beaverton**  
4655 SW Griffith Dr., Ste. 105  
503-644-1400

**Grants Pass**  
1021 NE 6th St.  
541-479-6696

**Gresham**  
443 NW Burnside Rd.  
503-492-8487

**Hillsboro**  
7206 N.E. Cornell Rd.  
503-640-9999

**Milwaukie**  
17186 SE McLoughlin Blvd.  
503-659-2525

**Portland**  
3580 SE 82nd Ave.  
503-777-0761

**Salem**  
831 Lancaster Mall Dr. NE, Ste. 2  
503-362-8359

**Tualatin**  
7965 SW Nyberg St.  
503-404-0294

**Wilsonville**  
25700 SW Argyle Ave., Ste. F  
503-682-8552

Northwest Dental Associates, P.C.; Jeffrey Pearson, DMD & Brian Smith, DDS

**Vancouver**  
2101 NE 129th St. Ste. 101  
360-574-4574

Peter Vu DDS; Christopher Kooning DDS; Charles Stirewalt DDS

3250 SE 164th Ave., Ste. 102  
360-891-1999

Peter Vu DDS; Christopher Kooning DDS; Charles Stirewalt DDS  
Nurani, Mitchell, Kim, P.C.; Ahyoung Amber Kim, DDS

\* \$39 Exam and Digital X-rays - Retail price \$260 (ADA Codes 150 & 210). New cash patients only. There may be future costs based on diagnosis. Offer is subject to change, cannot be combined and expires 12/31/15. © 2015 Smile Brands Inc. All rights reserved.