



NORTHWEST

# LABOR PRESS

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## Capitol rally: 'Save Public Service'

How should the Oregon Legislature cover a \$340 million revenue shortfall? Not with layoffs and service cuts, said more than 1,000 public employees and their allies at a Presidents Day rally Feb. 20 on the front steps of the state capitol in Salem. The "Day of Action for a Strong Oregon" was coordinated by the Oregon Education Association, but included members from AFSCME, Service Employees, the Oregon School Employees Association, the American Federation of Teachers, parent-teacher organizations, and other groups. National AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, who hails from Portland, also attended. Rallygoers called on lawmakers to protect funding for education and social services and to maintain prisons, and thus protect middle-class jobs. In the photo above, Linda Peterson of AFSCME Local 3214 (Albertina Kerr/Eugene), Berely Mack of Local 1246 (State Operated Community Program, a service that provides 24-hour care and supervision to people with developmental disabilities and are a risk to others), and Mack's cousin, Elicia David, were among the throng of people at the rally. The Legislature had not adjourned as this issue went to press, but it appeared that further cuts to K-12 education and in-home care to seniors and people with disabilities were spared, and no prisons will close. (Photo by Don Loving.)

## National comics, AFL-CIO wrap up three days of events for Work Connects Us All campaign

Activities included free comedy show and 'thank-a-worker' events during Portland Jazz Fest

Portland working families, national comics from Laughing Liberally, and the Oregon AFL-CIO wrapped three days of events, workshops, and actions Feb. 19-21 as part of the AFL-CIO's new Work Connects Us All campaign. The effort is part of a broader push by the AFL-CIO to recognize the ways in which work connects everyone, and the value of each person's contribution through work.

The collaboration between Laughing Liberally and the AFL-CIO had several components, including a comedy show as well as comedy trainings for activists and a campaign at the Portland Jazz Fest to "thank" workers for their help in making the festival a success.

The events kicked off on Sunday, Feb. 19 with "Laughter Works," a free show at Helium Comedy Club that featured a line-up of nationally-renowned comedians, including Lee Camp (who has appeared on Showtime and is a contributor to The Onion), Negin Farsad (who has appeared on Comedy Central



Comedian Negin Farsad had a packed house in Portland in stitches Feb. 19 at a free comedy show hosted by the Oregon AFL-CIO. The event is part of the "Work Connects Us All" campaign launched last month. (Photo by Russell Sanders.)

and MTV), and Katie Halper (who has appeared on MSNBC and Huffington Post), as well as local Portland comedi-

ans.

A crowd of 350 attended the show, which focused not only on politics but work and how work is the tie that binds all Americans together.

Activities continued into the week with workshops run by Camp, Farsad and Halper for local organizers on using humor in their work to reach new audiences and best practices on Twitter to assist with organizing campaigns.

On Feb. 20 and 21, the comedians, along with Working America canvassers, distributed "thank you" cards to stagehands, ticket-takers, and other workers involved in the Portland Jazz Festival. Participants distributed hundreds of cards throughout the two days to highlight the behind-the-scenes work that is often not recognized but is vital to the festival's success.

The events come on the heels of the launch of the Work Connects Us All campaign, with television ad buys in Portland, Pittsburgh, and Austin, Tex., as well as an online component with an interactive website at [www.WorkConnectsUsAll.org](http://www.WorkConnectsUsAll.org), and outreach in communities to spark innovative initiatives and new community partnerships.

## Milwaukie light rail line creates jobs

"I love seeing those cranes on the skyline," smiled John Mohlis, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council. Mohlis was speaking at a press conference Feb. 23 to recognize the Portland-Milwaukie light rail transit project for paving the way for much-needed construction jobs in the metro area.

TriMet began work last April on the \$1.5 billion project, which includes a cable-stay bridge over the Willamette River. Estimates forecast the project will create up to 14,500 jobs by the time it is completed in September 2015. This estimate includes 7,122 jobs working directly on the project, such as construction workers, planners, designers, and engineers. It also includes up to 7,370 indirect or induced jobs, such as positions at suppliers of materials (steel, concrete, wood, and more.) Induced jobs are jobs created by the spending of

wages for items such as groceries, gas, restaurants, and entertainment.

"Thank you for helping to build a better future. We've been woefully underemployed in our region," said Jodi Guetzloe Parker, executive secretary of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council. "Being able to take care of ourselves is a huge matter of pride for us," she said. "We're blue collar. We're proud of who we are. We're proud of what we do, and we want to keep helping Portland grow and expand."

Also speaking at the press conference organized by TriMet were project contractors, workers, Portland Mayor Sam Adams, and Congressmen Earl Blumenauer and Kurt Schrader.

"I'm asked all the time, what can government do to get the jobs going, get the economy going," said Schrader, who represents Clackamas and portions of Multnomah counties. "I truly believe

the President (Obama) is right on the money when he talks about infrastructure investment. That's jobs just not now, but into the future for our kids and grandkids. This type of investment is huge. The multiplier effect in the community is huge, at a time when we're struggling."

Blumenauer called the Milwaukie line the next great portion of our light rail system. "What I like is, we've had the vision as a community, the leadership and the skills in the construction industry, to keep going," he said. "We've never really stopped since 1982."

Jaci Lyn Hayden, a University of Portland civil engineering grad working on the project, said when the line opens in 2015, "It's going to start an entire other phase of economic development. By Portland making an investment in light rail, we're making an investment in our future."



Jodi Guetzloe Parker, executive secretary of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, speaks at a "Jobs for Oregon" press conference Feb. 23 to recognize the Portland-Milwaukie light rail transit project and the jobs it is creating. Standing behind her at the east end of the light-rail bridge construction project near OMSI are Portland Mayor Sam Adams and Maurice Rahming, owner of union contractor O'Neil Electric. Several politicians, contractors, workers, and union officials attended the event.

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# Employment Relations Board rules against TriMet, says it owes workers retroactive wage increases

The Oregon Employment Relations Board (ERB) has ruled against TriMet on an unfair labor practice (ULP) charge filed by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 over wages.

The union represents 2,000 bus and rail operators, mechanics, and support staff at the transit agency.

In the ruling handed down Feb. 16, the Employment Relations Board ordered TriMet to include in its final offer to an arbitrator a wage proposal that reflected its position at the bargaining table — which was status quo.

“What that means is that TriMet must continue the wage increase language from the expired 2003-09 contract,” said Jon Hunt, president of Local 757.

Hunt said TriMet must increase all unionized employee wages by 3 percent retroactive to June 1, 2011; by 2.1 percent retroactive to Dec. 1, 2011, and by 2.9 percent on June 1, 2012.

The sides have been without a collective bargaining agreement since Nov. 30, 2009. Transit workers in Oregon cannot strike, but are subject to binding arbitration. Under binding arbitration a neutral third-party arbitrator must accept one party’s package of proposals in its entirety.

As that process started to play out,

the union filed a ULP, asserting that TriMet violated the law by including in its “final offer” to the arbitrator proposals on new issues that were not previously raised in table bargaining or during mediation.

In September, ERB agreed with Local 757, and ordered TriMet to cease and desist. TriMet appealed the ruling and lost. In December, TriMet submitted a revised final offer. The union claimed that that offer, too, did not comply with ERB’s order. On Feb. 16, ERB agreed with the union and handed down its order on wages.

“This is a colossal error made by TriMet negotiators,” Hunt said. “They failed and/or refused to put a wage offer on the bargaining table. Then they tried to correct that failure at the last minute by proposing a brand-new wage proposal to the arbitrator. ERB rightfully rejected this tactic.”

Several other ULPs are still pending. One charges TriMet with deducting health insurance premiums from employee paychecks without bargaining. Others allege retaliation against union officers and violating the contract as it pertains to fair inspectors.

Should TriMet lose again, it could be liable for reimbursing active and retired TriMet employees for insurance

premiums to the tune of \$10 million.

Hunt said TriMet has repeatedly blamed the workers’ union for its budget problems and failure to obtain a contract. Hunt said the media, too, has joined the bandwagon, calling for changes to TriMet’s board of directors, the union, and even the Employment Relations Board in an attempt to blame them for TriMet’s financial trouble.

“It’s not the union leadership or the ERB that needs changing,” Hunt said. “It’s time for new top management leadership at TriMet. No more excuses.”

“How many more millions of dollars will taxpayers have to foot the bill for because of poor management decisions?”

Hunt told the Labor Press that the union is preparing for a no-confidence

vote against TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane.

Ron Heintzman, a former ATU international union president and president of Local 757 between 1988 and 2002, said TriMet’s current administration is one of the most anti-union administrations he’s seen in his 30-year association with the transit agency.

“I’ve worked with four general managers and numbers of TriMet board members over past years, and I would have to say that this management team has the worst labor-relations record and a clear inability to treat TriMet workers fairly,” he said. “In my opinion, they have a clear union-busting agenda.”

Binding arbitration is scheduled to begin May 14.

## IN MEMORIAM

**JIMMIE PSAROS**, a former vice president of Machinists Lodge 1005 and a delegate to the Northwest Labor Council, passed away Feb. 7. Cause of death was amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s disease. He was 71.

Psaros worked at the Freightliner Truck Plant for 34 years. He retired in

1999 due to health reasons.

Psaros was born Feb. 24, 1940, in Weed, Calif.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Cathie; daughters, Diane Taylor and Kristi Psaros; two grandchildren; and mother, Ina Phillips.



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# Oregon Senate confirms Gov. Kitzhaber's board appointees

## Including a handful important to labor

SALEM — The Oregon Senate voted Feb. 13 to confirm several dozen executive branch appointments, including several of importance to organized labor. The office of Gov. John Kitzhaber announced the nominations Feb. 3.

• On the three-member **Oregon Employment Relations Board (ERB)** **Kathryn Logan**, senior assistant attorney general at the Oregon Department of Justice, will become the management-side member. ERB judges labor law cases that have to do with state and local public employee unionization. Logan has represented the City of Salem and the state Department of Administrative Services as a management-side labor attorney. She took office March 1, replacing Vickie Cowan, who retired Dec. 31.

Board service is a full-time job, and terms are four years. Logan will serve the remainder of Cowan's term, which expires June 30, 2013. Board chair Susan Rossiter continues to serve a term that expired Sept. 30, 2011. As for the labor-side member of the Board — Paul Gamson — his term expires June 30.

Kitzhaber labor liaison Duke Shepard said the governor used a new process for the ERB appointment, in

that both management and labor representatives were asked to serve as a screening committee. The labor representatives were Oregon School Employees Association Executive Director Steven Araujo and Association of Engineering Employees of Oregon co-executive director Joelle Davis. Shepard said the intent was to make ERB less polarized than its private sector counterpart the National Labor Relations Board — by having board members that were acceptable to both labor and management.

Shepard said no decision has been made about a replacement for the chair, but that Gamson is not being considered for reappointment. Shepard said he expects the same process will be used for Gamson's replacement as was used to select Logan.

• Washington County businessman Isao "Tom" Tsuruta was confirmed to the nine-member **Port of Portland Board of Commissioners**, replacing **Oregon AFSCME** Executive Director **Ken Allen**. Allen stepped down to be able to devote more time to the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange Board, to which he was appointed in August; that board will advise the creation of the health insurance exchange mandated by federal health reform legislation. Port of Portland commissioners represent dif-

ferent geographic areas within the Port's economic impact area, and the commission still has two other representatives of organized labor: Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain and Bruce Holte of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8. The board is the governing body for the Port, which includes five marine terminals, four airports, seven industrial parks and the Portland Shipyard.

• Business consultant and Gresham Chamber of Commerce president **Travis Stovall**, and **Bruce Warner**, former executive director of the Portland Development Commission, were confirmed to the seven-member **TriMet Board**, replacing Richard Van Beveren, who resigned, and Teamsters Joint Council 37 political representative Lynn Lehrbach. Lehrbach's departure leaves no representative of organized labor on the board at a time when TriMet and its union are in a protracted contract fight. Lehrbach had wanted to serve a second term, but Gov. John Kitzhaber chose not to reappoint him.

• The 10-member **Oregon's Workers Compensation Management-Labor Advisory Committee**, commonly referred to by its initials MLAC, got four new members, two each from la-

bor and management, as the name suggests. The new labor members are **Elana Guiney**, Oregon AFL-CIO legislative and communications director, and **Paul Goldberg**, assistant executive director at the **Oregon Nurses Association**. MLAC makes workers' compensation policy recommendations to the Oregon Legislature. One of the new management members — Carol Duncan — is owner of General Sheet Metal, a signatory contractor with Sheet Metal Workers Local 16; she replaces another union-signatory contractor representative, Sheri Sundstrom of Hoffman Construction. Guiney and Goldberg replace outgoing members John Kirkpatrick of Painters and Allied Trades, and Mike O'Rourke of Plumbing and Fitters Local 290, both of whom retired. MLAC's other labor members are Tracy Brill of Portland Fire Fighters Association Local 43, Lon Holston of Laborers Municipal Employees Local 483, and John Mohlis of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

• **Jed Scheuermann**, assistant training coordinator at **Local 290**, was confirmed to the nine-member **Mechanical Board**, which helps to administer state code regarding mechanical devices and equipment.

Kitzhaber's previous appointments include several other representatives of organized labor:

• In September **Oregon Education Association** Vice President **Johanna "Hanna" Vaandering** and **American Federation of Teachers Oregon** President **David Rives** were confirmed to serve on the **Oregon Education Investment Board**, a newly-formed 12-member body that will oversee implementation of a set of education reforms that were passed in 2011 over the objections of the state's largest teachers union.

• In November, **Oregon State Building and Construction Trades** Executive Secretary **John Mohlis** was confirmed to the seven-member **Energy Facility Siting Council**, which oversees permitting and regulation during the location, construction and operation of major energy facilities, and the transport of radioactive materials.

The governor also appoints some advisory boards which don't need to be confirmed by the Oregon Senate, and **Clif Davis**, business manager of **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48**, was appointed in February to one of those: the **Oregon Innovation Council**, which oversees grants and other help to start-up technology companies.



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# Official Notices

## AUTO MECHANICS 1005

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14.

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, March 17, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop stewards' training. Stewards must attend training class and regular meetings to be compensated.

All meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

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

## BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY, TOBACCO WORKERS AND GRAIN MILLERS 114

Executive Board meets 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 27, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland.

## BOILERMAKERS 500

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

## BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

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

## CEMENT MASONS 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

## CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 26, at UA 290 Training Center, 2161 SE 1st St., Redmond.

## COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, March 6 and March 13, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 7 and March 21, in the Executive Boardroom.

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Washington Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, in the Executive Boardroom.

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, in the Meeting Hall.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, in the Dispatch Lobby.

Women of 48 meets 5 p.m. Friday, March 16, at Radio Room, 1101 NE Alberta, Portland.

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 19, in the Executive Boardroom.

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

**DEATH ASSESSMENTS:** No. 2293, Elwood W. Loe; No. 2294, William Les Sadler; No. 2295, Robert L. McLeod; and No. 2296, Gabriel C. Salcedo. The March 2010 assessment is \$1.50.

## ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 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, March 7, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

## FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

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

## INSULATORS 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 7.

Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, March 9.

Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, March 8. Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22. Meeting are at 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle #200, Portland.

## LABORERS 320

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

## LABORERS 483

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

## LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

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

## LANE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

## LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, March 28, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Pkwy., Springfield.

## LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN LABOR COUNCIL

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

## LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

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

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

## MACHINISTS 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 7. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, March 10, preceded by a 9 a.m. stewards' meeting. **PLEASE NOTE:** Nominations for Conductor-Sentinel and one Executive Board position-at-large will be held at this meeting. Elections in April if necessary.

Meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

## MACHINISTS 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at 11 a.m.

Monday, March 12.

Regular membership meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 14.

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

All meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

## MARION-POLK-YAMHILL LABOR COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, followed by a 7 p.m. general meeting at 2110 State St., Salem.

## METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, March 8. Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 27.

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

## MID-COLUMBIA LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at 3313 W. 2nd, The Dalles.

## MOLDERS 139B

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

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

## OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES 11

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at the OPEIU Local 11 meeting room, 3815 Columbia St., Vancouver. (From I-5 take exit 2 to 39th street, go west about ½ mile to Columbia St., 3rd light) The purpose of the meeting is to conduct general business and accept nominations for open offices. Please note: Nominees must be present to accept or have written acceptance of nomination submitted at this meeting.

## PAINTERS & DRYWALL FINISHERS 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: www.iupat-local10.org.

## PLASTERERS 82

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

## PORTLAND CITY & METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEES 189

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 13. General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 27.

Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

## ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS 49

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8. Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5.

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

## SALEM BCTC

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, April 5, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

## SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

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

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

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at the Local 16 Hall, 1887 Laura St., Springfield.

Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

## SIGN PAINTERS & PAINT MAKERS 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 19, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## SOUTHERN OREGON

### CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

## SOUTHWESTERN OREGON

### CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

## SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

### CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22, preceded

by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

## UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 16, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 517 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 19, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at 4816 S., 6th St., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at 950 Industrial Circle, White City.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, March 19, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the Eureka Training Center, 634 California St., Calif.

## UNITED STEEL WORKERS 1097

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

## Malbin, Stroup named to Prevailing Wage Advisory panel

Norman Malbin, general counsel of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48, has been reappointed co-chair of the Oregon Prevailing Wage Advisory Committee (PWAC) by Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian.

Avakian also tapped Ken Stroup of the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters to a seat on the committee, which includes an equal number of representatives from management and labor in the building and construction industry who advise the Bureau of Labor and Industries on matters regarding the prevailing wage rate laws that apply to public construction projects.

Reappointed co-chair with Malbin is Shawn Miller of the Associated Builders and Contractors and Independent Electrical Contractors of Oregon. Darrin Lane of Linn County and Steve Malany of P&C Construction also are new appointees.

The committee is scheduled to meet April 19, at 3 p.m., at Operating Engineers Local 701, 555 East 1st Street, Gladstone.

# Retiree Meeting Notices

## ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Retirees meet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at Madison's Grill, 1109 SE Madison St., Portland, for the State Convention. Cost is \$20/per person and includes registration, morning break, lunch, dessert, beverage, and gratuity. This year's theme is "Whence the Middle Class ...?" Speakers will be Dan Torres of SEIU on retirement security; someone from the Oregon Center for Public Policy, and former AFL-CIO president Tim Nesbitt. We are taking donations of peanut butter and tuna fish for union-needy families. Scholarships are available by contacting Scott at 503-675-7764.

All are welcome to attend.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees, wives, and friends meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 13, at Hometown Buffett, 10542 SE Washington St # A, Portland. For more info,

please call Glenn Hodgkinson at 503-656-0028.

## ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, at Denny's Restaurant, 12101 SE 82nd Ave., Happy Valley.

## IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 12 noon Wednesday, March 14, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., Portland for a catered lunch.

## MACHINISTS

Retired Machinists meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, March 12, in the Labors Community Service Agency conference room, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 103B, Portland.

## OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954 ext. 226.

## SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 8, at Sizzler's Restaurant, 3737 Se 82nd Ave, Portland.

## TRANSIT 757

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

## UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Salem retirees meet 12 noon Wednesday, March 14, at Almost Home Restaurant, 3310 Market St. NE, Salem.

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, March 15, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

# Two Local 16 sheet metal workers chosen as top 12 in the United States

Doug Haase and Amelia Kelsay, members of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 in Portland, are two of only 12 detailers in the United States and Canada to qualify as finalists in the detailing category of the 40th annual International Sheet Metal Competition, slated March 5-9 in Las Vegas.



AMELIA KELSAY

The competition is hosted by the International Training Institute (ITI), the education arm of the unionized sheet metal and air conditioning industry.



DOUG HAASE

The Sheet Metal Institute, which is the training center for Local 16, was the only one to produce more than one of the 12 detailers in the competition, and Kelsay is the first and only woman to make it into the top 12.

A sheet metal detailer designs complicated, behind-the-walls systems of buildings which the public hardly ever sees. To get to the finals, detailers completed a two-and-a-half-day test, and were ranked based on their scores. The finalists represent different parts of the United States, including Hawaii. Joining Haase and Kelsay in Las Vegas is Jaymes Fleming of Western Washington Sheet Metal Workers Local 66 in Everett, Wash.

This is only the second year that the detailing category has been open to both apprentices and journeymen. Haase is an 18-year member of Local 16, and Kelsay joined the union in 2004.

"I am proud to represent our local and compete with some of the best detailers," Haase said. "The detailing certification test is a very good test — I bet this will be harder."

Kelsay is looking at the experience as a chance to watch and learn. Although she has yet to find full-time work, she is a part-time instructor at the Sheet Metal Institute in Portland.

ITI's Benchmark building information modeling software is one of the tools detailers use to make sure that every length of HVAC ductwork and each fitting is built to exact measurements and standards.

"The Benchmark certification has provided me the education and knowledge to take the next step in my career goal of becoming a full-time union detailer," Kelsay said. "I am going into this competition without any expectations. Any success or jobs that may come from this would be icing on the cake."

In addition to the detailing category, apprentices will compete in five sheet metal disciplines, including HVAC (heating, ventilating and air conditioning), industrial/welding, service, architectural and TAB (Test Adjust Balance in heating and air conditioning).

The competition will take place at Caesars Palace. It is held in conjunction with the 2012 Partners in Progress Conference, which is hosted by a partnership between the Sheet Metal Workers Union and the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA).

A reception and awards banquet will take place the evening of March 9.

The winner of the detailing category will take home a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

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# Labor council to sit out Portland mayor, City Council primary races

Delegates to the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC) have decided to sit out the hotly contested primary races for Portland mayor and City Council, Position 1.

It was apparent at NOLC's monthly meeting Feb. 27 that labor support for mayor varied between the three front-runners — Eileen Brady, Charlie Hales, and Jefferson Smith.

The incumbent mayor, Sam Adams, is not seeking re-election. There are 19 other candidates filed to run in the non-partisan election.

Smith, a Democratic state representative from East Portland, has been endorsed by the largest union of city workers, AFSCME Local 189. Businesswoman and New Season's founder Brady has the support of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48. And Hales, a former city commissioner, has the backing of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555.

A NOLC endorsement requires a two-thirds' majority vote. The motion from the Executive Board, which dele-

gates passed, was for no action in the primary.

NOLC also stayed out of the race for City Council, Position 1, but not for a lack of trying. The election pits incumbent union member Amanda Fritz against challenger Mary Nolan, a Democratic state senator from Southwest Portland who has a strong labor voting record in the Legislature.

Separate motions and standing votes were taken, first for a dual endorsement, then for no action, and finally for Nolan. Each motion failed.

Fritz, a member of the Oregon Nurses Association, has the support of her union, along with that of UFCW Local 555 and Communications Workers Local 7901. Nolan has backing from Fire Fighters Local 43, AFSCME Local 189, IBEW Local 48, and others.

NOLC endorsed Steve Novik for Portland City Council, Position 5. The seat is being vacated by Randy Leonard, a former president of Fire Fighters Local 43.

In other political action, NOLC endorsed the Multnomah County Library Levy, Ballot Measure 26-125. Delegates also voted to support the re-election of Multnomah County Commissioners Judy Shiprack and Diane McKeel, and the election of Rod Underhill for district attorney.

In Clackamas County, NOLC took no action in the race for County chair between incumbent Charlotte Lehan, State Rep. Dave Hunt, and County Commissioner Paul Savas. The labor council endorsed Martha Schrader for Position 3, incumbent Jamie Damon for Position 4, and the re-election of Sheriff

Craig Roberts.

In Washington County, Commissioner Dick Schouten was endorsed for re-election in District 1. At Metro, Bob

Stacey was endorsed in District 6, and no action was taken in District 5, where five candidates have filed.

The primary election is May 15.

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**Kathy Blay (wearing tiger print jacket), retired after 38 years as office secretary for Floor Coverers Local 1236 and Glass Workers Local 740. Blay has worked for nine business managers. Her most recent bosses threw a surprise party for her on her last day of work.**

## After 38 years, Blay retires as secretary for Locals 1236, 740

For 38 years, members and visitors calling on Floor Coverers Local 1236 and Glass Workers Local 740 have been greeted with a warm welcome by office secretary Kathy Blay. Those callers discovered what a wealth of information Blay possessed, as she efficiently handled their requests.

"That's what it's all about," she said. "You're a member. You pay your dues. You should get service. That's what we're there for."

Blay retired Dec. 1, 2011.

She returned for a few weeks in February to help train her successor, Trisha Kasch. On Feb. 10, colleagues and friends threw a surprise retirement luncheon for her at a restaurant near the union hall in Northeast Portland.

"I started out as the youngest person working in the building; now I'm the oldest person in the building," said Blay, 61.

She was a 23-year-old receptionist at a union insurance company in the Portland Labor Center on Southwest Arthur Street downtown when — in October 1973 — a job for an office secretary opened up at Floor Coverers Local 1236.

In those days, most union locals had their offices at the Labor Center. Blay's father, the late Bud Barnes, was a business agent for Asbestos Workers Local 36, which had an office on the third-floor next to the Floor Coverers. He put in a good word for her with the head of the union, Don Long.

Fast-forward 38 years — and nine business managers, just as many business agents, organizers, and other union staff — and Blay is ready to clock out for good.

"That's a lot of guys I've had to train," she quipped, naming Joe Snedeker, Dick Olsen, Bill Wilkerson, Kelly Ferderer, Dave Winkler, Ben Johnson, Cris Baugher, and Jerry Fisher.

But it's true.

Business managers are elected, so they can come and go. Oftentimes it's the office secretary who helps show newcomers the ropes.

The Portland Labor Center eventually shuttered, and in 1981 the Floor Coverers, Glass Workers, and Asbestos Workers locals moved to a building on Northeast Sandy Blvd., along with Painters and Tapers Local 10 and District Council 55 (now D.C. 5). There, the Floor Coverers and Glass Workers shared an office.

In 1986, with the advent of computers, Blay was reassigned as secretary for both the Floor Coverers and Glass Workers after the locals computerized their offices. For the last 10 years of her career she had help from a part-time assistant.

The secret to her longevity? "I've always been treated as part of the team, not as a 'girl,'" she said. "I feel fortunate that I've been able to work in a place with such a congenial atmosphere. They treated me well. They made me feel appreciated."

Nothing can illustrate Blay's value to the locals more so than what took place during the two weeks prior to her departure. As she was spending time training her replacement, the business manager or a union rep would help answer the phones, but members would always ask for Kathy. When the union officer identified themselves, the member would still want to talk to Kathy.

"It became a running joke in the office," she said.

Blay has been a member of Office and Professional Employees Local 11 throughout her working career.

Several dozen people — ranging from past business managers and Executive Board members to vendors and other professionals — attended the surprise retirement party. Blay was presented with a wristwatch, cash, gift cards, flowers, and lots of well wishes.

In retirement, Blay, a widow with several step-children and grandchildren, plans to travel. She's booked a cruise for August and will visit her brother, a retired member of Insulators Local 36, who lives in Arizona.

"There's still lots of things I want to do," she said.

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## Dosha Salon Spa fires another union supporter

Dosha Salon Spa, a local chain of Aveda-branded spas, is amassing quite a rap sheet with the National Labor Relations Board. **Communications Workers of America Local 7901** — the union that Dosha workers voted in March 2011 to join — filed two more charges against the company in February, bringing to 10 the total charges filed. The latest: Dosha suspended for a month — and on Feb. 20 terminated — massage therapist Philip Aust; and denied hostess Sarah Pearson her right to have a union steward as a witness when called into a manager's office. Aust's termination follows that of pro-union massage therapist Mary Christ, who was fired in September after wearing the union's trademark red feather earrings in a workplace show of solidarity. An NLRB investigation determined that Christ was fired for her union sympathies, and a federal administrative law judge is scheduled March 20 to hear that and other charges.

## If you don't like it, move to Australia!

We've heard plenty about managers' "open door" policies, but this is going too far. Greg Godfrey is the plant manager at the nonunion Dyno Nobel chemical factory in Deer Island, Oregon (north of St. Helens). On Feb. 9, according to charges filed by **Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW)**, Godfrey drove to a hotel where the union was meeting with employees, walked up to the meeting room, and looked in to see who was attending. After the union organizer confronted him, he left, but he later returned and parked his vehicle a short distance from the hotel driveway — to spy on employees and discourage attendance, the union alleges. Moreover, AWPPW says, he went on to interrogate employees, verbally abuse union supporters, and indicate that those who supported the union were disloyal, even telling them if they didn't like the way they were being treated, they could leave and move to Australia. [Since 2008, Dyno Nobel has been owned by Incitec Pivot Limited, an Australia-headquartered maker of fertilizers and industrial explosives.] Despite the intimidation, AWPPW has requested a union election to determine if the 24 workers at the plant want to join.

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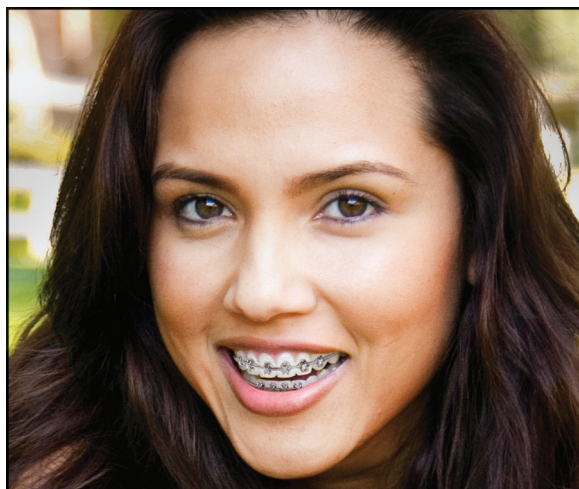
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