



NORTHWEST

# LABOR PRESS

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## 2013: LABOR IN REVIEW

As reported in the pages of the Northwest Labor Press, 2013 was a year of legislative gains for organized labor, mostly — and a year that saw greater labor unity and a spirit of fight-back among working people. But there were also a number of tough contract fights, and some defeats.

### PORTLAND CITY HALL

It's hard to overstate the importance of the new sick leave ordinance passed unanimously by Portland City Council in March. About a quarter of a million workers, nearly all non-union, gained an important human right in the workplace as of Jan. 1, 2014. That's almost as many workers as all the union members in Oregon. The measure was sponsored by City Commissioner Amanda Fritz after a campaign by Family Forward Oregon, Causa, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, the Oregon Working Families Party, and Working America, among other groups.

### OREGON CAPITOL

The Oregon Legislature banned the expenditure of public funds to keep employees from unionizing; gave workers the right to take up to two weeks unpaid bereavement leave; and expanded the prevailing wage law to cover public projects constructed with donor money. But lawmakers also trimmed public



Sick pay advocate Andrea Paluso of Family Forward Oregon, pictured above with her children outside Portland City Hall, put together a union-community coalition that won an ordinance extending earned sick days to a quarter of a million Portland workers who didn't have it.

employee retirement benefits, and gave away over \$500 million in new tax breaks to business owners.

### CONGRESS

A patient campaign by U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) to reform the filibuster bore fruit in 2013. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) at length concluded that too few presidential nominees would ever get a vote if minority GOP senators could fili-

buster their confirmation votes. Reid held a vote on a change to Senate rules, and a majority of senators voted to eliminate the filibuster on presidential nominations (except for U.S. Supreme Court nominations). The result is a fully functioning National Labor Relations Board for the first time since Obama was elected — and a new Labor Secretary who has already moved several long-overdue regulations: an OSHA rule protecting workers from



silica dust, and a federal regulation extending minimum wage and overtime to home care workers.

City of Portland employees represented by the multi-union coalition known as DCTU rallied outside City Hall Aug. 14 to demand a "fair contract now" — with a fair cost of living increase and no concessions on job security. But at year's end, they still didn't have it.

## Oregon AFL-CIO takes more political action for '14

At a Dec. 18 meeting of its Executive Board and political committee, the Oregon AFL-CIO made three political endorsements: Brad Avakian for re-election as Oregon labor commissioner, Oregon Nurses Association staff representative Rob Nosse for state representative in House District 42, and a "yes" vote on a "driver's card" referendum that will appear on the November 2014 ballot. The state labor federation endorsed U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley's re-election at its biennial convention last September.

Republican state Reps. Kim Thatcher and Sal Esquivel oppose a law passed in the 2013 legislative session that requires Oregon to issue resident driver's cards without requiring that applicants prove legal presence in the United States. So they led a signature gathering effort to refer the law to voters. The driver's card, which requires passing a drivers test to obtain, allows holders to drive legally in Oregon for three years. Unlike the driver's license, which is good for five years, the driver's card is not accepted by federal or state governments as a form of identification when

applying for services that require citizenship or legal residency.

Oregon Legislative and Communications Director Elana Guiney said it's not just foreign-born residents who have trouble getting a regular driver's license: some senior citizens, and homeless and indigent individuals who don't have an address or place to store records, also have had difficulty.

A "yes" vote on the referendum is a vote to uphold the law as passed by the Legislature.

In other business, the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board authorized the establishment of a yet-to-be-named non-profit, a type of organization known under the federal tax code as a 501(c)3. Other state labor federations have set up such groups, which conduct policy research, public education and issue advocacy, but aren't allowed to get involved in politics. Those roles could supplement the Oregon AFL-CIO's other work, and unlike labor organizations, 501(c)3s are allowed to accept foundation grants and tax-deductible contributions. The group would have a board that is

independent from the Oregon AFL-CIO.

The Oregon AFL-CIO E-Board swore in two new members: Jim Falvey and Lisa Gourley.

Falvey, president of Portland-based National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 82, replaced Kevin Card after Card took a job with the national union in Washington, D.C. Gourley, a board member of Oregon School Employees Association and president of the Linn-Benton-Lincoln Central Labor Council, replaces Stacey Chamberlain of AFSCME Council 75.

The Board also dealt with leftover business from the September convention. With amendments, the Board passed Resolution 12, which puts the state labor federation on record supporting a requirement that political campaigns disclose their donors. And the Board voted to table Resolution 13, which called on the Oregon AFL-CIO to organize a large public rally in defense of Social Security and Medicare. Instead, the state labor federation will coordinate with the national AFL-CIO, which is planning a campaign on the issue later this year.

# Labor liaison Smith Warner headed to state Legislature

Barbara Smith Warner, labor liaison to U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), has been appointed the new Democratic state representative for Oregon House District 45.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners on Dec. 19 chose Smith Warner, 46, to replace Michael Dembrow. In November, those same county commissioners appointed Dembrow to the state Senate to fill the unexpired term of Jackie Dingfelder in District 23. Dingfelder resigned mid-term to join the staff of Portland Mayor Charlie Hales.

Dembrow is a longtime union activist and former president of the American Federation of Teachers-Oregon, Portland Community College Faculty Federation Local 2277. He was first elected to the House in 2008.



BARBARA SMITH WARNER

Smith Warner was well known in labor circles prior to joining Sen. Wyden's staff in March 2009. She worked for the national AFL-CIO as a state legislative issues coordinator and as a campaign director against several anti-union ballot measures sponsored by Bill Sizemore. From 1993 to 1996 she was the Western Regional field

coordinator for the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Smith Warner was campaign director for former labor commissioner Dan Gardner, a member of IBEW Local 48. She also has worked as campaign director for Forward Oregon and Future PAC, and on the re-election campaigns of Wyden, Gov. Ted Kulongoski, and U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer.

Commissioners chose Smith Warner unanimously to represent District 45, which includes parts of Northeast Portland, the city of Maywood Park, and the Parkrose area. She was one of three nominees submitted by the Democratic Party of Oregon. The other contenders were Thomas Sincic and James Woods.

Smith Warner stressed to commissioners her commitment to education and health care reform, as well as her many community connections ranging from her two children's school (Beverly Cleary) and the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association to the Children's Book Bank and St. Andrew's food pantry.

Smith Warner told the Labor Press she will work to expand the idea of "wraparound care" in Gov. John Kitzhaber's health care transformation to other areas such as housing, job training (including union apprenticeships) and mental health.

Smith Warner will resign from her job as Wyden's labor liaison. Her last day is Jan. 5. She will be sworn in as a state representative on Jan. 15.



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# Machinists to vote on second Boeing offer

Members of Machinists District 751 in Puget Sound and District W24 in Portland employed at Boeing Co. have been ordered by their international union to vote on a second contract proposal the company made Dec. 12.

Boeing has threatened to move production of the new 777X to another state if workers don't agree to the deal.

The vote was scheduled for Jan. 3, just a day after Boeing's assembly workers returned from their annual two-week holiday break (and after this issue of the Labor Press went to press).

Machinists District 751 is "emphatically recommending that members reject the offer," as it is largely unchanged from one that members turned down by a 2-to-1 margin on Nov. 13.

Boeing is demanding an eight-year contract with drastic concessions in retirement and health care benefits, and

wage increases of only 1 percent every other year, in return for what District 751 says are vague promises of making Washington the home for the new 777X jet.

"The only guarantees this contract makes are that future Machinists won't have a defined benefit pension, current Machinists will pay more for health care, and everyone will have sharp limits on their future earnings," said District 751 President Tom Wroblewski.

Boeing sweetened its cash offer, adding a \$5,000 lump sum bonus in January 2020 to a \$10,000 ratification bonus that was offered in the first proposal. The company also withdrew its earlier demand to slow the wage progression for new hires. The offer reverts to the status quo, which is that new hires can reach the top of the pay scale in six years (and not 16 years as previously proposed).

Machinists are currently working under a contract that doesn't expire until September 2016. That agreement has been in place since 2008.

In a letter to all Boeing Machinists, International President Tom Buffenbarger said Jan. 3 will be the "final vote" on a contract. He said the union "must take the threat seriously" that Boeing will leave Washington (if the contract is rejected). He wrote that given the fact several states have tendered serious offers and incentive packages to the company, "the timeline for the Puget Sound area is expiring."

Prior to the union vote on Nov. 13, the Washington Legislature in a special session granted Boeing a \$8.7 billion tax incentive package through 2024. It is the largest state tax subsidy for a private corporation in U.S. history.

# Part of SeaTac's \$15 minimum wage measure struck

SEATAC, Wash. — In a Dec. 27 ruling, a judge struck down SeaTac's voter-passed \$15-an-hour minimum wage for airport workers, but upheld it for hotel and transportation workers outside the airport.

King County Superior Court Judge Andrea Darvas ruled that under state law, the Port of Seattle has exclusive jurisdiction over SeaTac Airport. Thus, the airport is not subject to ordinances passed by the City of SeaTac, the 27,000-resident municipality that encompasses the airport. Voters in SeaTac had passed in November — by 77 votes — the highest-in-the-nation minimum wage by ballot initiative. The initiative also gave hospitality and transportation workers other rights,

including paid sick days and the right for employees of contractors to keep their jobs when the contract changes hands.

The Yes for SeaTac campaign — the coalition of unions, community groups, and churches that crafted the initiative — said it would file an expedited appeal to the Washington Supreme Court. For now, about 1,600 hotel and parking lot workers who work within the City of SeaTac get raises to \$15 an hour, but an estimated 4,700 baggage handlers, car rental workers, and others who work in the airport itself will have to wait for the results of a legal appeal.

This wasn't Darvas' first time ruling on the SeaTac ballot measure. Last summer, she agreed with an attempt by

Alaska Airlines to keep the measure off the ballot, but that decision was overruled by the Washington Court of Appeals.

This time, Darvas rejected most of the grab bag of arguments made by the initiative's opponents — that it violates the rule that initiatives must encompass only one subject, that it violates the U.S. Constitution's commerce clause by mistreating out-of-state employers, that it violates state law by letting unaffected parties sue employers, or that it is preempted by the National Labor Relations Act. But Darvas agreed with the jurisdictional argument: The City of SeaTac may not regulate the airport, because only the Port of Seattle may do that.



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Cynthia Newton



Chris Frost



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# IBEW Local 48's Keith Edwards retires after 44-year career

Keith Edwards feels like a truly blessed man.

"I've had such a good life. Think about it. Because I'm a union electrician, I've had health care since I was 20 years old. I've always had the best wages. I've had the best working conditions. A voice on the job. And now a great retirement — all because I'm a union electrician."

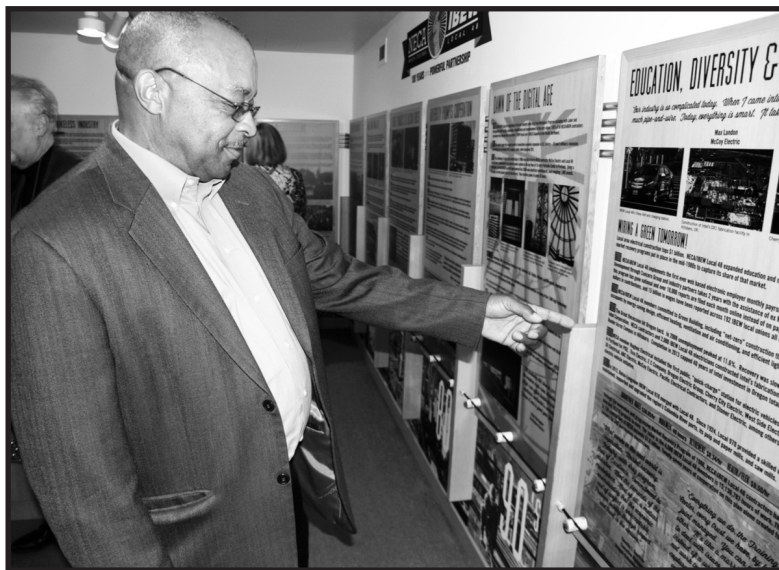
Edwards, 64, retired Nov. 1 from his job as an international representative for the Ninth District of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). He was honored at a retirement reception Nov. 23 at the IBEW Local 48 union hall in Portland.

Edwards got his start as an apprentice at IBEW Local 48 in 1969, a couple of years after graduating from Portland's Jefferson High School. In those days there was a one-year probationary period before you could join the union. His official active date was August of 1970.

During his 44-year career, Edwards broke many barriers, including becoming the first African-American business manager of a construction local in IBEW history. He also was the first black to serve as a member of the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee.

He got his first taste of union activism in 1974 when he co-founded the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.

"My union embraced it right away," he said.



**Keith Edwards, a 44-year member of IBEW Local 48, checks out an exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society featuring the 100th anniversary partnership of NECA/IBEW. Edwards, the first black business manager of an IBEW local in the nation, retired last month as an international rep.**

Shortly thereafter the international union established a minority caucus for African-Americans and Latinos nationwide.

Edwards spent two years in New York and New Jersey working as a traveling electrician. He returned to Portland in 1988 to work at Swan Island building oil modules for Alaska. He was a regular at union meetings, and in 1989 he was appointed as a steward by then-business manager Ed

Barnes. That same year he also was appointed to Local 48's Executive Board, following the retirement of Gus Miller. Miller was the first African-American to serve on the Board.

In 1990, Barnes hired Edwards as a full-time business representative.

Barnes retired in 1995. He was succeeded by Greg Teeple, who a year later was hired by the international union. Local 48's Executive Board appointed Jerry Bruce to succeed Teeple,

and in 1996 Bruce tapped Edwards as his assistant business manager. When Bruce retired mid-term in 2000, the local's Executive Board appointed Edwards to succeed him.

Edwards won election to the job outright in 2001. He was the first (and only) business manager of Local 48 to be elected unopposed. He also was the first African-American to be elected business manager of an IBEW construction local nationwide.

Two years later the international came knocking again, hiring him as a representative for the Ninth District, which encompasses Oregon, Washington, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the northern portion of Idaho. Edwards was assigned to locals in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Edwards said what he enjoyed most about his job was working with people — both on the union side and on the management side — and helping them resolve their issues.

"One guy might say the sky is blue, and another guy says the sky is green. The truth is somewhere in the middle," he said. "A lot of the time (finding a solution) it's just common sense."

Edwards says the biggest disappointment of his career is seeing labor's fall in both membership and market share. "The middle class is shrinking, and the rich ... the rich class isn't growing, only the net worth of a few individuals is growing."

On the bright side, as a community

activist Edwards says he sees more and more younger people starting to realize the benefit of having a union at work.

Known as "The Union Guy" in Portland's black community, Edwards says it's crucial that union members be active in their communities, letting people know what the union is all about.

"I'm always preaching about the benefits of being in a union. I'm proof of it," he said.

Outside of the union, Edwards is involved with the Coalition of Black Men, the Portland Workforce Alliance, and the NAACP, where he has served as president of the Portland chapter.

He also served eight years on the Oregon Electrical Board under appointment of Gov. Barbara Roberts.

"Keith has spent the last 44 years doing what he can to help the IBEW and make the lives of all those around him better," wrote Local 48 Assistant Business Manager Alan Keser in the union's newsletter announcing his retirement.

And though he says he doesn't have any aspirations to run for elected office, he will continue working to open doors for others. In fact, shortly after retiring he had business cards printed that read: "Keith Edwards. Community Activist. Retired Union Electrician."

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# Official Notices

## AUTO MECHANIC 1005

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop stewards' training session. **ALL MEMBERS** are invited to shop stewards' training. Stewards must attend steward meetings to be compensated.

**LEADERSHIP CLASSES:** Resumes are now being accepted for Leadership 1 classes. Interviews will be held at our executive board meeting held at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 15, 2014.

All meetings and elections are held at our Union Hall, 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

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

Executive Board meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, in the meeting room, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** An Executive Board position will be filled at this meeting. If interested, please contact Local 114.

## BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

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

## CEMENT MASONS 555

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

## CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at the Social Justice Center, 155 NE Irving Ave., Bend.

## COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

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

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Business Manager's Open House Saturday, Jan. 4, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Meeting Hall, contact Nancy Reames 503-256-4848 ext 240 for an appointment.

Executive Board Meeting meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, and Wednesday, January 15 in the Executive Boardroom.

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

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

Washington Unit Meeting meets at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Longview Hall, 1145 Commerce Ave, Longview, Washington.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, in the Executive Boardroom.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, in the Dispatch Lobby.

**DEATH ASSESSMENTS:** No. 2372, David A. Lehto; No. 2373, Wayne A. Garrison; and No. 2374, Larry L. Wagner. The Jan. 2014 assessment is \$1.50.

## ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** Ballots were mailed on Dec. 13, 2013 for the run-off election for Business Representative. Ballots must be returned by Jan. 9, 2014.

## FIRE FIGHTERS 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

## FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

## GLASS WORKERS 740

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

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

## INSULATORS 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8. Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10. Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## IRON WORKERS 29

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

## IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9. Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23. Meetings are at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

## LABORERS 320

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

## LABORERS 483

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

## LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

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

## LANE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

## LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BUILDING TRADES

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

## LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, preceded by a 7 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

## LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

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

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

## MACHINISTS 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. **NOTE:** There will be District Delegates elections at the January meeting. Meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

## MACHINISTS 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6. Regular membership meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8. Shop stewards' training session 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. Meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

## MARION-POLK-YAMHILL LABOR COUNCIL

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

## METAL TRADES COUNCIL

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

## MID-COLUMBIA LABOR COUNCIL

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

## MOLDERS 139B

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

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY EMPLOYEES 88

General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5. Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

## PAINTERS & DRYWALL FINISHERS 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Asbestos Hall, 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: [www.iupatlocal10.org](http://www.iupatlocal10.org)

## PLASTERERS 82

The January meeting has been canceled.

## PORTLAND CITY & METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEES 189

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14. General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

## ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS 49

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

## SALEM BUILDING TRADES

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

## SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland area VOC January meeting has been canceled.

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE: SPECIAL NOMINATIONS** for Business Representative Position #1 will be held at the Portland meeting. Potential candidates refer to the SMWIA Constitution Article 12, Section 3 regarding qualifications. To be Eligible, nominees must be a member in Good Standing for two years prior to nomination, cannot be a convicted felon and must present a current dues receipt (January's 2014 dues paid in December) at the meeting.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Special Election Local 16 Business Representative Position #1 will at the following DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2014.

Monday, Jan. 27 - Wild River Pizza, 4 to 4:30 PM, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy, Medford.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 - SW Oregon Training Center, 4 to 5 p.m., 1887 Laura St., Springfield.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 - Abby's Pizza, 4 to 4:30 p.m., 997 First St. Coos Bay.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 - UA Training Center, 4 to 4:30 p.m., 1810 Freeway Ct., NE. #110, Salem.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 - Abby's Pizza, 4 to 4:30 p.m., 1938 S Highway 97, Redmond.

Thursday, Jan. 30 - Abby's Pizza, 4 to 4:30 p.m., 1661 NE Stephens, Roseburg.

Thursday, Jan. 30 - Sheet Metal Training Center, 1 to 7 p.m., 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

The position of the Business Representative is also an elected position as a Local 16 Delegate for Representation to AFL/CIO, SMWIA functions and any functions where Local 16 Delegates are required.

To receive a ballot a member must be in good standing. Dues will need to be paid through November 2013 for this election.

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

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

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

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

## SIGN PAINTERS & PAINT MAKERS 1094

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

## SOUTHEASTERN OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Woodworkers Hall, 3836 Altamont Drive, Klamath Falls.

## SOUTHERN OREGON

**CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL**  
Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

## SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, at a location to be determined.

## SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

## UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, 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, Jan. 23, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane, Astoria.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21. Please contact Craig Spjut at 707-496-1767 for location information.

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

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

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

## Labor law confab in Portland Jan. 31

There is still time to register for the 18th annual Oregon Labor Law Conference Friday, Jan. 31, at the IBEW Local 48 hall in Northeast Portland.

The conference is designed for business managers, business agents and union officers, to provide information that will help them do their jobs better and to help avoid legal liability.

In addition to classes on basic grievance handling and how to obtain documents for arbitration, guest speakers will discuss legal secondary boycotts, the rules on using social media and Working America.

Gordon Lafer of the Labor Education and Research Center at the University of Oregon will talk about a right-to-work ballot measure aimed at Oregon, and LERC Director Bob Bussell will discuss the Affordable Care Act and its impact on unions.

Guest speakers include Ronald Hooks, director of the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB 19, and Sub-region 36 Officer in Charge Linda Davidson.

The conference is sponsored by Local 48, Oregon AFL-CIO, Northwest Oregon Labor Council, LERC, the Oregon and Columbia-Pacific building and construction trades councils, and the Center for Worker Rights.

For registration information, contact Norman Malbin at 503 889-3669 or [Norman@IBEW48.com](mailto:Norman@IBEW48.com).

# Retiree Meeting Notices

## ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED

### AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, followed by an 11 a.m. General membership meeting at 3645 SE 32nd, Portland. All retirees are welcome to attend.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees, wives and friends meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Kings Omelet, 10711 NE Weidler, Portland. For more info, call Glenn Hodgkinson at 503-656-0028.

## ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees ONLY meet at noon Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

## IRON WORKERS 29

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

## MACHINISTS RETIREES

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Union Hall.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

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

## OREGON AFSCME

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

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

## SHEET METAL 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Spaghetti Factory, 18925 Northwest Tanasbourne Drive, Hillsboro.

## UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

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

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



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## Working America signing up workers for health insurance

Oregon's new online insurance exchange may be broken, but the AFL-CIO is moving ahead to sign up uninsured individuals for health insurance through its community group Working America.

Working America regional mobilization director Kim McMurray says the group has signed up 600 people so far in Oregon, including taxi drivers with Union Cab and employees of several restaurants. Working America has also held several enrollment fairs in the basement of the Oregon AFL-CIO offices — in which individuals meet in person with insurance brokers chosen by the group.

The local effort is part of a national campaign by Working America, in partnership with the UnionPlus benefits program. Individuals who sign up for individual health insurance through

Working America become members of Working America, and have access to a free 24-7 phone service to help schedule doctors appointments.

McMurray said the group hopes the effort will help build relationships with food service workers in particular. A Working America member coordinator has been reaching out to restaurant owners, and the group sends brokers out to sign employees up for coverage. Oven and Shaker restaurant will be the next to hold an enrollment event, Jan. 7.

The next open-to-the-public event will be Jan. 13 at the Radio Room, 1101 NE Alberta St., Portland. Sign-up for the event is online at [www.workingamericahealthcare.com](http://www.workingamericahealthcare.com).

Because of delays in the rollout, the deadline for uninsured individuals to enroll for 2014 has been extended until March 31.

## Oregon AFL-CIO hires Nafisah Ula to bolster union organizing

The Oregon AFL-CIO has hired a research specialist to augment its organizing program. Nafisah Ula was recruited to the state labor federation from the national AFL-CIO's Center for Strategic Research, where she spent two-and-a-half years doing research to help affiliated unions organize new members. She'll do similar work in Oregon — researching the structure of private sector companies, for instance, identifying who the decision-makers are, and helping workplace organizers build lists of workers.

Ula, 27, grew up in Laramie, Wyoming, a daughter of immigrants from Bangladesh. From an early age, she noticed and was bothered by economic inequality. At University of

Michigan Ann Arbor, she became an activist for racial and economic justice, and spent summers working for the labor movement. She conducted research for the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center in Durban, South Africa in conjunction with United Students Against Sweatshops. And she served as an apprentice organizer with UNITE HERE in a food service worker campaign in San Jose. After earning a bachelor's degree in sociology from University of Michigan and a masters degree in political theory from the University of Chicago, she interned at the Workers Rights Consortium, an international labor rights monitoring group and then went to work as a researcher for Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, a 120,000 member union of janitors and security guards. She joined the national AFL-CIO in January 2011.

# National Labor College in Silver Spring, Md. will close in April

SILVER SPRING, Md. (PAI) — The National Labor College (NLC) in Silver Spring, Maryland — the only college in the United States with an exclusive mission to serve the educational needs of the labor movement — will close this year because of financial difficulties.

"I am deeply saddened to report that the Board of Trustees directed me and the college's officers to develop a plan to close the college," the institution's president, Dr. Paula Peinovich, said in a statement posted on its website. "The college has been facing significant financial difficulties, and the board reluctantly decided to accept the inevitability of our closure."

Peinovich said NLC will offer a spring semester from Jan. 6 to April 18, 2014, with a full range of courses for the 260 students already registered. [Last fall the college had 599 online students.] The college still is exploring the option of an 18 month teach-out, whereby students could take courses at other institutions and transfer them back to NLC.

NLC will hold a commencement and closing convocation ceremony on April 26, 2014.

The labor college has been an independent, degree-granting institution for 17 years, tracing its history back to the George Meany Center for Labor Studies.

In an interview with the Washington Post, Peinovich said the college became burdened by debt incurred in a major renovation at its 47-acre campus that began in 2003. Part of that renovation included the construction of a 72,000-square-foot conference center named for Lane Kirkland, the late AFL-CIO president.

The center, dedicated in 2007, was unable to generate enough revenue to

erase the debt, Peinovich said, and even failed to cover its own operating costs.

Peinovich, who came out of retirement to run NLC after previously running a private for-profit online college, said the college owed about \$30 million when she took over in 2010.

At the time of her hiring, she was the college's fourth president in five years.

There had also been high turnover in other top administrative offices.

NLC employed 58 faculty and staff members and had an annual operating budget of \$12 million, Peinovich said. Most of the full-time faculty, represented by the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild, took buyouts when the college offered them. The Guild also represents part-time faculty there. The AFL-CIO and individual unions are the college's primary financial support, with the labor federation contributing about \$5 million a year. The AFL-CIO also has provided bridge loans to the college in recent years.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka told the federation's Executive

Council during a meeting at the college several years ago that the fed could not continue subsidizing the NLC. Trumka also chairs the college's board of trustees.

In 2012, trustees put the campus up for sale and planned to make the college an entirely online institution.

The Washington Post reported Dec. 19 that college trustees had approved a letter of intent to sell the 47-acre campus to Monument Realty. A sale price has not been announced, but proceeds will help cover the college's debts.

**Oregon's minimum wage increased to \$9.10 an hour on Jan. 1, 2014**



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# ...2013: Year in Review

(From Page 1)

a campaign by the Machinists to unionize Precision Castparts went down in a 932 to 1,258 vote.

## CONTRACT DISPUTES

A unit of 1,800 University of Oregon faculty ratified their first-ever union contract in October, delivering greater job security and raises averaging 11.75 percent. That was the product of a six-year campaign. But at year's end, three other large public employee units were having great difficulty securing acceptable contract renewals: 1,600 members of the District Council of Trade Unions at the City of Portland, 2,000 members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 at TriMet, and 3,000 members of the Portland Association of Teachers at Portland Public Schools.

And large private sector employers were playing hardball with their union employees. In February, United Grain locked out members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) from its export terminal at the Port of Vancouver, and Columbia Grain did the same in May at its terminal at the Port of Portland. ILWU members were still locked out of those jobs at



year's end. Meanwhile, members of Machinists Lodge 1005 and Sign Painters and Paint Makers Local 1094 at Daimler's Western Star truck plant in Portland struck 22 days and returned to work after agreeing to a contract that was little changed from the one they rejected before the strike: Raises of \$1.30 an hour over three years, but also increased health insurance premiums and an end to post-65 retiree health benefits.

And Boeing Inc. told union Machinists it would leave the Puget Sound behind and locate new aircraft assembly elsewhere — if they didn't vote to end their own pensions and sell out future co-workers with a wage scale that more than doubled the time it takes to reach top pay. With three years still remaining on their existing contract, members turned down that offer by a more than two-to-one ratio.

## JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

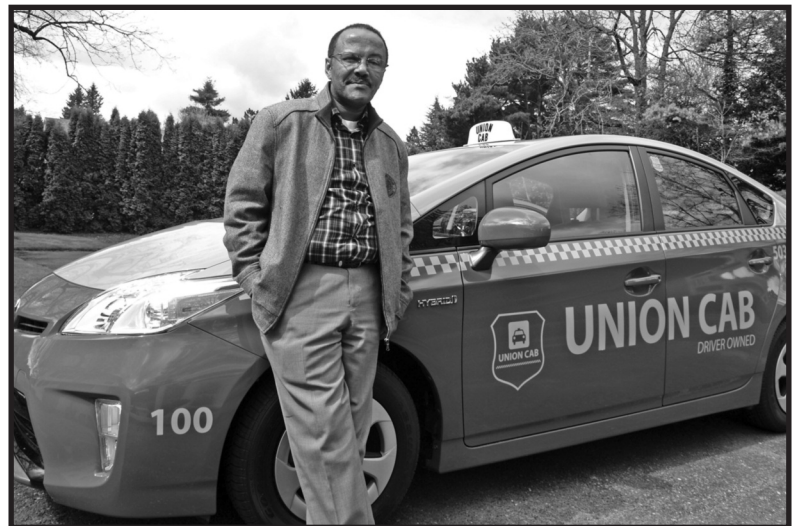
Union construction workers were kept busy at the massive expansion of

Intel's Ronler Acres campus in Hillsboro in 2013, with thousands employed throughout the year. And in general, work in the building trades was up. In May, the massive remodel of the Edith Green Wendell Wyatt Federal Building was completed: The \$139-million stimulus-funded project employed union labor under a project labor agreement, and was completed on time and on budget two years and four months after site work began.

Union business managers pushed hard in 2013 to develop future work opportunities: If financing comes together for a convention center headquarters hotel in Portland, Hyatt Corp. and its general contractor pledged in 2013 to use union building trades members to build it — and to remain neutral toward union organizing efforts by the hotel workers union UNITE HERE once it opens. But the area's biggest jobs project, a new I-5 bridge over the Columbia River, was no closer to reality after years of planning: The Oregon Legislature committed \$450 million to the project, but the Washington Senate failed to vote the necessary matching amount.

## UNIONS MERGE, AND SPLIT

In 2013, the 10,400-member Oregon Nurses Association joined Ameri-



**Kedir Wako had a vision that he and fellow cabbies could form a new driver-owned union-affiliated taxi coop. In April, Union Cab became a reality.**

can Federation of Teachers (AFT); and 200-member Boilermakers Local 500, based in Portland, merged into 350-member Local 242, based in Spokane. Service Employees International Union (SEIU) locals 49 and 503 began merger discussions, which they expected to conclude in Spring 2014; if they unify, the combination would be a 65,000-member union of janitors, security guards, health care workers, and state employees.

Nationally, 1.3 million-member United Food and Commercial Workers resolved in August to rejoin the AFL-CIO, the federation it broke away from eight years prior. But International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), went the opposite direction: The 50,000-member union of West Coast dockworkers disaffiliated with the AFL-CIO, citing jurisdictional disputes with other AFL-CIO unions.

## DON'T MOURN; ORGANIZE

The local labor movement also noted the passing of a number of longtime union activists in 2013, including Tommy Malloy, former Teamsters business agent and lobbyist; Bill Fritz, former labor educator with the University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center; Ken Jette, former statewide president of the American Postal Workers Union; Kathy Morris, retired United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 official and expert on workers' compensation; Lin Mayes, former secretary-treasurer of UFCW Local 555; Larry Kenney, former president of the Washington State Labor Council; Sandy Fahey, co-founder of the Carpenters Food Bank; and Tom Gates, former president of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 916 in Eugene.



**With the help of union labor, Portland's 18-story, city-block-sized federal building got a "green" remodel, and reopened in September. The names of all the workers are printed on glass at the building's entrance.**



**Machinists picket the Daimler Trucks plant in Portland on July 1, Day 1 of a strike that lasted 22 days.**

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# Operating Engineers rejoin Building Trades Department

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — After nearly eight years since leaving, the International Union of Operating Engineers rejoined the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department on Jan. 1.

“Raising our collective voice and acting with common purpose through this affiliation will benefit not only IUOE members, but all union construction tradesmen and women,” said Operating Engineers international President James Callahan. “We look forward to working with (BCTD) to create opportunities for construction workers and to provide a reliable and highly skilled workforce for contractors and owners. The construction industry and its workforce endured sig-

nificant losses in the recent recession, but by working together as North America’s building trades unions, we can achieve a brighter and more prosperous future for our members.”

Building Trades Department President Sean McGarvey called the reaffiliation “a great day” for the construction industry in North America in general, and the union construction industry in particular.

“With the Operating Engineers as a formal partner, we will better serve the needs of our clients, our customers, our contractors and, most importantly, the members we represent,” he said.

The Operating Engineers has approximately 400,000 members in 123 local unions throughout the United States and Canada, including Local 701 in Gladstone, Oregon, and Washington Locals 286 in Auburn, 302 in Bothell, 280 in Richland, 370 in Spokane, and 612 in Tacoma.

It is the 10th largest union in the AFL-CIO.

With the addition of the Operating Engineers, the Building and Construction Trades Department now consists of 14 national and international unions that collectively represent nearly 3 million construction workers in the United States and Canada.

## Business group sues to stop workers’ rights poster

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) filed a lawsuit Dec. 18 challenging the U.S. Department of Labor’s rule that requires federal contractors to display posters informing workers of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act. The 11 by 17 inch poster advises employees of their legal rights to organize unions, bargain collectively, and go on strike and picket without retribution by an employer. It also informs workers of their rights not to join a union or be coerced by union officials.

The employer group asserts that the regulation violates the free speech rights of employers by forcing them to promote unionization of their workforces or risk losing federal contracts.

Last year, two federal appeals courts struck down a similar poster rule issued by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). That rule covered most large private businesses, not just federal contractors.

The Labor Department rules, which have been in place since 2010, affect federal contractors and subcontractors that employ about 16 million workers.

A spokeswoman for NAM told Associated Press that her group is challenging the Labor Department rule now based on the precedent set by the appeals courts in the NLRB case.

The poster rule for federal contractors was approved by the Labor Department’s Office of Labor Management Standards. It was based on a White House executive order signed by President Barack Obama shortly after he took office in 2009.

Obama’s executive order rescinded a prior executive order from President George W. Bush that required federal contractors to post a notice informing employees of their rights “not to join a labor union or pay fees for union expenses that are unrelated to representation issues.”

NAM did not challenge Bush’s executive order.

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