

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

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VOLUME 118, NUMBER 5

PORTLAND, OREGON

MARCH 3, 2017

Trump's Labor Secretary nominee: Puzder withdraws; Acosta up next

A victory for working people: That's what union leaders called the news Feb. 15 that Andrew Puzder was dropping out as Donald Trump's nominee to head the U.S. Department of Labor, after weeks of national union pressure against his confirmation. Labor Secretary is in charge of enforcing federal minimum wage, overtime, child labor and occupational safety and health laws. But Puzder, CEO of the company that owns the Hardee's and Carl's Jr. fast food chains, has been a vocal critic of efforts to increase the federal minimum wage and update overtime rules.

Yet other factors sank his nomination, including revelations that he employed an undocumented housekeeper, and that his ex-wife shared stories of spousal abuse on the Oprah show in the 1980s. As many as a dozen Republican senators were reportedly considering voting against him.

The day after Puzder gave notice of his withdrawal, the White House announced that the new nominee would be Alexander Acosta — dean of the Florida International University School of Law and



Members of the Oregon Education Association, Service Employees, and AFSCME were among the several hundred who turned up on the Oregon Capitol steps in Salem for a Presidents Day rally organized by unions and allied groups. Rallies also took place in Portland, Bend, and Eugene.



OUT:

Andy Puzder

IN:

Alexander Acosta

chairman of a South Florida bank. A Harvard Law grad, Acosta began his career representing employers in employment and labor issues at the Kirkland & Ellis law firm.

Now, according to the White

House press statement, he's "eager to work tirelessly on behalf of the American worker."

Under President George W. Bush, Acosta served briefly on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), then led the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

After Puzder, Acosta comes as a relief to labor. "Acosta's nomination deserves serious consideration," said AFL-CIO president Rich Trumka. "We've gone from a fast-food CEO who routinely violates labor law to a public servant with experience enforcing it."

OPEIU pension seeks to cut retiree benefits

The proposed benefit cuts of 29 percent are supposed to save a pension plan that would otherwise run out of money in 2035.

By Don McIntosh

Imagine: You're a 67-year-old retiree collecting a \$1,685-a-month union pension, and you get a letter in the mail. It says that to prevent your pension plan from running out of money in 18 years, your benefits are about to be cut by \$489 a month, to \$1,196.

More than 5,000 current and future union retirees in the Pacific Northwest got a letter like

that in February. Under a proposal submitted Feb. 15 by trustees of the Western States Office and Professional Employees Pension Fund, they would have their pension benefits permanently reduced by up to 29 percent. Those affected are current or former members of Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) in Oregon, Washington, and several other Western states.

Until 2014, union-sponsored multiemployer trusts like the Western States OPEIU Pension Fund weren't legally allowed to cut pension benefits once

they were earned, and especially not for current retirees. But under legislation Congress passed with little debate in December 2014, multiemployer pension plans that are headed for collapse can reduce benefits — if that prevents insolvency. Under the law, known as the Kline-Miller Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014, plans can't reduce benefits for retirees who are over 80 years old, and cuts for those who are 75 to 80 must be smaller than for those under 75.

The Western States OPEIU

Vigor shipyard workers vote to extend contract to Sept. 1

Shipyard workers at Vigor Industrial LLC subsidiaries in Oregon and Washington voted overwhelmingly Feb. 13 to extend their collective bargaining agreements to Sept. 1, 2017. In return, workers received a 90-cent-an-hour raise, retroactive to Dec. 5, 2016.

Metal trades craft unions represent approximately 700 workers at Vigor Marine Portland, Cascade General Portland, Washington Marine Repair Seattle, Vigor Marine Seattle, and Vigor Shipyard Seattle. Vigor Marine Portland and Vigor Marine Seattle operate as a single company. All are subsidiaries of Vigor Industrial LLC.

Union contracts at the Vigor properties are bargained by the Metal Trades Council of Portland and Vicinity, the Puget Sound Metal Trades Council, and Boilermakers Local 104. A master agreement that covers all locations is under the direction of the national Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO.

Local area collective bargaining agreements at all of the properties expired Nov. 30, 2016. The master agreement at those properties was set to expire June 1, 2017, but it, too,

was extended to Sept. 1.

The extension agreement will give the sides more time to address ongoing problems with the funding status of some of the multi-employer pension plans that cover some Vigor employees, said Pat Christensen, president of the Portland Metal Trades Council.

Christensen, a union rep for Plumbers and Fitters Local 290, said a labor-management subcommittee has been created, and will meet with pension trusts from the Machinists, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Boilermakers to determine what solutions might be available. Those pension plans are currently underfunded and in a federally-mandated rehabilitation plan.

The sides also will continue to bargain contract language and economics, Christensen said.

Nearly a dozen craft unions are affiliated with the respective metal trades councils in Oregon and Washington. They include Plumbers and Fitters, Machinists, Electricians, Laborers, Painters, Operating Engineers, Teamsters, Sheet Metal Workers, Insulators, and Boilermakers.

Unions facing fierce attack in GOP-led state legislatures

Iowa strips public worker collective bargaining rights, but right-to-work fails in New Hampshire

By Don McIntosh

Is Iowa the next Wisconsin? Under Gov. Scott Walker, Wisconsin famously stripped public employees of all meaningful union rights in a draconian piece of 2010 legislation. Now Iowa has passed a very similar law. House File 291 ends for all intents and purposes, the collective bargaining rights of 184,000 public employees.

Under the new law, public employee unions will only be allowed to negotiate base wages, nothing else, and they can never bargain increases that are more than inflation. Health insurance, vacation time, evaluation procedures, seniority-related benefits ... none of those things can be part of union contracts going forward. And public-employee unions would be barred from automatically deducting union dues and political contributions from members'

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What's happening to your health care?

— THREE THINGS TO KNOW RIGHT NOW —

**By Shaun O'Brien
AFL-CIO NOW**

Right now there's lots of talk about how President Donald Trump and Congress are planning to make major changes to Americans' health benefits. That's because Trump and Republican leaders in Congress have said that repealing the Affordable Care Act is one of their top priorities. Although it is not clear when they will act or exactly what they will do, here are three things to know right now:

1) Your health benefits are at risk, no matter where you get them

- **Medicare:** A straight-up repeal of the ACA would eliminate some Medicare benefits by reinstating the full Medicare prescription drug donut hole and taking away free preventive care. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) has pushed to turn Medicare into a voucher system, meaning benefits would no longer be guaranteed and health costs for seniors and people with disabilities would go up dramatically.
- **Workplace Health Benefits:** Kevin Brady (R-Texas), the powerful chairman of the tax writing committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, wants to tax part of the cost of workplace health benefits by

including the cost in working people's taxable income. So does the person Trump hired to be in charge of health care, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price. If you get your health benefits on the job, this will raise your taxes and lead to even higher deductibles and co-pays. Some employers could even cancel their health plans in response.

■ Health Insurance You Buy Yourself:

Most media coverage is focused on what impact repeal of the ACA will have on the approximately 10 million people who now buy individual health coverage through the ACA's health insurance marketplaces, often with the help of federal tax credits. A straight-up repeal of the ACA would not just take away the tax credits that help people buy health insurance. Full repeal also would eliminate the ACA's protections that require insurance companies to treat people fairly, to give them meaningful insurance without tricks and traps, and not to discriminate against anyone because they have a pre-existing condition or even because of their gender.

- **Medicaid:** Medicaid is the health plan run by states, with significant federal funding, that enables 74 million people to get the medical care they need. One-in-three kids in the United States get their health coverage from Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Plan. Millions of seniors and people of all ages with disabilities also

count on Medicaid for nursing home care and the long-term supports and services that allow them to live independently in their homes and communities. A straight-up repeal of the ACA would take health coverage away from 11 million people who now have benefits because the ACA allowed states to expand Medicaid. Trump and Republican leaders in Congress also want to cut Medicaid for everyone who receives it by imposing new limited caps on what the federal government will contribute, even if the cost of health care keeps going up much faster than prices in the rest of the economy. That will shift costs onto states and likely force cuts in benefits.

2) People are speaking up, and that's having an impact on Washington

Lots of people are showing up to meet with their members of Congress about health care and to let them know just how important it is to them personally. Many people are asking their members of Congress tough questions. For example, a Tennessee high school teacher attended a town hall and had tough questions for Rep. Diane Black (R-Tenn.) Her powerful, Christian defense of Obamacare made a GOP town hall go viral on the Internet. The hard questions and strong show

of concern from voters are affecting what's going on in Congress. What once was a mad dash to repeal the ACA right away has slowed to a crawl for the moment, and there now is a split among Republicans in Congress. While many congressional Republicans still want to repeal the ACA immediately regardless of whether they have a replacement, at least a few are saying they want to figure out what the impact will be on real people and how they might address the harm that will do.

3) We're still waiting to hear the plan for repealing and replacing the ACA

In mid-January, Trump said he had a plan that was finished except for some finishing touches, and that he was just waiting for Price to be confirmed by the Senate as his HHS secretary. Price was confirmed on Feb. 10, but two weeks later, no plan had been released. Congressional Republicans are still trying to figure out what their plan should be. Some Republicans want to go ahead with repeal of the ACA now and figure out whether and how they might replace it later.

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Laborers leader Dave Tischer clocks out

“I owe everything I have to the Laborers union,” Dave Tischer says. Tischer, 54, retired Jan. 1, 2017 after 19 years as a local leader of the Laborers. For 11 years he was business manager at Laborers Local 320, a Portland-headquartered local with about 1,000 members in the heavy highway side of the construction industry. Local 320 merged with Locals 296 and 121 in 2015 to form a new state-wide construction local, Laborers Local 737, and Tischer served as its first president.

Born in Minnesota, Tischer moved to Aloha, Oregon, at age 11, and graduated from Aloha High School in 1980. After working four years nonunion building apartments, he joined Laborers Local 320 in 1988. As a member of Local 320, he poured concrete at a wastewater treatment plant, the west-side light rail tunnel, on reservoir projects, and on the airport light rail line.

He went to union meetings, got involved, and was elected to the Executive Board in 1998. In 2000, he was hired as a field rep by then-business manager Dale Sabroski, and in 2004, he



Dave Tischer

succeeded Sabroski as business manager. A resident of Keizer, Tischer also served as president of the Marion-Polk-Yamhill Central Labor Council for a decade.

Looking back on his time as business manager, Tischer is proud to have maintained good relationships with contractors, and proud of members' record of involvement in projects that were completed on time and on budget, including light rail projects and the City of Portland's combined sewer overflow project. Tischer's biggest regret is that the I-5 replacement bridge never broke ground. But Local 320 mem-

bers did dirt work and concrete placement for over 1,000 windmills during his tenure.

“Sustainable energy is the future,” Tischer says. “And natural gas, which is a clean burning fuel compared to coal, is a great bridge fuel to that future. That's why I think the opposition to natural gas is off track. And opposition to natural gas expansion, in Oregon, has been definitely detrimental to the trades.”

Going forward, Tischer says the biggest challenge, for all the building trades, will be to recover market share that's been lost since the 1980s. Unions can maintain high wages and standards only if they are account for a significant share of the labor force in their industry.

“We have to be the big dog in the room,” Tischer says. “They say you're either at the table or on the menu.”

“The new [Trump] administration definitely concerns me,” Tischer said. “I think we're at a crossroads in the labor movement.... You can't get frustrated. You gotta keep pushing ahead, and you have to fight the fight.”

ATU vs. TriMet case headed for Oregon Supreme Court

By Don McIntosh

A legal dispute between TriMet and Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 757 is now headed for the Oregon Supreme Court. The case has to do with whether public sector unions and their employers have the right to allow the press and members of the public to observe union contract negotiations. Normally, both sides prefer to negotiate privately, on the assumption that grandstanding and showmanship would otherwise get in the way of reaching agreement. But ATU leaders think they'll win in the court of public opinion — if the public is allowed to witness what they see at the bargaining table from TriMet labor relations director Randy Stedman.

State law pretty clearly lets either side open up bargaining to the public. “Labor negotiations shall be conducted in open meetings unless negotiators for both sides request that negotiations be conducted in executive session,” says ORS 192.660(3). In fact, that provision in the law was proposed by a Republican

legislator who thought public employers would be less likely to give away the store if press and the public could sit in on union contract negotiations.

But lawyers for TriMet have argued that provision doesn't apply to them because their bargaining sessions aren't “meetings” as defined by Oregon's Public Meeting Law, which ORS 192.660(3) is a part of.

“They have attempted to use every kind of technical definition to destroy what to me seems like a pretty plain statute,” says Aruna Masih of the Bennett Hartman law firm, who's representing ATU in the case.

The case has been under way since late 2012.

In 2013, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Leslie Roberts ruled in favor of TriMet's position. But the Oregon Court of Appeals overturned her decision in February 2016, and on Jan. 13, 2017, the Oregon Supreme Court accepted a request to review the case. A hearing is scheduled for June 14.



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UFCW Local 555's Anderson named to International Foundation board

Jeff Anderson, secretary-treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, has been named to the board of directors of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP). The IFEBP is a 33,000-member association that provides research, information and education to trustees of multi- and single-employer health and pension plans throughout the United States and Canada.



Jeff Anderson

Members include trustees and administrators from multi-employer/Taft-Hartley trust funds; benefits, compensation and HR directors from the private sector; public employee plan managers, administrators and trustees; and service providers, including attorneys, actuaries, accountants and other consultants who work

with benefit and compensation plans.

Anderson is one of 44 volunteer voting directors, including the elected officers and two past presidents. The board, which hasn't had a labor trustee from the Pacific Northwest in many years, is responsible for the direction and control of all affairs of the Foundation. Timothy Gauthier, executive manager of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Oregon-Columbia, also sits on the board, representing management trustees.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to not only get insight into the range of benefit plan options, but to help effect change and make a real difference on a national level," Anderson said.

Workers say no to union at Boeing South Carolina

Machinists rejected by 3-1 margin in voting held Feb. 15

Boeing workers in North Charleston, South Carolina, rejected the Machinists union by 74 percent — an almost three-to-one margin. The tally in the Feb. 15 union vote was 731 for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), and 2,097 against. Turnout was high, with 2,828 ballots cast out of 3,000 eligible.

"What occurred at Boeing South Carolina was not a lost election; it was a process rigged against the people who do the work," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka in a written statement reacting to the Boeing vote. "Boeing opened this plant in South Carolina to try and take advantage of workers without a union, to drive down wages and treat thousands of its employees like second-class workers."

IAM represents over 35,000 Boeing employees at 24 U.S. locations, including the Puget Sound region of Washington and Portland, Oregon. Boeing's South Carolina workers earn \$23 per hour on average, about a third lower than the \$31 per hour wage that comparable union-represented Boeing workers earn in Washington.

The South Carolina operation

was formerly owned by Vought Aircraft, a Boeing supplier. In 2007, workers there voted to join IAM, and ratified a first contract in November 2008. But in July 2009, Boeing bought Vought and terminated the union contract. Workers voted to decertify the union two months later.

That's when Boeing decided to expand in South Carolina and build its 787 Dreamliner final assembly plant there.

In 2011, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) determined that its decision was made at least in part to punish its unionized Puget Sound work force for striking — which would be a violation of federal labor law. But the IAM dropped its NLRB case against Boeing as part of a contract settlement later that year.

In 2015, the IAM campaigned to get the South Carolina workers to join, but withdrew five days before a scheduled union election after concluding that it lacked majority support at that time.

Campaigning this year in South Carolina, the IAM once again faced a vigorous anti-union campaign by Boeing, as well as opposition from local politicians and business groups.



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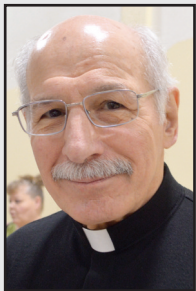
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WHEN FAITH AND LABOR MEET

For 15 years, the workers' rights group Portland Jobs with Justice has organized an annual "Faith Labor breakfast" to strengthen ties between church activists and labor activists. They're often the same individuals. Jobs with Justice's Faith and Labor Committee is one of the reasons that local clergy are frequently seen on Portland-area picket lines and union rallies. At this year's breakfast, 140 participants gathered around 22 tables at a dining hall in St. Andrews Catholic Church to share fellowship and trade stories. The Labor Press brought a camera, a notepad and a question for believers and faith leaders: "What does your faith have to say about justice for working people?"

"A laborer deserves his wages. . . . The worker has only his hands, his mind and his body to give, to make enough to take care for their family and themselves. And if that is not respected then you've taken away their dignity. . . ."



In *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIII talks about labor justice. It continued with Pope John Paul and our current pope. So we have a strong tradition of supporting labor and workers in the Catholic Church."

— Father Jack Mosbrucher, now retired, served as a parish priest at St. Charles and St. Therese parishes in Portland



"I'm a person who really believes that following Jesus means both being in touch with what heaven does as well as what heaven does here on earth. The faith that we're called to is a faith that engages the marginalized, the poor."

— Howard Kenyon, a member of Mosaic evangelical church, spent 20 years as a Pentecostal missionary in China, and now is chief finance and operations officer at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

"In what we Christians call the Old Testament, the prophets — Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, in particular — have a lot to say about work and about the sanctity of labor and economic justice. Isaiah talks about wages that have been withheld crying out to heaven against those who withhold them. . . . The apostle Paul said that the laborer is worthy of their wages. In other words, if you work, you deserve the proceeds of your work."

— David Wheeler is the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in downtown Portland



"In Islam, there's a very famous quote from the prophet Mohammed: 'Pay your workers before their sweat dries.' It means you make sure that they have their compensation. You're supposed to be kind to your workers."

— Morjenna Snead, home care worker and member of SEIU Local 503, attends Masjid as-Saber mosque in SW Portland.

State of Washington legislative update

Feb. 24 was the cutoff deadline for bills in the Washington Legislature to pass out of committees in their houses of origin. That means that hundreds of bills — good and bad — are now considered "dead" and can only become undead via extraordinary procedural means. The bills that have survived now have until March 8 to pass a floor vote in their house of origin.

Following is the status of some working family bills that the Washington State Labor Council has taken a position on:

DEAD (Opposed by the WSLC)
RIGHT-TO-WORK — SB 5692 (prime sponsor Sen. Michael Baumgartner; co-sponsor Sen. John Braun) making Washington a so-called "right-to-work" state, dramatically weakening union rights and bargaining power. At its public hearing, more than 1,100 people signed in as opposing the bill, while just one supported it. The bill died in Labor committee (chaired by the sponsor) without a vote.

DEAD (Supported by the WSLC)
WAGE THEFT: MISCLASSIFICATION — HB 1300 (Rep. Marcus Riccelli) discouraging deliberate misclassification of workers as independent contractors. Passed Labor committee but died in Appropriations.

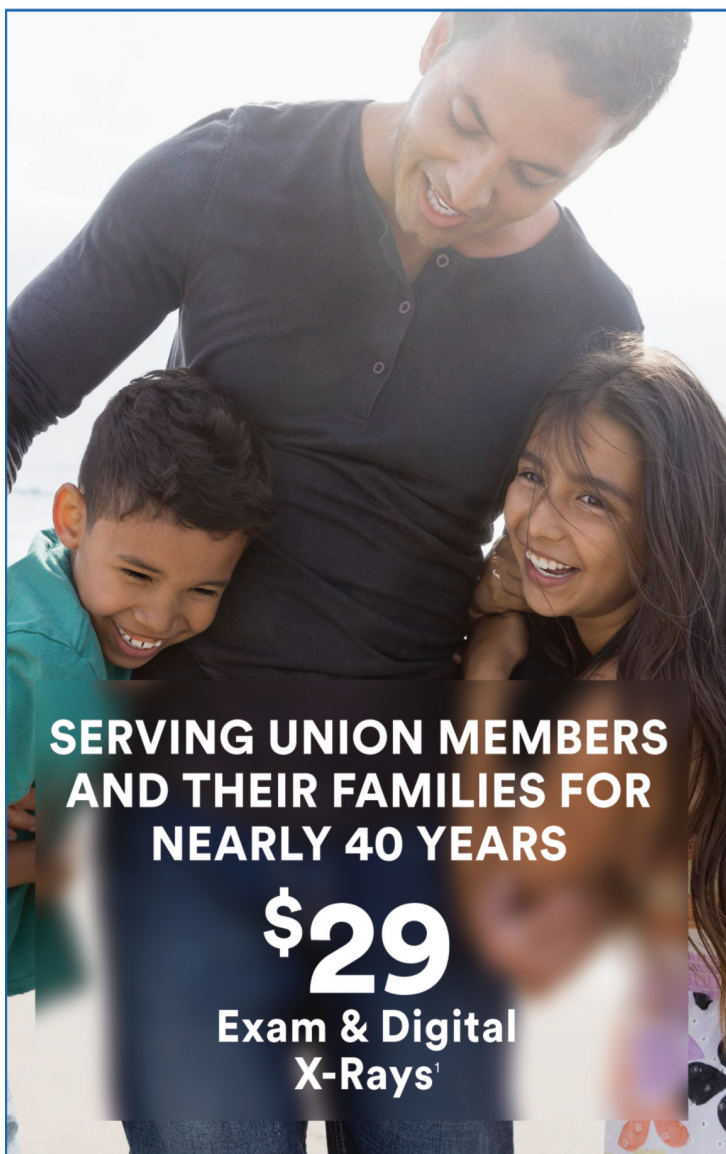
WAGE THEFT: RETALIATION — HB 1301 (Rep. Cindy Ryu) discouraging employers from retaliating against workers who report wage theft. Passed Labor committee, but died in Appropriations.

ALIVE (Supported by the WSLC)
APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION — HB 1849 (prime sponsor: Rep. Mike Sells) strengthening compliance with existing apprenticeship utilization standards. Passed Capital Budget committee, now in Rules.

COLLEGE FACULTY PAY — HB 1237 (Rep. Mike Sells) allowing full-scope collective bargaining so colleges can use local funds in negotiating faculty/staff wages. Passed Labor and Appropriations committees, now in Rules.

ELECTRICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT — SHB 1952 (Rep. Brian Blake) improving enforcement of state electrical laws. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.

WORKERS' COMP: HANFORD — SHB 1723 (Rep. Larry Halder) would remove barriers that prevent seriously ill Hanford workers from getting workers' compensation benefits. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.



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UNION MEETING NOTICES

AFSCME 189

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

Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

Executive Board meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 28, in the meeting room, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 300, Portland.

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 1

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

Cement Masons 555

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

Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 9, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12067 NE Glenn Widing Dr. #108, Portland.

Fire Fighters 452

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

Fire Fighters 1660

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

Glass Workers 740

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, March 6, at Ciao Pizza, 3342 Gateway St., Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, at Best Western Plus, Mill Creek Inn, 3125 Ryan Drive SE, Salem.

IBEW 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.

Sister's in the Brotherhood meets 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Hall. You are welcome to attend the EWMC meeting beforehand.

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 meets 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 Local 48's Portland Meeting Hall and at the Local 48 Longview Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

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

DEATH ASSESSMENT: No. 2523, Gordon B. Phillips; No. 2534, Walter W. Landon; No. 2525, Donald R. Jones; No. 2526, Robert E. Yankee; and No. 2527, Jack Deal. The March 2017 assessment is \$1.50.

Insulators 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 8. Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, March 10.

Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Iron Workers 29

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, April 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, March 9.

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 23.

Meetings are at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

Laborers 737

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at the Laborers Campus, 17230 NE Sacramento St., Portland for an informational meeting.

CENTRAL POINT: Members meet 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday in May at Central Point Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy # 3, Central Point.

SPRINGFIELD: Members meet 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday in May at 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

HERMISTON: Members meet 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday in May at 371 E Hurlburt Ave., Hermiston.

Laborers/Vancouver 335

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

Laborers 483 Municipal Employees

Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, preceded by a 4:30 stewards meeting, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

Linoleum Layers 1236

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, March 6.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 23. PLEASE NOTE: SPECIAL CALL: CONTRACT VOTE.

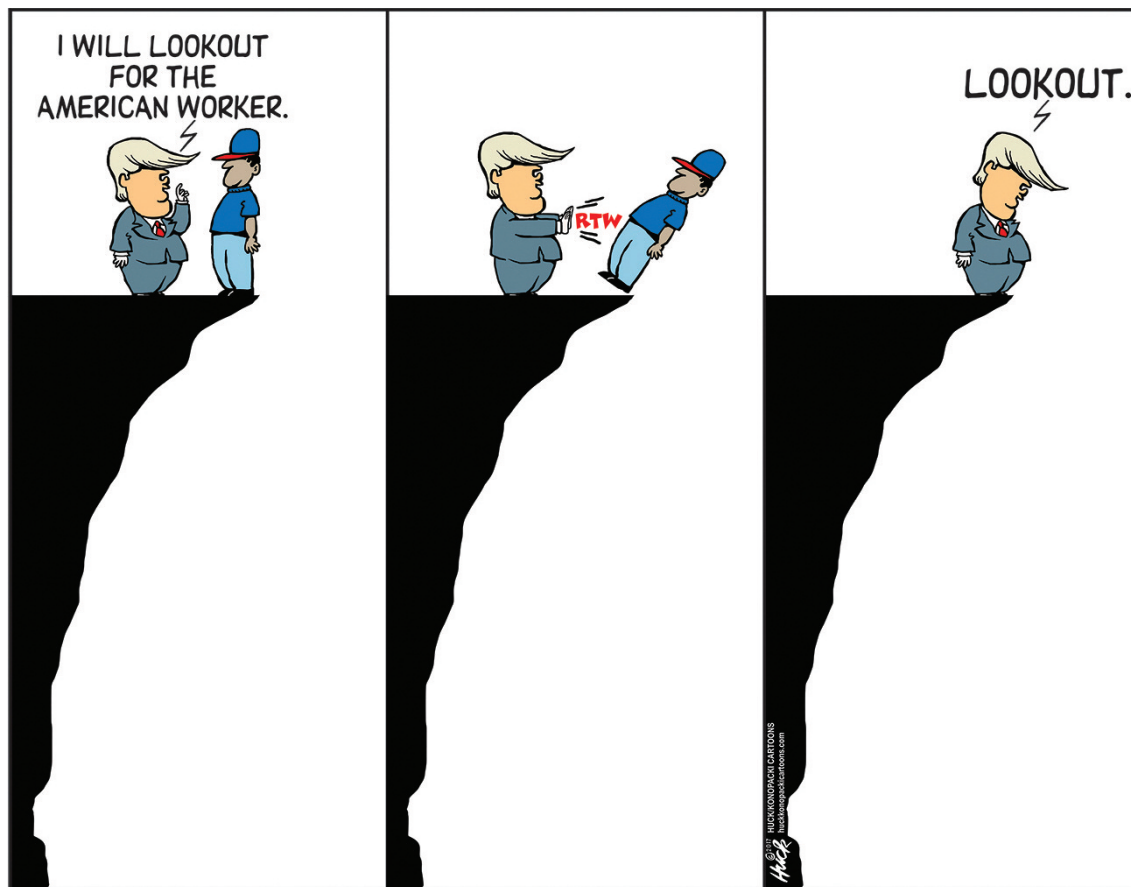
Meetings are at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Molders 139B

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

Office and Professional Employees 11

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the



OPEIU LOCAL 11 meeting hall, 3815 Columbia Street, Vancouver, Washington. PLEASE NOTE: Nominations will be held at this meeting.

Operating Engineers 701

District 1 members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 3, at the Red Lion, 510 Kelso Dr., Kelso.

District 4 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, at Oxford Suites, 1050 N First St., Hermiston.

District 4 members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6, at Cousin's Restaurant, 2114 W 6th St., The Dalles.

District 1 & 5 members meet 8 p.m. Friday, April 7, at 555 E. First St., Gladstone.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at North Bend/Coos Bay Labor Center, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at the Courtyard Marriott, 600 Airport Rd., Medford.

District 2 members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at the Comfort Suites, 969 Kruse Way, Springfield.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, at the Bend Riverhouse, 3075 N Business 97, Bend.

Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: www.iupatlocall10.org

Sign Painters & Paint Makers 1094

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

Plasterers 82

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

Plumbers and Steamfitters 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 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, March 23, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane, Astoria. Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21. Please contact Craig Spjut at 707-496-1767 for location information.

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

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

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

Roofers & Waterproofers 49

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

Sheet Metal Workers 16

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

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 8. Please call Dennis Dover for location - 541-517-9644.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at 1887 Laura St., Springfield. PLEASE NOTE: Meeting to be broadcast with the Portland meeting.

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

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

CENTRAL LABOR CHAPTERS

Central Oregon

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

Lane County

Delegates meet 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at 688 Charnelton St., Eugene.

Linn-Benton-Lincoln

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

Marion-Polk-Yamhill

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, preceded by a 6:30 Executive Board meeting, at 4735 Liberty Rd. S, Salem

Southern Oregon

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

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS

Northwest Oregon

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

Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, at the Laborers Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCILS

Columbia-Pacific

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

Lane, Coos, Curry & Douglas

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

Salem

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

METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, March 9.

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 28.

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

HAPPENINGS

Working women sing March 26 in Portland

Celebrate Women's History Month with the music of working women, Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m. at the Hollywood Library, 4040 N.E. Tillamook, Portland. The event will feature Mary Rose, a legendary Portland union musician, with friends Jane Keefer, Lynette Yetter, and Beyond Little Boxes, comprised of Mark Loring and Jim Cook. The event is free and open to all ages. For more information, contact maryrosesings2@gmail.com.

RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 21 at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954 ext. 226.

Elevator Constructors 23

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, at Home Town Buffet, 10542 SE Washington St., Portland.

Insulators 36

Retiree breakfast 9 a.m. Thursday, March 2, at the Dockside Restau-

rant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

Iron Workers 29

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, at the Union Hall meeting room, 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle #200, Portland for a catered lunch.

Plumbers and Fitters 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, March 16, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin. The topic is "The Facts about Fats."

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2 unions come out against Supreme Court nominee

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Citing his record in labor, civil rights, womens' rights, and related cases, two big unions — Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the National Education Association (NEA) — and six AFL-CIO constituency groups have opposed President Donald Trump's nomination of federal appellate judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Besides CWA and NEA, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Asian-Pacific American Labor Alliance, Pride at Work, and Labor's Council for Latin American Advancement were among 107 groups that signed a joint anti-Gorsuch letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights crafted the letter, which cites specific Gorsuch court decisions and dissents against workers.

CWA President Chris Shelton cited Gorsuch's "record of aligning with corporate interests," and his criticisms of "remarkable powers" of "worker protection agencies... whose enforcement mechanisms are already too weak to be effective."

Shelton said Gorsuch has argued that protecting corporations from litigation is more important than protecting investors from being cheated. "He seems predisposed to favor the 'big guy' over the 'little guy.' That's not the kind of court America needs," he said.

NEA President Lily Eskelsen-Garcia said Gorsuch has ruled against students with disabilities who seek public education, and "has consistently sided with big business at the expense of working Americans."

The Leadership Conference letter called Gorsuch "a judge with an agenda."

"If confirmed ... Judge Gorsuch would tip the balance" on the High Court "in a direction that would undermine many of our core rights and legal protections. He lacks the impartiality and independence the American people expect and deserve from the federal bench."

The Senate panel's hearings on the nomination are scheduled for March 20-23.



WHAT IS A UNION?

IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY

UNIONS ARE WORKERS WHO STAND TOGETHER to bargain with their bosses for better pay, safer working conditions and decent benefits. When workers stand together, we have power. And that power makes the American Dream more possible for everyone.

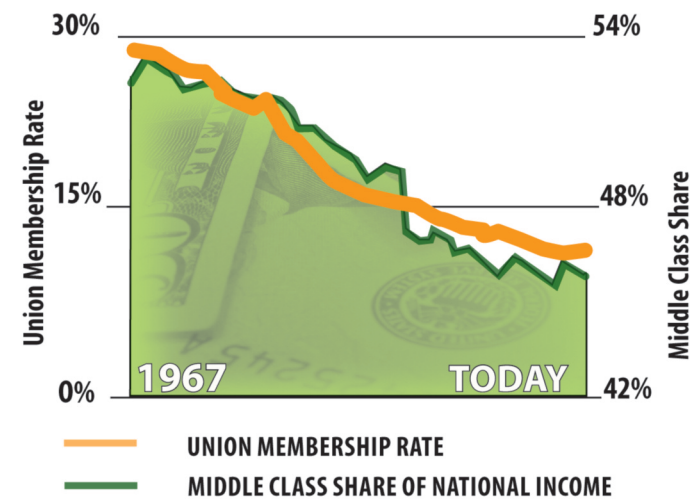
WHO NEEDS UNIONS?

WE ALL DO. Corporate CEOs have gotten rich by negotiating multi-million dollar pay packages for themselves while not allowing workers to negotiate a living wage for our families. Unions even the playing field for all workers by standing up to big corporations and fighting for laws that protect everyone.

WHAT HAVE UNIONS DONE FOR ME?

WORKING PEOPLE STOOD TOGETHER in their unions to create the 40-hour work week, paid vacations and good American wages. Today, unions are still the only counterbalance to corporate power.

AS UNION MEMBERSHIP DECREASES, MIDDLE CLASS INCOME SHRINKS



UNIONS RAISE STANDARDS FOR ALL WORKERS

- FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT
- PREGNANCY & PARENTAL LEAVE
- ALL BREAKS AT WORK (INCLUDING LUNCH BREAKS)
- WEEKENDS & PAID VACATION
- SICK LEAVE
- MINIMUM WAGE
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- OVERTIME & HOLIDAY PAY
- CHILD LABOR LAWS
- PRIVACY RIGHTS
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- HOMEOWNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS
- 40-HOUR WORK WEEK
- OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ACT (OSHA)
- 8-HOUR WORK DAY
- MILITARY LEAVE
- PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
- WRONGFUL TERMINATION LAWS
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWS
- AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)
- EMPLOYER DENTAL, LIFE, & VISION INSURANCE
- EQUAL PAY ACTS OF 1963 & 2011
- AND MORE!

DO WE STILL NEED UNIONS? WE NEED UNIONS MORE THAN EVER.

Big corporations and Wall Street bankers are dismantling the American Dream by outsourcing our jobs, slashing wages and eliminating retirement just to get bigger bonuses for themselves. Today, the only thing that stands in their way is working people standing together to make sure everyone has a fair shot.



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...Boeing South Carolina stays nonunion

From Page 4

Bloomberg News reported that by Feb. 6, Boeing had run 485 anti-union ads on local TV, and the South Carolina Manufacturers Institute had run another 350, including one anti-union spot that ran locally during the Super Bowl. Anti-union ads also ran on billboards, in print, on the web and on the radio.

The IAM also bought \$20,000 of TV ads on two stations, featuring statements of support from Boeing workers in the Puget Sound.

The day before the election, 12 Democratic U.S. senators issued a statement of support for the union drive, led by Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio.

“Union representation is the bedrock of our middle class and has empowered generations of American workers to organize for better wages and fairer treatment in the workplace,” the statement said.

Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth



In an employee break room at its North Charleston plant, Boeing set up a table stacked with diapers and children's clothes. Above it, a "Vote No" banner said: "The goods on display would cost your family \$800.... You have better things to do with your money than pay union dues." Yes, Boeing's union workers pay \$800 a year in dues ... but they also get over \$16,000 a year more in wages — the equivalent of 20 tables full of diapers and kids' clothes.

Warren signed, as did Oregon Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, though not Washington Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray.

But South Carolina's U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham spoke against the union campaign, telling local media, "If we destroy the business model that led Boeing to South Carolina, this plant will not be able to grow."

In the end, Boeing workers, or "teammates" as the company calls them, listened to Graham.

Two days after the vote, President Donald Trump visited the plant for the rollout of the first Dreamliner 787-10, assembled exclusively in North Charleston.

Boeing had run 485 anti-union ads on local TV, and the South Carolina Manufacturers Institute had run another 350, including one anti-union spot that ran locally during the Super Bowl. Anti-union ads also ran on billboards, in print, on the web, and on the radio.

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BUILDING COMMUNITY

Think creatively when giving to Labor's Community Services

Labor's Community Service Agency is offering several creative ways for local unions to donate to the agency's assistance programs for union members in need. They include:

- Add LCSA as a beneficiary to your upcoming golf and poker tournaments, skeet/clay shoots, and other charitable events.
- Donate the proceeds from your 50/50 raffles.
- Suggest to the company that grievance settlements not typically settled to a member, be donated to LCSA programs.
- Designate LCSA as the beneficiary of 'Pass The Hat' collections at your monthly meetings.
- Join a growing list of dedicated unions and become a monthly, sustaining donor to Labor's Community Services.
- Sign up for the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program. (See below)

By including these creative ways to donate to LCSA, your union can provide much needed rental assistance to a union member unable to work due to a medical crisis; assist with a light bill for a member struggling with the workers' compensation system; and provide moving expenses (security deposit) to a working family served with a no-cause eviction or an unsustainable rent increase, said LCSA Executive Director Eryn Byram.

"Together, labor can stand in solidarity with working families as they face an unprecedented housing crisis and uncertain future," she said.

Checks can be made payable to Labor's Community Service Agency, 9955 SE Washington St, Suite 211 Portland, OR 97216. You may also donate at LCSAportland.org/donate. Personal donations are also welcome.

"I just supported Labor's Community Service Agency by shopping at Fred Meyer!"

"Great! Tell me how!"

Fred Meyer will donate \$2.5 million annually to non-profits based on where YOU tell them to give!

Here's how you can direct Fred Meyer to donate to LCSA:

1. **Sign up** for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card to LCSA at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards
2. Search for **Labor's Community Service Agency** or by our **non-profit number 91427** and select!

Every time you shop and use your rewards card, you help LCSA earn a donation from Fred Meyer! LCSA donations go to help working families in need with programs such as Presents From Partners annual toy party for children of families affected by layoffs.

You still earn your Fred Meyer Rewards Points, fuel points, and rebates!

It's easy to support Labor's own charitable organization by shopping at Fred Meyer. Sign up today!

Guest Opinion

By Tim Nesbitt

Two perspectives on PERS: From the kitchen table and from the bargaining table



Soon after former Gov. John Kitzhaber finalized legislation in 2013 that came to be known as the “grand bargain,” he commented, more wearily than triumphantly, that he was “done” with overhauling the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Two years later, the Oregon Supreme Court invalidated most of Kitzhaber’s pension reforms, and it is now painfully clear that PERS is not done with us.

By “us” I mean all Oregonians, those in our schools and those who rely on public services to lead productive lives — all of us. But public employees and their unions are in a uniquely difficult place among us now that the PERS problem looms as an obstacle to improving public services and a threat to their personal financial futures.

So let’s try to understand this problem from two perspectives — from the kitchen table and the bargaining table.

At our kitchen tables, PERS represents an enormous opportunity cost. Projected increases to keep the PERS pension plan solvent will consume all of the revenue dividends from an expanding economy that could otherwise go to improve our schools, keep health care affordable and expand our public infrastructure. Doing nothing to address PERS’ claims on future budgets will not only perpetuate fiscal crises, it will erode confidence in government when, in the midst of a growing economy, our elected leaders are forced to reduce services.

At public employee bargaining tables, PERS represents an unfair claim on their futures. At most, those now working are responsible for less than a third of the unpaid bills in the pension system. The remaining legacy costs are the greater problem. To shift these costs to the payrolls of current workers is un-

justified, especially if it forces them to accept substandard retirement benefits in the future.

How do we square these conflicting realities? We can start by recognizing that doing nothing does not leave us in status quo. Instead, it will invite a cascade of adverse impacts — from shorter school years and larger class sizes to salary freezes and staffing reductions at all levels of government. To avoid that future, we have to act on PERS reform and, yes, on tax reform.

We can make a strong case for increased tax support from business, but we also need to tie proposals for more revenue to doing more for our people. Tax reform that chases a growing PERS deficit will fail to meet that goal and fail to pass muster with the voters.

I have outlined approaches to PERS reform that take cues from what a number of private sector unions did to recapitalize their pension funds following the 2008 recession. These approaches can maintain adequate retirement benefits in the future and need not affect any employee’s paycheck. (I offered an overview of these ideas in the Jan. 27 Portland Business Journal).

If we want to be done with PERS, we will have to find new ways to put the system on a sound financial footing, connect that effort to securing increased tax support from the business community and take charge of shaping a future that will otherwise set back our hopes for a better Oregon.

Tim Nesbitt, a former executive director of the SEIU Oregon State Council, served as Oregon AFL-CIO president from 1999-2005 and as deputy and chief of staff to Gov. Ted Kulongoski from 2006-2011. He now works on the PERS issue as a political consultant for the Oregon Business Council, but did not receive compensation for this column.



WHO’S THAT SHAKING THE GOVERNOR’S HAND? Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad signed legislation Feb. 17 that ends all meaningful collective bargaining rights for public employees. The private signing ceremony was closed to the press but not to Drew Klein, above. Klein is state director of the anti-union group Americans for Prosperity, funded by the billionaire Koch brothers.

...Unions attacked

From Page 1

checks. Finally, public employees will be required to re-certify that they want to be in a union with each new contract, and to continue to be union-represented, an outright majority of workers in a bargaining unit would have to vote for the union, not just a majority of those who show up to vote.

In case there was any doubt as to who inspired the union-killing legislation, on Feb. 13, Scott Walker delivered a pep talk to 29 Iowa Senate Republicans in a 10-minute Skype conference call.

The bill exempted police and firefighters from some of the changes, but many of them showed up in uniform and rallied alongside the hundreds of protesters who flooded the Capitol rotunda in a show of opposition. More than 1,100 people registered to speak in opposition to the bill, while only about two dozen registered in support.

On Feb. 16 the bill passed the Iowa House 53 to 47 and the Iowa Senate 29-21. Not a single Democrat voted in favor, though six Republicans voted against it. Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad (R) signed it into law the very next day, and the law takes effect im-

mediately.

The signing took place in a private ceremony, closed to the press, but open to the head of Iowa chapter of a group that lobbied for the bill — Americans for Prosperity, funded by the billionaire Koch brothers.

Having all-but-destroyed public employee union rights that have been in place since 1974, Gov. Branstad isn’t planning to stick around: He’s President Donald Trump’s nominee for ambassador to China.

AFSCME, which represents 40,000 Iowa public employees, has filed a lawsuit seeking to stop the law.

‘Right-to-work’ defeated in New Hampshire

This year’s rising tide of “right-to-work” laws stopped when it reached New Hampshire. Kentucky and Missouri passed the anti-union laws, which bar any requirement to pay union dues. But the effort failed in New Hampshire for the second time in two years. It passed the Senate, but failed 200-177 in the state’s massive House of Representatives. Every Democrat voted against it, and so did 32 Republicans. Republican Gov. Chris Sununu had declared the legislation a priority.

Open Forum

To the Editor:

President Trump’s executive orders on immigration are just wrong.

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council believes all people deserve dignity and respect. The executive orders of the Trump Administration have caused fear and hardship for immigrants and refugees in Oregon and throughout the United States with no consideration of humanitarian concerns.

Based on the wording of the executive order, a criminal could include someone who is

charged with, but not actually convicted of, a crime and is therefore subject to being deported under the new enforcement priorities.

As Governor Brown said during a recent press conference, “President Trump’s order does not reflect values enshrined in the U.S. Constitution or the principles we stand for as Oregonians.”

President Trump’s divisive and intolerant policies have caused widespread chaos and confusion to the immigrant, refugee communities and all

working people and families.

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council embraces Oregon’s diverse communities and, therefore, we support the position taken by the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and the governor to provide safe harbor to those attempting to build a better life for themselves and their family here in Oregon.

**Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Bob Tackett on behalf of the
NW Oregon Labor Council
Executive Board
Portland**

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AT THE OREGON LEGISLATURE: A Robust Labor Agenda

Labor muscle helped elect many of Oregon's legislators. Now Oregon unions are mobilizing behind an agenda of fair taxes, good jobs, and expanded protections for workers rights. Here are some recent highlights.

Tax corporations — or else cut services

Sound familiar? Oregon is once again in a budget crisis. State revenues are projected to come in \$1.7 billion short of what it would take to preserve all current services for the next biennium. To deal with the shortfall, the state is considering increasing state college tuition, laying off teachers, reducing social services, closing the recently opened Junction City psychiatric hospital, and cutting as many as 335,000 adults from Medicaid. But Oregon labor leaders are saying they won't accept those cuts while Oregon corporations still have the lowest taxes in the nation. And union members have been bringing that message to a series of "budget town halls" that state lawmakers have held. Two more of those remain.

WANT TO STOP THE CUTS? COME OUT TO A BUDGET TOWN HALL

- **EAST PORTLAND** Saturday, March 4, 12-2 pm, IRCO, 10301 NE Glisan St., Portland
- **WASHINGTON COUNTY** Thursday, March 9, 7-9 pm, Beaverton High School, 13000 SW 2nd St., Beaverton



Oregonians should not accept cuts to schools and senior services as long as corporations continue to pay the lowest in the nation, said Steve Demarest, president of Oregon's largest union, SEIU Local 503, at a Presidents Day rally on the State Capitol steps.

Fair Work Week: an end to scheduling abuse

Unpaid on-call hours. "Clopening." Schedules that change week to week. Increasingly, national retail and restaurant chains are using sophisticated scheduling software to shift business risk onto the backs of low-wage workers. San Francisco and Seattle have cracked down on some of those practices, requiring advance notice of schedules and extra pay for last-minute schedule changes. Could Oregon lawmakers be the first to pass state-wide legislation?

SB 828 — which UFCW Local 555 has declared a priority — got its first hearing Feb. 27 at the Senate Workforce Committee. It would require large retail, hospitality, and food services employers (those with 100 or more U.S. employees and 25 or more in Oregon) to provide:

- a good faith estimate of an employee's work schedule at time of hire
- 14 days notice of work schedules
- compensation for last-minute employer-requested schedule changes
- extra compensation when fewer than 10 hours separate shifts
- an offer of additional hours to existing employees before hiring new employees or subcontractors.

AT THE SENATE COMMITTEE HEARING: FOR AND AGAINST



"Most employers in Oregon are doing the right thing and using adequate scheduling practices ... but some employers, especially those in food service, retail and hospitality, are not, and are keeping workers in a cycle of poverty."

—Oregon AFL-CIO chief of staff Graham Trainor

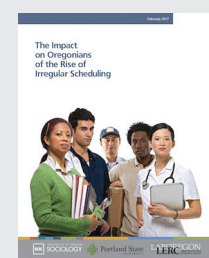
"SB 828 would impose rigid scheduling mandates that reduce flexibility of both employers and employees and would significantly impact our members' ability to manage store operations."

—Associated Oregon Industries VP Betsy Earls



ONLINE EXTRA

How widespread are scheduling abuses? Very, says a new study co-authored by researchers at University of Oregon and Portland State University. Of the 750 Oregonians they surveyed in 2016, 1 in 6 reported having had less than 24 hour notice of shifts. The study also found that many workers have wildly varying shifts, so that total hours and weekly paychecks also vary substantially. See their report, "The Impact on Oregonians of the Rise of Irregular Scheduling," at <http://bit.ly/2ISV14Z>



FIVE GOOD IDEAS

- **Bargain over class size** Parents and students hate large classes. So do teachers. HB 2651, sponsored by Tigard State Representative Margaret Doherty, would make school class size a mandatory subject of collective bargaining.
- **Rent control: The most effective response to an affordable housing emergency** HB 2001, sponsored by House Speaker Tina Kotek, would repeal the statewide ban on local rent control ordinances AND cap rent increases statewide at 5 percent through July 1, 2018.
- **Put lawless contractors on notice** Tired of seeing businesses that break the law continue to get public contracts? HB 2670, sponsored by Portland State Rep. Rob Nosse, bidders on public contracts of over \$100,000 to disclose whether in the last three years they've been found to have violated labor laws like the National Labor Relations Act and laws on minimum wage, overtime, and the prevailing wage.
- **Pay prevailing wage on construction projects funded with tax breaks** Why are Oregon building trades workers paid the area prevailing wage when the state spends money on construction, but not when the state funds construction via tax subsidies? HB 2194 and SB 291 would expand the prevailing rate requirement to include public works funded via tax credits or tax abatements.
- **Require non-profit hospitals to do something to deserve their tax-exempt status** Hospital bills are a key reason health care is so expensive, yet most of the Oregon hospitals charging sky-high prices are "non-profit" institutions that pay no taxes, and the law is very vague about the charitable and educational service they must provide. HB 2115, sponsored by State Rep. Mitch Greenlick, would lay out stricter requirements for nonprofit hospitals health systems to be exempt from taxation.

AND THREE BAD ONES

- **Privatize liquor sales** When the State of Washington privatized liquor sales, hundreds of union members lost their jobs, and liquor prices soared. Now a bill from Salem State Rep. Brian Clem would pave the way to privatization in Oregon. HB 2032 would set up a task force to develop proposals for privatizing the sale of distilled liquors and phasing out the role of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.
- **Keep young workers poor** HB 2378, sponsored by Keizer State Rep. Bill Post, would allow employers to pay 85 percent of minimum wage to employees under 21 years of age for the first 90 days of employment.
- **Public subsidy for private payroll** HB 2375, sponsored by Grants Pass State Rep. Carl Wilson, would give employers an income tax credit — if they pay employees wages greater than the minimum wage.

LABOR IN COALITION

For the third year in a row, some of the state's biggest labor organizations are heading to the Capitol as part of a broad labor-community alliance known as Fair Shot For All. Labor partners in the alliance include the Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, AFT-Oregon, Oregon Education Association, Oregon Nurses Association, SEIU, and UFCW. Community partners include the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Bus Project, Causa, Community Alliance of Tenants, Family Forward Oregon, Forward Together, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Northwest Workers' Justice Project, Oregon Latino Health Coalition, Oregon NOW, Partnership for Safety and Justice, PCUN, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Portland Jobs with Justice, Rural Organizing Project, Sankofa Collective Northwest, Unite Oregon, Urban League of Portland, Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, and YWCA. This year, they're united behind a five point agenda:



- **Establishing paid family medical leave for all Oregon workers**
- **Ending "no cause" evictions and the ban on rent control**
- **Ending racial profiling by police**
- **Ensuring health coverage for all Oregon kids**
- **Extending reproductive health services to all Oregon residents, not just citizens**

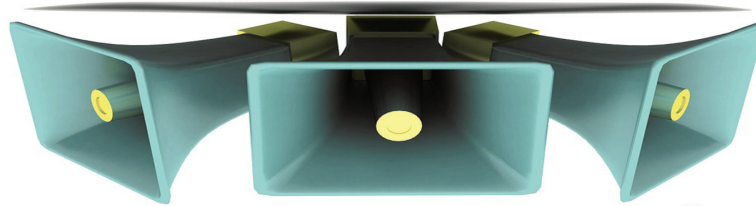
Unionists descend upon state capitol

Over the course of this year's session of the Oregon Legislature, a number of labor organizations will be bringing members down to Salem to talk to their representatives. Next up is Oregon AFSCME



Oregon AFSCME Lobby day:

- **Meeting time:** March 13, 8 a.m.
- **Meeting place:** State Library Conference Room 103, 250 Winter St NE, Salem



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Saturday, August 26, Salem Trap & Skeet Club, Gervais, Oregon



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- Carnation - 425.201.1934
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- Everett - 425.201.4343
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- 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

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- 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

...OPEIU pension proposes cuts in retirees' benefits

From Page 1

Pension, which today has about 7,600 participants, is a perfect example of what went wrong with some union pension plans. Begun in 1960, the plan centered on clerical support workers at large trucking firms and also at many local union offices. But an aging workforce and declining employment levels made the plan acutely vulnerable to losses. The plan's biggest contributing employer, Consolidated Freightways, liquidated in a 2002 bankruptcy, and workers at another big employer, CNF Services, voted out the union in 2003.

Union-sponsored multiemployer pension plans are normally very stable. They work by pooling and investing the hourly contributions that unionized employers make on behalf of employees. The combination of employer contributions and investment returns makes it possible to provide retirees a guaranteed monthly income for life.

Even though the Western States OPEIU Pension had lost

some large employers, it was healthy until 2008. But in the 2008 financial crash, its investments lost 32 percent of their value. And in the recession that followed, some participating union employers went out of business, and others withdrew because the pension plan had to greatly increase required contributions to make up for investment losses. Since 2008, as many as 100 employers have either withdrawn from the Western State OPEIU Pension Fund or ceased to exist. That's more than a third of the total. During the same period, the number of active participants (current workers whose employers are contributing) fell by 62 percent.

By the end of 2015, the Western States OPEIU Pension had 914 active participants, 3,742 retirees, and 2,936 others entitled to future benefits. Basically the plan is "upside down" — there are eight times as many retirees and inactive vested participants as there are current workers whose employers are contributing to the plan.

So even though the plan still

has considerable assets — \$359 million as of the end of 2015 — it's sinking fast. The plan is currently paying out about \$39 million in benefits a year while taking in \$11.8 million in contributions, and it's projected to run out of money in 2035.

If and when the plan becomes insolvent, a government-sponsored pension insurance program known as the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is supposed to step in and pay retiree benefits. But under its formula, benefits would be greatly reduced — by as much as half in the case of a typical Western States OPEIU retiree. And it's possible the PBGC itself could run out of money and be unable to pay.

To prevent that future insolvency, Western States pension trustees are proposing that benefit cuts of up to 29 percent take place now.

Before the cuts can take effect, they must first be approved by the U.S. Treasury Department. The department has until Sept. 28, 2017, to decide if the proposed cuts are appropriate.

If the Treasury Department approves the application, plan participants and beneficiaries will get a chance to vote on the proposal to cut benefits. But under the Miller-Kline law, in order to reject the proposed cuts, a majority of all 7,592 plan participants must vote "no," not just a majority of those who vote.

So far, 11 other multiemployer pension plans have applied for permission to cut benefits since the passage of the Miller-Kline law. The Treasury Department has denied four applications, and four other pensions withdrew their applications. Two others are pending a decision. Just one has been approved so far — Ohio-based Iron Workers Local 17 Pension Fund. The Western States OPEIU pension is the only pension based in Oregon and Washington to apply for cuts so far.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the proposed benefit cuts to the Western States OPEIU Pension Fund, visit <http://www.wspensionrecovery.com>

UNION PENSION FUNDS THAT HAVE APPLIED TO CUT BENEFITS UNDER THE KLINE-MILLER ACT

APPROVED

- Iron Workers Local 17 Pension Fund

PENDING

- Automotive Industries Pension Fund
- New York State Teamsters Conference Pension & Retirement Fund

DENIED

- Teamsters Central States, Southeast And Southwest Areas Pension Plan
- Ironworkers Local 16 Pension
- FundRoad Carriers Local 707 Pension Fund
- Teamsters Local 469 Pension Plan

WITHDRAWN

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- United Furniture Workers Pension Fund A

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