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NORTHWEST

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Portland, Oregon

Construction workers  
rally for jobs legislation

SALEM — A boisterous crowd of nearly 400 workers — many of them long-term unemployed in the construction industry — rallied for jobs legislation Feb. 10 on the front steps of the State Capitol.

They came from every corner of Oregon to deliver a forceful message to lawmakers that they and their unions will no longer support politicians who don't support them. A sea of signs in the crowd read: "Vote Your Job," "I Want to Work," and "Don't Vote for Job Killing Politicians."

This is a major election year, with the governor's chair, all congressional seats, a U.S. Senate seat, and State House and Senate seats up for grabs.

The rally was organized by the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council and Oregon AFL-CIO.

According to the Oregon Employment Department, 12,900 construction trades jobs vanished last year. Since 2007, the number of construction jobs lost stands at 27,300. The official unemployment rate in Oregon is 11 percent, with some counties topping 20 percent.

"Wall Street may think the recession is over," said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain, "but here in Oregon it's not. Legislators need to make sure that the job creation legislation before them this session makes it to the governor's desk. For the hundreds of thousands of unemployed Oregonians there is no other option."

A half-dozen bills have been introduced in the February special session of

the Legislature that would spur job creation. However, several of them are bottled up in committee — primarily on the Senate side.

"They're calling this a 'jobs session,' but they seem to want to kill every jobs bill out there. They're trying to placate us with a few extra weeks of unemployment insurance," said Bob Shiprack, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council. "It was the same story last session. Some of these folks in the Capitol don't get it."

Democrats control the Senate 18-12 and the House 36-24.

State Sen. Rick Metsger, D-Welches, who is not seeking re-election this year, told the crowd that "it's time to take away the rhetoric and get down to the brass tacks and find out what your legislator is going to do."

The bills construction workers are lobbying include Senate Bills 1050, 1045 1020, and 909; and House Bills 3604, 3651, 3681, and 3655.

"If we don't put you folks back to work, we're going to cut our budgets again," said State Rep. Mike Schauffler, D-Happy Valley. "Anything but a 'yes' (on SB 1020) and the other bills creating jobs and working in America is a 'no' to you, a 'no' to unions, a 'no' to your family, and a 'no' to the future of this state."

Apparently SB 1020 is already dead. The bill was referred to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, but did not receive a hearing be-

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Above, unidentified members of Glaziers Local 740 and (photo left) Adam Stoecklin, Dave Osborn, and John Ray, all members of Iron Workers Local 29, brought their voices to Salem to call on lawmakers to pass bills that will help create jobs.

## Union-backed legislation hobbled by Senate's abuse of filibuster

By DON McINTOSH  
Associate Editor

It was a moment of heartbreak for the American labor movement. After working hard to elect a Democratic super-majority in the U.S. Senate, the AFL-CIO fought for a bill that would make it easier for workers to unionize, and harder for employers to fire pro-union workers. But the bill failed to overcome the Senate's "filibuster" rule, by just one vote. That was the Labor Law Reform Act, in 1978.

Senate Democrats appear headed for a cruel repeat of that in 2010, as time runs out on the Employee Free Choice Act, a labor law reform that could reverse organized labor's downward slide. In 2007 it passed the House 241-185 but failed to overcome a filibuster threat in the Senate.

History is littered with the memory of bills that passed the U.S. House only to die in the Senate because of the filibuster rule — in

which opponents speak at great length, or threaten to, in order to delay or prevent a bill's passage. During the early 20th century, racist mobs lynched more than 4,000 Americans, mostly black. Three times, the House passed federal anti-lynching legislation which then died in Senate filibusters.

The U.S. Constitution makes no mention of the filibuster, saying only that "each house may determine the rules of its proceedings." Instead, the filibuster is an artifact of the Senate tradition of unlimited debate. In the 19th century, opponents of a bill would use that tradition to try to talk a bill to death, speechifying for hours and days, like Jimmy Stewart in the movie *Mr. Smith Goes To Washington*.

Exasperated by the filibuster of a war-readiness bill, President Woodrow Wilson declared in 1917 that "a little group of willful men ... have rendered the great government of the United States helpless and contemptible."

Led by Wilson, the filibuster was reformed: Two-thirds of the Senate could vote to cut off debate and vote on a bill. That was changed to three-fifths in 1975, a decade after the filibuster had delayed passage of civil rights legislation for seven years.

Lowering the cutoff to 60 votes was a turning point for the filibuster, says University of Miami political scientist Greg Koger, author of the forthcoming book "Going to the Mattresses: The History of Filibustering in Congress."

"That's when the Senate stopped waging old-school filibuster fights," Koger said, "and instead started saying, 'If we've got the votes to cut off debate, we win; if we don't, we lose.'"

The problem is, that practice makes it much easier to filibuster. A filibuster used to be a feat of endurance: Opponents had to speak at great length on the Senate floor. Now, filibustering means voting not

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# Unions tracking several jobs bills in Washington Legislature

OLYMPIA — Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), the AFL-CIO umbrella organization, is ramping up its legislative efforts as the 2010 session of the Washington Legislature winds down.

The session began Jan. 11 and ends March 11.

Jobs, jobs, and jobs are labor's top three priorities, and front and center is the Jobs Act of 2010 (HR 2561 and SB 6547), which would ask voters to approve \$850 million in bonds to pay for energy efficiency retrofits at schools, colleges, and other public facilities. The proposal would create an estimated 38,000 prevailing wage jobs. It passed the House 57-41 on Jan. 20.

Another public works jobs bill — the Working for Clean Water bill (HB 3181 and SB 6851) — would pay for storm water pollution cleanup in every county by tripling the "haz-

ardous substances" tax voters approved in 1988. The \$1.50-a-barrel tax on oil exported from Washington refineries could raise \$339 million over five years and put thousands of people back to work in construction.

Stopping further job losses in the public sector is also a priority. Last year, the Legislature made \$9 billion in budget cuts, but the continuing recession has drilled another \$2.6 billion hole in the state budget. WSLC is working with the Washington Federation of State Employees, AFSCME, to oppose proposals to close corrections facilities and state health institutions. And they're opposing SB 6503, which would close all state agencies and furlough workers one day a month; the bill passed the Senate Jan. 22 by 27-17.

WFSE Executive Director Greg Devereux suggested that lawmakers instead furlough some of the 154 tax breaks the Legislature has approved in the last decade.

WSLC is also supporting changes to I-960, an initiative voters passed in 2007 that requires a two-thirds majority in both legislative chambers for any tax increase. Opponents say the measure (which itself passed by just 51 percent) is undemocratic because it prevents legislative majorities from doing the jobs they were elected to do. SB 6843 would suspend parts of Initiative 960 through June 2011, and permanently change other parts.

Meanwhile, something has to be done for those who are jobless in a down economy through no fault of their own. WSLC is fighting to expand eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits and renew a temporary unemployment benefit increase of \$45 to \$71 a week that expired Jan. 1.

WSLC successfully opposed efforts by business lobby groups to further reduce employer contributions to the unemployment insurance trust fund; the Legislature already reduced rates last year, and two bills to reduce them further died Feb. 5.

Finally, HB 2553/SB 6334 would make unemployment insurance benefits available to workers who quit jobs for good cause, and SB 6526 would make it available to laid-off workers who are only seeking part-time work; the latter would cost the state unemployment insurance fund \$36 million a year, but would bring in \$98 million in federal funds.

Some other bills WSLC is supporting:

- HB 1992 would require the prevailing wage to be paid on public-private partnership projects (construction projects that get tax incentives, government loans or free land).
- HB 2986/SB 5757 would add nonvoting labor members to public transportation governing bodies.
- HB 751 would add labor representation to community college boards of trustees.



## Student engineers get lesson in bricklaying

Structural engineering students from Portland State University get a real world look at bricklaying from Matt Eleazer (right), president of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1. For several years the Masonry Institute of Oregon has invited engineering students to the Bricklayers Apprenticeship Training Center in Northeast Portland to give them some practical experience in the art of laying bricks. For instance, each student lifted and placed a 12-inch and 8-inch block to illustrate the difference in weight and mobility of each piece. On paper, it might be quicker to lay 12-inch block, but the wear and tear on bricklayers can be extensive. "It's food for thought when you go to design a building," Eleazer told the students. Joining Eleazer teaching the class was Bricklayer apprenticeship coordinator Shawn Lenczowski.

## ... 'Vote your job' rally

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fore a set deadline.


Shiprack said SB 1020 would have helped build and improve the state's energy infrastructure by easing the permit process on "lateral" construction projects such as roads, bridges, rail lines, pipelines, and transmission lines.

"This bill actually makes it easier for landowners," Shiprack said. "Under current law, (state, county etc.) has to first condemn a property before a developer can start negotiating with a landowner. SB 1020 would allow a developer to start talks with a landowner prior to condemnation."

Environmental groups opposed the bill, as did the Yamhill County Democratic Central Committee, which passed a resolution Jan. 21 asking lawmakers to kill it.

Other jobs bills being tracked: SB 1050 is a Buy America law that would require use of American-made construction materials on public works projects. HB 3651 would require paying prevailing wage rates on construction and installation of solar energy systems on public-owned land. HB 3604 requires public agencies to buy locally when purchasing goods for public projects.

The special session is scheduled to conclude by February 26.




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# Oregon AG seeks labor's help cracking down on underground economy

Oregon Attorney General John Kroger is cracking down on the underground economy in Oregon, and he wants union reps who work in the field to help be his eyes and ears.

"You are going to be much more aware than we are of companies that are working off the books, that aren't playing by the rules, who aren't paying taxes; companies that aren't properly paying workers' compensation," Kroger told a luncheon audience at last month's Oregon Labor Law Conference.

Last year, the Department of Justice put a Marion County drywall contractor behind bars for five years for bilking the state out of approximately \$8 million in unpaid taxes. The contractor was involved in a fraud scheme in which he paid workers in cash under the table to avoid paying taxes and workers' compensation insurance. This allowed him to bid lower for projects than legitimate companies that paid taxes.

"The company made about \$25 million (since 2001), all of it off the

books," Kroger said. "This one case alone cost Oregon \$8 million in taxes that were not collected."

White collar cases typically are handled differently than street crimes, Kroger said, with white collar criminals getting much lighter sentences. "In the past, an employer would be stripped of his license, and that's about it," he said.

Not anymore.

"This is unprecedented," Kroger said of the five-year prison sentence. "And we're eager to do more. These are very important cases to do to protect taxpayers and to protect workers."

Kroger said he will fight for a level playing field for honest companies to compete.

Kroger has designated senior assistant attorney general Andrew Campbell to handle future cases. "But we need people to bring these cases to us. They don't have to be wrapped up in a box with a bow, but if you think there is a company that is operating off the



JOHN KROGER

books, we want to know about it. If we don't hear about it, we won't be able to do anything."

Anyone with information about such operations can contact the Department of Justice at 503-378-4400. Or, give the information to Bob Shiprack, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, and he will forward it to the Justice Department. Shiprack can be reached at 503-788-7153.

# Deal will exempt Canada from 'Buy America' clause in United States stimulus act

The United States and Canada have arranged a deal to exempt Canadian companies from Buy American provisions in the roughly \$800 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Calgary Herald reported Feb. 4 that President Barack Obama will finalize the deal under an executive order. The newspaper said the agreement as structured allows the United States "to treat sectors of the Canadian economy as American by claiming chains are so integrated they cannot be separated."

The Buy American provisions contained in ARRA prohibit foreign-produced iron, steel and other manufactured goods from being used in projects paid for through stimulus funding. Under the law, all those goods must be sourced through the United States.

According to the Calgary Herald, the new deal grants Canadian exporters access to procurement markets in the 37 U.S. states covered under the World Trade Organization's government procurement agreement.

Oregon and Washington are among those states.

In return, Canada's provinces will

open up their procurement markets, roughly valued at \$22 billion.

The agreement is most likely to benefit Canadian companies involved in repairs, infrastructure, and construction. Certain Canadian sectors such as health care, education and correctional facilities are off limits to U.S. corporations.

At this point, the agreement only covers contracts granted under the U.S. stimulus package. Canadian officials, however, are continuing to push for a permanent exemption for all Buy American provisions, most of which are contained in a jobs bill currently working its way through Congress.

The U.S. is Canada's largest trading partner, accounting for about three-quarters of exports.

**Work Stoppages: The number of major work stoppages in 2009 was the lowest since 1947, according to the Bureau of National Affairs. There were only five work stoppages of over 1,000 workers in 2009, two in the private sector and three in the public sector.**

**FLOOR COVERING APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE**  
**will be accepting applications for apprenticeship training placement on the following dates:**

March 2, March 9, March 16, and March 23 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Applicants must be at least 17 years old. Must apply in person and have a copy of either a high school diploma or GED, and a driver's license.

Apply at:  
**Oregon & Washington Floor Covering Joint Apprenticeship & Training Office**  
 11105 NE Sandy Blvd.  
 Portland, Ore.

Questions? Call Training Coordinator John Lawson at 503-282-5783

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# Official Notices

## AUTO MECHANICS 1005

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17.  
 Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop stewards' training session.  
**ALL MEMBERS** are invited to shop stewards' training. Stewards must attend steward meeting to be compensated.  
 All meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.  
**PLEASE NOTE:** Rachel Conrad will be available from 8 a.m. to noon during the Regular Lodge meeting to answer any questions you may have about Health and Welfare and Pension plans.

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

Executive Board/General membership meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** Nominations for BCTGM Local 114 Delegate will be held at this meeting. Ballots will be mailed on March 5 and counted on March 22. Election results will be posted in the April 2 edition of the Northwest Labor Press.

## BOILERMAKERS 500

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, March 13, at 2515 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

## BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

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

## CEMENT MASONS 555

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

## CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at UA 290 Training Center, 2161 SE 1st St., Redmond.

## CLARK, SKAMANIA & W. KLICKITAT COUNTIES LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

## COLUMBIA PACIFIC BCTC

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 23 and March 2, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Electrical Women of Local 48 meets 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, at 5th Quadrant, 3901b N. Williams, Portland.  
 Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22 in the Meeting Hall.  
 General Membership Meeting meets 6:30pm Wednesday, Feb. 24 in the Meeting Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for sandwiches.  
 Your Business Manager Meeting, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, in the Meeting Hall.  
 Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 3 and March 17, in the Executive Boardroom.  
 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, in the Executive Boardroom.  
 Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, in the Meeting Hall.  
 Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, in the Dispatch Lobby  
 Vancouver Meeting, 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver.  
 Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.  
 Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at Beneventi's Pizza, 201 Stueben, Bingen, WA.  
 Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 15, in the Executive Boardroom.  
**DEATH ASSESSMENTS:** The February 2010 assessment is \$1.50. There were no deaths to report during the last period. Effective 1/1/10, the Death Assessments are \$1.50 per month per Active member.

## IBEW 280

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.  
 Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 11, at

the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.  
 Eugene Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at the LU 290 Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.  
 Salem Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at Salem Heights, Liberty & Madrona, Salem, OR.

## ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 11, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

## EXTERIOR & INTERIOR SPECIALISTS 2154

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 207, Portland.

## FIRE FIGHTERS 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

## FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

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

## GLASS WORKERS 740

**PLEASE NOTE:** March meetings will be SPECIAL CALL TO VOTE ON LOCAL 740 BYLAWS AND DISTRICT COUNCIL 5 BYLAWS.  
 Executive Board members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, March 4, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.  
 Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 4, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.  
 Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, March 1, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield. **NOTE DATE CHANGE**  
 Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem. **NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

## INSULATORS 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 10. Members meet 8 p.m. Friday, March 12. Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## IRON WORKERS 29

Members meet 7 p.m., Thursday, March 4, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #200, Portland.

## IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

## LABORERS 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 11, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave.

## LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, March 1, 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 16, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

## LABOR ROUNDTABLE OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Delegates meet 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at Hometown Buffet, 7809-B Vancouver Plaza Dr., Vancouver, Wash.

## LANE COUNTY CLC

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

## LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BUILDING TRADES

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

## LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN CLC

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, preceded by a 7 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

## LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting is 'SPECIAL CALL' to determine ballot options for the April 1 wage increase allocation - vote scheduled for March 25.  
 Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, March 1, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.  
 Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 25, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** March meetings will be "SPECIAL CALL" to vote on wage allocation for the April 1 increase. Members will also vote on Local 1236 bylaws and District Council 5 bylaws.

## MACHINISTS 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 10. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, March 13, preceded by a 9 a.m. stewards' meeting.  
 Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

## MACHINISTS 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at noon Wednesday, March 10.  
 Regular membership meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10.  
 Shop stewards training session 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 20.  
 Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

## MARION-POLK-YAMHILL LABOR COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, followed by a 7 p.m. General Meeting at 2110 State St., Salem.

## METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23.  
 Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, March 11.  
 Meetings are at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY EMPLOYEES 88

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 3.  
 General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, preceded by a 6 p.m. stewards' meeting.  
 Meetings are held at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

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

## OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES 11

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Laborers/Teamsters Hall, 2212 Andresen, Vancouver. **PLEASE NOTE:** Nomination of officers will be held at this meeting.

## PAINTERS & DRYWALL FINISHERS 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.  
 T-shirts, sweatshirts and coveralls are for sale in the office. **NOTE:** There will be a Special Order of Business at this meeting to discuss and vote on the proposed changes to Local 10 and District Council No. 5 Bylaws. The proposed changes will be mailed to the membership the last week in February for review prior to the March 17 meeting.  
**PLEASE NOTE:** Each member may have a chance to win 4 month dues by attending each month. David Grycko would have had his dues paid for 4 months if he had been at the Jan. meeting.

## PLASTERERS 82

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

## ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, March 4. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 11.  
 Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave., Portland. (503 232-4807)

## SALEM BCTC

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, March 4, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

## SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.  
**PLEASE NOTE:** Building Trades Contract formulation meetings will be held at the following meetings.  
 Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.  
 Medford area members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.  
 Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 11, at the Local 16 Hall, 4748 Franklin Blvd., Eugene.  
 Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend. **NOTE CHANGE IN TIME AND LOCATION.**

## SOUTHERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

## SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, March 1, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

## STEELWORKERS 1097

Members meet 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, preceded by a 5:45 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office building, Westport.

## TRANSIT 757

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, at the Laborers Hall, 2121 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Washington.  
 Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, at 212 Main Street, next door to Beach Pancake House in Tillamook.  
 AMR Northwest Josephine County, Bend Area Transit, LAMAR Advertising and Valley Transit -- See your liaison officers.  
**PLEASE NOTE:** ATU members are invited to attend any of the above-listed meetings.

## UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.  
 Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane, Astoria.  
 Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.  
 Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 517 Railroad St., Brookings.  
 Coos Bay area members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse.  
 Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.  
 Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 4816 S 6th St., Klamath Falls.  
 Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at 950 Industrial Cir., White City.  
 Roseburg area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at the Roseburg Labor Temple, 742 SE Roberts.  
 Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.  
 The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall.  
 Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the Eureka Training Center, 634 California St., Eureka.

# Retiree Meeting Notices

## ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at SEIU, 6401 SE Foster, Portland.  
 Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, March 11, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

## BAKERS 114

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at Izzy's Pizza, 1307 NE 102nd, Portland.

## CARPENTERS

Retired Carpenters meet for lunch 11 a.m. Monday, March 8, at Izzy's Pizza, 1307 NE 102nd Ave., Portland.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 9, at Hometown Buffet, (by Mall 205) 10452A SE Washington, Portland.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Retirees meet between 11:45 a.m. and noon Monday, March 8, at Hometown Buffet on Lancaster in Salem, in Lancaster Mall. If you have any questions, please give Don Ball a call at 541-327-3388.

## INSULATORS 36

Retiree breakfast 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 4, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

## IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet at noon, Wednesday, March 10, at the Eagles, 4904 SE Hawthorne, Portland.

## MACHINISTS

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, March 8, in the Northwest

Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, #103G, Portland.

## OREGON AFSCME

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

## TRANSIT 757

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

## UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, March 18, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.  
 Rusty Pipe retirees meet 2 p.m. Thursday, March 11, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.  
 Salem area retirees meet 12 noon Wednesday, March 10, at Almost Home Restaurant, 3310 Market St. SE, Salem.

## IBEW & United Workers Credit Union to hold annual meeting April 20

The IBEW & United Workers Federal Credit Union will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, April 20, at the Sheet Metal Local 16 Hall, 2379 NE 178th, Portland. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call Jeanine Lopez at 503-262-5309.

# CWA #7901's Linda Rasmussen hangs it up after 46 years

Communications Workers of America (CWA) international staff representative Linda Rasmussen has retired after 46 years in the union.

A Portland native, Rasmussen served two terms as president of CWA Local 7901 in the early '80s. It was in her second term that the international union hired her as a staff rep, taking her to Tukwila, Washington. She spent three years there before heading to Denver and the union's District Office. After nine years in Colorado, Rasmussen returned to Portland. As a staff rep, Rasmussen has been responsible for member mobilization activities during collective bargaining and political action campaigns. She has handled grievances, arbitrations and contract negotiations, and was assigned to be education director for the 14-state region.

"Working in the labor movement has been very rewarding," Rasmussen said. "I have been fortunate to work for CWA. The union has provided me lots of great opportunities."



Linda Rasmussen (right), poses for a picture with Grady Storms (left) and Elana Guiney at her retirement party. Rasmussen, a 46-year member of CWA Local 7901, retired in January as an international union staff rep. A former phone operator, she was in her second term as president of her local when she was called up by the national CWA.

Outside the CWA, Rasmussen, 65, has been an active participant in the Oregon labor movement as well. Until her retirement in January, she was an at-

large member of the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board. She was the founding president of the Oregon Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, a

past president of the Industrial Union Council, and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co., which owns the Northwest Labor Press.

Outside the labor movement, she served as a governor's appointee to the Oregon Employment Advisory Council — the last three years as chair; she is a past president of the Urban League of Portland and a former president of the Portland Civil Service Board.

After graduating from Cleveland High School in Southeast Portland, Rasmussen attended Western Oregon University (then known as Oregon College of Education) and Portland State University. She left school to take a job as an operator at Pacific Northwest Bell. She immediately became active in her union, volunteering as a shop steward, to the Legislative Committee, and writing for the newsletter.

She says union activism came easy, owing to her mother, who was president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Air-

line Clerks local at Union Pacific Railroad.

"As a kid, she took us to picket lines and union meetings," Rasmussen said.

Retired for less than 60 days, Rasmussen has already applied to volunteer for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children. She's delivering Meals on Wheels to house-bound seniors, and has signed up for her neighborhood's SMART program (Start Making a Reader Today).

Rasmussen also has already committed to help the Oregon AFL-CIO work for labor-endorsed candidates in this year's primary and general elections.

She was honored at a reception Jan. 16 in Northeast Portland.

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Talk to Bill, Jay, Michelle, Claire, Bob, Scott, David or Fergus.

## Exterior/Interior Specialists Local 2154 ratifies new contract

Voting by mail, members of Exterior/Interior Specialists Local 2154 overwhelmingly approved a new contract with Associated Wall and Ceiling Contractors of Oregon and Southwest Washington, after voting down an earlier version in mid-November.

The new agreement is retroactive to June 1, 2009, and runs to May 31, 2013. The pact covers about 1,200 building trades workers who specialize in installing walls and ceilings. That includes the 870 active members of Portland-based Local 2154, as well as about 300 interior/exterior specialists

who are members of general Carpenters locals in Oregon and in Klickitat, Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum counties, and part of Pacific County, in Washington.

The agreement makes no changes to health care benefits, which are offered through a multi-employer trust.

On pension, members earlier voted to transfer \$1.10 an hour from wages to shore up their multi-employer retirement fund, which, like most, lost value in the financial crisis. The extra contribution is meant to keep the fund from going into "red" status — a designation

under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 in which the trust would be required to cut benefit "extras," like the all-important "80-and-out" early-retirement provision. Under that rule, members can retire with full pension benefits if their age plus years of service equal 80 (e.g., a 55-year-old member with 25 years in the trade.) Because hanging drywall takes a significant toll on the body, keeping 80-and-out is a top priority for members.

"We like retiring when we have bones that move," explained Local 2154 president Bruce Epstein.

Under the new contract, members gave back the 45-cents-an-hour increase they won after a 2007 strike; that plus the \$1.10 shift to the pension brings the wage portion of the compensation package to \$31.59 an hour for journeyman drywallers. The contract contains no raises during its four-year time frame, but does have an option each year to reopen negotiations on wages. It also has a "me-too" provision: Drywallers would get a vote on any wage increase offered to general carpenters who work under the separate Associated General Contractors agreement.

## Hire Oregon Vets



**Phone: 503-655-8840**  
**Toll Free: 877-838-4473**

### The Hire Oregon Vets (HOV) Program

is a partnership between Community Solutions for Clackamas County, the Oregon Employment Department and Labor's Community Service Agency, Inc.

The goal of HOV is to increase the employment of Veterans by providing employment services to Veterans, education to employers on the benefits of hiring a Veteran, and by serving as a vehicle for connecting employers to skilled Veterans.

Program efforts are focused on Vets who have served in a war, are recently separated from service, have service-connected disabilities or significant barriers to employment.




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# Local Motion

January 2010

Union certifications and decertifications in Oregon and Southwest Washington, as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

## Recognition elections

Date	Name of employer	Location	Results:		
			Union Yes	Union No	
<b>First Student</b>					
1/7	Oregon School Employees Assoc.	L. Oswego	29	6	
<b>Oregon Housing &amp; Assoc. Services (decertification)</b>					
1/7	ATU Local 757	Canby	13	9	
<b>Columbia Distributing (decertification)</b>					
1/15	Teamsters Local 162	Portland	1	14	

## Recognition by card check

Date	Name of employer	Location	Number of employees
7/28	Annex School District (classified staff & PT teachers)	Ontario	6
	Oregon Education Association		

## Requests for recognition election

Date	Name of employer	Location	Number of employees
	Swire Coca-Cola (decertification)	Pendleton	17
	Teamsters Local 670		
	Laurelhurst Village (decertification)	Portland	155
	Service Employees International Union Local 503		
	Providence Home Health & Hospice	Portland	17
	Oregon Nurses Association		
	Maranatha Natural Foods	Ashland	35
	United Food & Commercial Workers Local 555		

## Card-check challenge results in ballot vote at Laurelhurst Village

Last November, Portland-headquartered Farmington Centers agreed to recognize Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 503 as the exclusive bargaining agent for workers at Laurelhurst Village, its Southeast Portland nursing home.

The union recognition came after a neutral third party certified that a majority of the workers had signed union authorization cards. Under U.S. labor law, such “card-check” recognition is a legal way for workers to unionize, though the employer has the choice whether to insist instead on a workplace union election. In this case, the employer agreed to card-check after community pressure, and did so as part of joining an industry partnership with the union.

But thanks to a legal interpretation by the Bush-era National Labor Relations Board, card check isn’t the final word: A minority of 30 percent of employees can call for an election if they disagree with their employer’s decision to recognize a union — even though an absolute majority of their co-workers may have signed cards.

A worker at Laurelhurst Village filed such a petition Jan. 19, and an election was scheduled Feb. 16, after this issue went to press. The election result will be reported in the March 5 issue of the Northwest Labor Press.

SEIU Local 503 spokesperson Ed Hershey said bargaining had begun, but as a practical matter would be put on hold until after the election result.

# Labor: Corporations aren’t people

## AFL-CIO, Change to Win criticize Supreme Court campaign finance ruling

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and Change To Win Chair Anna Burger criticized the U.S. Supreme Court’s 5-4 ruling opening the political advertising floodgates to cascades of corporate campaign cash, even though the AFL-CIO’s earlier legal brief on the issue sided with the corporate complainers on free speech grounds.

Trumka’s statement came after the decision by five Republican-named justices threw out virtually all limits on corporate spending on elections, except for direct contributions to candidates. Corporations can now buy ads backing or opposing politicians.

One limit the court majority tossed was a ban on corporate or union-funded independent issue advertising (“call senator so-and-so and tell him to vote against such-and-such”) within 30 days of a primary or 60 days of a General Election.

Groups ranging from the right-wing Citizens United to the ACLU asked the justices to invalidate the independent ad ban. So did the AFL-CIO.

But Trumka said corporate speech, controlled by company officers, should be viewed differently from speech by unions, which he said are democratically controlled by their members. The rest of the AFL-CIO brief was silent on the larger campaign finance questions the court ruled on.

In his statement, Trumka was anything but silent.

“The Supreme Court further tilted the playing field in favor of business corporations in public elections. By allowing unlimited corporate treasury expenditures that explicitly support or oppose particular candidates, the court



RICHARD TRUMKA

increased the already excessive influence corporations exert in our electoral system,” Trumka declared.

“We believe the court wrongly treated corporate expenditures the same as union expenditures, contrary to the arguments we made in our brief. Unions, unlike businesses, are democratically-controlled, nonprofit membership organizations representing working men and women across the country, and their independent speech should accordingly be given greater protection,” he added.

Trumka reiterated the AFL-CIO’s

support for “campaign finance regulation that promotes democratic participation in elections,” possible public financing of election campaigns, tight regulation of campaign contributions, protection of “legitimate independent speech rights” and “effective disclosure of who is paying for what.”

Change To Win Chair Burger predicted corporations would drown out everybody else with their money.

“The court lifted the floodgates ... on corporate electoral activity in the name of the ‘free speech rights’ of corporations — meaning if you are a CEO or corporate official, you are now free to hit the corporate ATM and spend whatever of your shareholders’ money it takes to elect the candidates of your choice,” she said.

“Unlimited corporate spending in federal elections threatens to drown out voices of the people who should really be at the center of the political process: Voters and candidates. Corporations have already been shilling out a lot of cash for political activities,” via “attack ads, direct mail and other forms of public communication through PACs.” The court “has given corporate managers the green light to bypass the checks and balances, use unlimited amounts from the general treasury” for politics, she added.



Sharon Maynard

• Social Security Disability



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• Personal Injury  
• Workers Compensation

## Serious Injury and Death Cases

- Construction Injuries
- Automobile Accidents
- Medical, Dental and Legal Malpractice
- Workers’ Compensation Injuries
- Social Security Claims



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# ...Use of filibuster at all-time high, labor bills a prime target

(From Page 1)

to close off debate, and the onus is on a bill's supporters to round up 60 votes — out of 100 senators — to shut it off.

"In the old days, you'd only filibuster if it was something you were really passionate about," Koger said. "These days, because there's no effort involved, it is much easier to filibuster on things that are not of great importance."

Use of the filibuster is at an all-time high. By one count, there were 139 in the 2007-08 Congress, compared to one every two years in the 1950s.

And the filibuster's effect is not just to defeat bills, but to change the character of those that pass. To overcome a filibuster, a party in power will compromise with opponents — and less loyal members. Sometimes the price of a vote is "pork" — money for pet projects in a senator's home state. Other times, getting to 60 means ridding a bill of important parts, even though they may have majority support. The Senate's stimulus bill reduced job-creating public works to make room for more tax cuts. The Senate's health care reform bill dropped the much-publicized public insurance option. Seeking 60 for pas-

sage of the Employee Free Choice Act at a time when support from several Democrats was wavering, union backers were resigned to go along with cutting the "card check" union recognition portion of the bill.

It didn't matter: The Employee Free Choice Act never got a vote during the time Democrats held 60 Senate seats. The year 2009 was a painful waiting game for labor, first for Minnesota Democrat Al Franken to be seated, then for Ted Kennedy to recover, and finally for Massachusetts voters to elect Kennedy's replacement. Their election of Republican Scott Brown closed the

chapter.

Now the fate of the Employee Free Choice Act will depend on finding a single Republican vote (a challenging prospect) — or reforming the filibuster rule.

If they choose to do so, Democratic leaders would have a number of avenues to get around the filibuster. The simplest, though most radical, would be to eliminate the filibuster rule by simple majority. Senate rules say it takes a two-thirds majority (67 votes) to change the rules, but an 1888 Supreme Court decision affirmed it can do so with a simple majority. That's the so-called "nuclear option" Republican leaders considered in 2005 when Democrats were using filibuster threats to block some of President Bush's judicial nominees.

Another option would be to pass major legislation through a process known as reconciliation. Under a Senate rule in effect since 1974, reconciliation bills can't be filibustered. Republicans used reconciliation to pass the three successive Bush tax cuts. Reconciliation is only used on budget bills, not policy bills, so reconciliation couldn't be used to pass new restrictions on insurance companies, for example, or the Employee Free Choice Act.

Option three would be to let oppo-

nents of a bill actually filibuster — talk at length on the Senate floor. That hasn't happened since 1992, but it could happen if an issue is important enough. Oregon got its statehood when supporters outlasted a filibuster by Southern slave state senators opposed to its admission as a "free" state.

In theory, the length of a filibuster is limited only by the determination of both sides to prevail; today's 41 Senate Republicans could stretch a filibuster out to Election Day. But in practical terms, one or the other side would relent, and public judgment could determine which side prevailed.

So far, Republicans seem to have shown a greater propensity to filibuster than Democrats: Democrats held up some federal judges nominated by President Bush, but Republicans have blocked even low-level executive appointments by President Obama. In 2002, a Senate Democratic majority approved all five of Bush's appointments to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in one unanimous vote. In 2010, the first act of the Republican minority after Scott Brown was sworn in Feb. 4 was to filibuster Obama's NLRB appointments.

Democrats have ways to get around the filibuster. It will come down to political will whether they use them.

## GOP filibuster kills NLRB nomination

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — In its only action between two winter blizzards, the Senate yielded Feb. 9 to yet another Republican filibuster and killed President Barack Obama's nomination of union attorney Craig Becker to the National Labor Relations Board.

The vote drew denunciations from AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and Service Employees President Andy Stern. Becker was a counsel for both labor groups.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers led the opposition.

Senators voted 52-33 to end debate on Becker's nomination. Democrats needed 60 votes. Fifteen senators (four Democrats, one independent, and 10 Republicans) were absent. The other 31 Republicans and Sens. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., and

Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., voted for the filibuster.

The vote is important because the five-person board has had only two members since the last day of 2007. The Board is tasked with protecting American workers' rights.

"It is reprehensible that a minority in the Senate blocked an up-or-down vote on Becker," Trumka said.

The AFL-CIO recently learned that the Senate and the White House cut a last-minute deal with Republicans to approve some of President Obama's nominees. That deal did not include NLRB appointees.

Trumka is asking union members to call the White House and demand that Obama use his executive power to appoint Becker during the Presidents Day recess. The number is 202-456-1111.

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