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MEETING NOTICES

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NORTHWEST

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Portland, Oregon

SEIU demands 'McJustice'

Protesters denounce anti-union stance at 100 McDonalds locations

Around the United States, members and staff of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) went to McDonald's Dec. 18 — to protest the company's opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act. EFCA is a bill in Congress

that would make it easier for workers to form a union and win a first contract.

The protests were a response to a Nov. 25 memo to all 2,400 company franchisees from McDonald's USA President Don Thompson, which urged them to contact senators and representatives to oppose the Employee Free Choice Act. A copy of the memo was leaked to Crain's Chicago Business magazine. The memo said the legislation, if enacted, would "impact the McDonald's system." Accordingly, Thompson wrote, McDonald's had formed an internal "response team" to help franchisees "actively participate in the opposition to EFCA."

SEIU said its protesters visited nearly 100 McDonald's locations nationwide. Protesters passed out leaflets that asked, "How does McDonald's really feel about America's workers," and noted that the McDonald's CEO earns the equivalent of \$6,250 an hour, while workers are paid an average of \$8.11 an hour.

After the protests, the company released a statement saying their reported position against EFCA was a "misrepresentation" and that they "try not to take sides in political issues."



Staff and members of SEIU Local 503, above, show up Dec. 18 at a Salem McDonald's restaurant 1110 Center St., but not for the Dollar Menu.

192 union jobs cut at
Daimler (Freightliner)

Daimler Trucks North America (formerly Freightliner) opened the new year by announcing it will lay off 192 union workers at its Portland plant at the end of January and cut 2,137 production line workers from operations in Cleveland, Mount Holly, and Gastonia, North Carolina by the end of March.

Daimler made it known last October that it would cease making trucks at Portland's Swan Island Industrial Park by June 2010 as part of a major restructuring plan. But the early round of cuts took union officials by surprise.

"I certainly didn't see it coming; this was a surprise," said Joe Kear, a business representative of Machinists Lodge 1005.

Workers in Portland are represented by four unions — Machinists Lodge 1005; Sign Painters and Paint Makers Local 1094; Teamsters Local 305; and Service Employees Local 49. A total of 163 Machinists were given pink slips, along with 33 Painters, 16 Teamsters, and seven Service Employees.

By June 2010, 700 additional family-wage jobs will be gone.

Daimler Trucks North America corporate headquarters will remain in Portland for now, the company said. About 1,900 nonunion workers are still employed in administration, product development, procurement, and information technology. In 2007, the sales, marketing, and customer support work was relocated to Fort Mill,

South Carolina.

Portland production line workers were told Jan. 8 that orders for the Western Star brand truck were down dramatically in November and December, thus warranting the earlier-than-expected job cuts. Production has dropped from 17 Western Star trucks a day to just 10 trucks a day. The Portland plant also produces 10 military vehicles a day.

The plant once made all Freightliner trucks — with 3,000 union workers cranking out 112 trucks a day. But since 2000 the work has migrated in stages to plants in Mexico and North and South Carolina.

"Daimler is at the forefront in moving manufacturing work to Mexico," Kear said. "The company says the layoffs are due to market conditions, but Daimler isn't downsizing in Mexico at a comparable rate. It doesn't help to rebuild our (U.S.) economy by relying on imports, instead of building things here (in the U.S.)."

By June 2010, all Western Star production will take place in Santiago Tianguistenco, Mexico. More truck manufacturing will begin later this year at Daimler's brand new 1 million-square-foot facility in Saltillo, Mexico.

This migration to Mexico is costing jobs in the U.S. and Canada.

In Mt. Holly, 572 members of the United Auto Workers will be out of work March 13 when the company discontinues production of Class 6 and 7

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Twelve international union presidents hold 'unity meeting'

Leaders from AFL-CIO and Change to Win labor federations talk about reuniting

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — Prodded by transition team officials for President-Elect Barack Obama, 12 international union presidents held a "unity meeting" Jan. 7 in the nation's capital to try to figure out how the labor movement can speak with one voice, not three. They emerged pledging "broad participation" in the effort, but no specifics.

In attendance at the session, called by former

House Democratic Whip David Bonior, chair of American Rights at Work, were presidents of five of the seven unions that make up the Change to Win labor federation, six of the 56 AFL-CIO unions, and the new National Education Association President Dennis Van Roekel. His 3.2 million-member union is the nation's largest.

The presidents' joint statement said: "The goal is to create a unified labor movement that can speak and act nationally on the critical issues facing working Americans." It added that "while we represent the largest unions, we recognize unity requires broad participation."

Local union leaders hailed the news. Chicago Federation of Labor President Dennis Gannon said it would be "welcomed by local labor movements and stands to benefit all working people in this country."

Reunification at the top of organized labor would also ratify what has, to some extent, happened on the ground since Change To Win split from the AFL-CIO in 2005: close cooperation in elections and legislation.

Attending the meeting, besides Bonior and Van Roekel, were AFL-CIO member union presidents Larry Cohen (Communications Workers), Leo

Gerard (Steelworkers), Ron Gettelfinger (Auto Workers), Gerald McEntee (AFSCME), Ed Hill (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers), and Randi Weingarten (American Federation of Teachers). Change to Win presidents attending were Joe Hansen (United Food and Commercial Workers), James Hoffa (Teamsters), Terry O'Sullivan (Laborers), Bruce Raynor (UNITE HERE), and Andy Stern (Service Employees).

The statement also said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and Change to Win Chair Anna Burger joined the session, but that was not confirmed.

Vancouver Fire Fighters give up wage hikes to help cash-strapped city coffers

VANCOUVER — Union firefighters have voted to give up a pay raise so that the City of Vancouver can afford to staff a new fire station.

In results announced Dec. 30, members of Fire Fighters Local 452 voted by a 91 percent margin to approve a one-year contract extension that contains scheduled step increases, but no cost-of-living allowance (COLA). The 164 members of the union had been scheduled for a 4 percent increase.

"The budget situation being what it was, we reconsidered," said Local 452 President Mark Johnston.

Vancouver city government has been hit hard by the recession: Sales tax revenue is down because of a decline in sales, and property tax revenues are expected to decline in about a year because of falling home values. So far the city has reacted by eliminating 30 positions, including 16 layoffs.

"We were just really concerned about public safety, especially in the east part of city," Johnston said.

The skipped COLA is expected to

save Vancouver \$700,000 in 2009, an amount that will make a difference when the city opens a new fire station in east Vancouver in January 2010.

Johnston said this is the first time in at least 25 years that the union has agreed to a wage freeze. Average wages are about \$70,000 a year for the group, which includes firefighters and paramedics.

Johnston said it helped that the sacrifice is being shared: The city has told managers and other nonunion workers they won't be getting a COLA.

Local 452's new agreement did have some improvements for members: An increase from six days a year of sick leave to 12 days, and an increase in the maximum amount of unused sick leave that can be banked: from about six months worth to nine months worth.

The skipped COLA could have implications for other unions at the city. Contract negotiations are under way for three other bargaining units: Fire Fighters Local 452, which represents deputy fire marshals; Office & Profes-

sional Employees International Union Local 11, which represents some city bureaus; and the Joint Labor Coalition, a four-union unit that includes members of American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 307-VC, Teamsters Local 58, Machinists District Lodge 24, and Plumbers Local 290.

"I know there are employers out there who are going to use this against their unions," Johnson said. "We don't necessarily recommend this, or say every group should be doing this."

The contract covering police officers won't expire until the end of 2009, and the Police Guild said no to reopening its contract to negotiate giving up the COLA.

Economic crisis is focus of Jan. 31 town hall meeting

A town hall focusing on the economic crisis will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, from 1 to 5 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW 12th Ave. Portland.

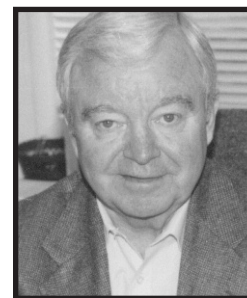
The event, free of charge, is being co-sponsored by Portland Jobs with Justice and more than two dozen union locals and community organizations.

A flier promoting the town hall said: "We have a great opportunity now to organize to get not just a bailout, but an economy that provides opportunity for working people; an economy that helps communities thrive and reverses decades of growing inequality, take-backs, union busting, unfair trade agreements, cuts in health care and more."

For more information, call JwJ at 503 236-5573 or go to jwjd.org.

IN MEMORIAM

TOM CUNNINGHAM, a retired executive secretary-treasurer of Portland-based Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 49, died Dec. 21 from a head injury sustained in a fall during last month's winter storm. He was 77.



Cunningham, of Milwaukie, Oregon, served in the local's top post for 13 years. He was a 39-year member of the union.

Thomas David Cunningham was born in Janesville, Minn., on Feb. 22, 1931. He graduated from high school there in 1949.

He enlisted in the United States Air Force and served in the Korean War in 1951-52. He was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in 1954.

Cunningham earned a degree in education from Mankato State University in Minnesota. A teaching opportunity at St. Mary's Home for Boys in Beaverton brought him to Oregon.

He left teaching to sell office machines. Then, in 1969, he was hired as a business agent by Marty Blake, Local 49's executive secretary-treasurer.

In addition to being a business agent, Cunningham became president of the Local 49 credit union in 1972, and was elected president of the local union in 1980. Three years later he became the union's business manager, succeeding Blake, who retired.

In his years as Local 49's leader, Cunningham held a number of posts, including Building Service Division Executive Board member, 1988-96; Hospital Division Executive Board member, 1988-92; delegate to International Federation of Labor meetings, 1994; Western Conference of SEIU Executive Board member, 1984-96; Oregon Council of Service Employees president, 1990-96.

Cunningham served on the Northwest Oregon Labor Council Executive Board and on the Advisory Board of the Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon. He was president of the Portland Maritime Trades Council and of the Portland Provision

Trades Council. He was a delegate to the Columbia-Pacific Building Trades Council.

Cunningham was inducted into the Northwest Oregon Labor Council's Labor Hall of Fame in June 2001.

In retirement, Cunningham did volunteer work through his church, St. John's Catholic Church in Milwaukie, and helped at St. Vincent de Paul.

Cunningham and his wife, the former Geri McIntosh of Portland, were married in 1968. They had no children.

Gerri Cunningham had been hospitalized and was in intensive care when Cunningham had his accident. It wasn't until a few days later that the extent of his injuries were detected. Surgery failed to relieve swelling on his brain.

Funeral arrangements are pending as Geri Cunningham recuperates.

TOM BERNARD, a former officer of Teamsters Local 174 in Seattle and a union organizer for Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals Local 5017, died Dec. 27 of a heart attack while shoveling snow. He was 60.

Thomas Earl Bernard was born Dec. 18, 1948, in Detroit, Mich. He served in the Air Force in the Vietnam War and moved from Oakland, Calif., to Portland three years ago. He was active in the Portland chapter of Jobs with Justice and the anti-war movement.

In 1993, he married Helen Lee.

Survivors include his wife; son, Derek; daughter, Kristy Hemingway; stepdaughters, Jade Fox and Alison Lee-Whitney; stepson, Jesse Fox; and two grandchildren.

Remembrances to Sisters of the Road Cafe.



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Government solar projects skirt prevailing wage laws

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

With an impact to the public treasury of several million dollars, solar panels are going up on the rooftops of four Multnomah County government buildings.

Union members familiar with government construction projects might think the installers would earn the prevailing wage, under the state's "little Davis-Bacon" law. The 70-year-old law was designed to level the playing field for construction companies on public works projects by setting wage standards for workers on a craft-by-craft basis. Annual wage surveys are conducted by the Oregon Employment Division, and the law is enforced by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI).

Prevailing wage laws ensure that construction workers earn decent family-supporting wages and health and pension benefits, while preventing contractors from winning large government projects by low-balling bids based on wages and benefits.

But that's not happening with the Multnomah County project or any of over a dozen similar government solar projects around the state.

SunEdison, a Maryland-based company that has financial backing from Goldman Sachs, got the contract to put solar up on the Multnomah County rooftops. A large array on the rooftops of a pair of county maintenance buildings in Gresham should be done by mid-February; similar arrays will go up on the county's headquarters building on Southeast Hawthorne and its Donald E. Long Juvenile Justice Center by year's end. Counted together, the county rooftops could be the state's largest photovoltaic array.

SunEdison does not have a state-certified apprenticeship training program, and it's paying nonunion installers \$12 an hour.

If the project had paid prevailing wage, they would have earned \$16- to \$33- an hour for the same work.

Multnomah County's description of the project to potential bidders in September 2007 said it would require payment of the prevailing wage. In hindsight, that may have been well-intended naiveté. The way the deal is structured, there's no way it could be prevailing wage: SunEdison leases the rooftops, installs and owns the panels, and sells the electricity to the county. From the county's standpoint, the contract is little more than an elaborate power purchase agreement, hitched to a deal to lease rooftops. Nothing currently requires vendors or tenants to pay prevailing wage.

Last May, to remove any doubt, Multnomah County Deputy Attorney John Thomas sought a determination from BOLI that the project was not subject to the prevailing wage law, and BOLI agreed.

The reason: The public investment in the panels is indirect, in the form of



SunEdison program manager Jeremy Barnett (left) walks Multnomah County Commissioner Jeff Cogen through a photovoltaic array installed on the roof of the Yeon maintenance building. Because of the way the deal is structured, the \$7 million-plus project is not subject to requirement to pay the prevailing wage. Photo courtesy of Multnomah County Commission

tax subsidies, not direct, in the form of spending.

Project costs are estimated to be between \$7.5 million and \$8.5 million. But the solar panels will replace just \$65,000 a year of electricity the county is now buying from Portland General Electric. After 20 years, the county will have paid SunEdison \$1.3 million — one-sixth the cost of the installation. Selling solar electricity

doesn't pay for the project. Tax incentives do.

The federal Solar Investment Tax Credit reimburses 30 percent of the cost in the first year. Oregon's Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) pays back another 50 percent over five years. And a federal tax formula for accelerated depreciation adds to the subsidy: It allows a solar system owner to say that the panels are en-

tirely depreciated (used up, obsolete, worthless) in five years, with most of that (two-thirds) in the first year. Depreciation counts like a business expense, against income, so it reduces income tax. So in theory, depreciation could reduce an affluent taxpayer's tax bill by another 35 percent of the project's cost.

In reality, it's hard to line up ownership to take full advantage of the tax savings. A big part of SunEdison's business model is matching solar projects with individuals or entities that can use the tax savings. For each of the county rooftops, SunEdison set up a separate subsidiary corporation. Those corporations, which are eligible for the tax credits, can then be sold to corporations or individuals that owe taxes.

It may seem a strange and complex way to go solar. But such a set-up — where a third party builds and operates the solar array and sells electricity to the host — is becoming the norm on large projects.

Third-party-financed solar projects, at various stages of development, are under way at other local governments: Bend, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Gresham, Hillsboro, Medford, Portland and Pendleton; Hood River and Umatilla counties; Mt. Hood Community College; and Tualatin Valley Water District.

None thus far have gone to a union

contractor.

EC Company, a signatory contractor with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48, bid on the Multnomah County project, but found it couldn't be done without an additional subsidy from Energy Trust of Oregon. SunEdison got the contract because it didn't need the subsidy. Could wages have had something to do with that?


The prevailing wage requirement takes wages out of competition, and makes sure that contractors who pay higher wages don't compete at a disadvantage.

"Third party ownership seems to be going to be the dominant model in solar financing," Multnomah County Commissioner Jeff Cogen told the Labor Press. "So it's worth revisiting whether it ought to be prevailing wage."

More than 80 percent of the Multnomah County solar project cost is subsidized by tax credits, but there are no requirements about the number or quality of the jobs produced, except that the county did specify that SunEdison try to employ women, minorities, and emerging small businesses.


Two years ago, the Oregon Legislature passed a law saying that private construction projects that get more than \$750,000 of public subsidy have

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OFFICIAL NOTICES

AUTO MECHANICS 1005

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop steward training class. Shop stewards must attend training class and regular meeting to be compensated.

Executive Board meets Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 4:30 p.m. All meetings are held at our union hall, 3645 SE 32nd Ave. Portland, Oregon.

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

BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY, TOBACCO WORKERS AND GRAIN MILLERS 114

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland. Officers and Executive Board members will be installed at this meeting.

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

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

CARPENTERS 247

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

CARPENTERS 1388

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 276 Warner-Milne Rd., Oregon City. **PLEASE NOTE** TIME CHANGE.

CLARK, SKAMANIA & W. KLICKITAT COUNTIES LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 27, and Feb. 3, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland. **NOTE:** The Jan. 20 meeting has been canceled.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Electrical Women of Local 48 meets 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, at 5th Quadrant, 3901b N. Williams, Portland.

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, in the Meeting Hall.

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, in the Executive Boardroom.

General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, in the Meeting Hall. Show-up early for sandwiches. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 21 and Feb. 4, in the Executive Boardroom.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the Executive Boardroom.

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the Meeting Hall.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the Dispatch Lobby.

Vancouver Meeting, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver.

Wasco Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the Lyle Taproom, 600 State Street, Lyle, WA.

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

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

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: There are no death assessments for January.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Eugene Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the LU 290 Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Executive Board meets 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent, OR.

Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.

Joint Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, 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, Jan. 21, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 207, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE** CORRECTED DATE.

FIRE FIGHTERS 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

GLASS WORKERS 740

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

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5 at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

IRON WORKERS 29

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

IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be a third reading, discussion and vote on Union Dues Increase Resolution. You must have a December or January dues receipt in order to vote on the dues increase. You will be able to pay dues or obtain a duplicate receipt before the meeting.

LABOR ROUNDTABLE OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Delegates meet 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 30, at Hometown Buffet, 7809-B Vancouver Plaza Dr., Vancouver, Wash.

LABORERS 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave., Portland.

LABORERS 483

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

LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, preceded by a 6:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the Vancouver Labor Center, 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vanc., Wash.

LANE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

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

LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BUILDING TRADES

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

LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, preceded by a 7 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

PLEASE NOTE: The following meeting is "Special Call" to vote on funding for Health & Welfare. Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

PLEASE NOTE: The following meeting is "Special Call" to vote to give the negotiating committee strike sanction. Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

MACHINISTS 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14.

Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

MACHINISTS 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at noon Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Regular membership meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11.

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

Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27.

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.

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

MOLDERS 139

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY EMPLOYEES 88

General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, preceded by a 6 p.m. stewards' meeting.

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4. Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

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

PLASTERERS 82

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

PORTLAND CITY & METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEES 189

General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27.

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10. Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.

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

SALEM BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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

SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Medford area members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at the Local 16 Hall, 4748 Franklin Blvd., Eugene.

Coos Bay area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

SIGN PAINTERS & PAINT MAKERS 1094

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

SOUTHERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

ATU 757

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, January 18, at the Laborers Hall, 2121 NE Andresen, Vancouver, WA.

Tillamook members meet 1:00 p.m. Sunday, January 18, at 212 Main Street, next door to Beach Pancake House in Tillamook.

AMR Northwest Josephine County, LAMAR Advertising and Valley Transit- See your liaison officers.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

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

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

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

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 417 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

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

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

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

Roseburg area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Roseburg Labor Temple, 742 SE Roberts, Roseburg.

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

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

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Eureka Training Center, 832 E St., Eureka, Calif.

UNITED STEELWORKERS 1097

Members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, preceded by a 3 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the union office, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

UNITED STEELWORKERS 8378

Members meet 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the A-Dec Building at the Fairgrounds in McMinnville.

90th anniversary of Seattle labor unrest to be commemorated

SEATTLE — On the morning of Feb. 6, 1919, Seattle — a city of 315,000 people — stopped working. Stores closed, shipyards stilled, and streetcars stopped running. The controversial event, which made headlines around the world, was the first city-wide action in the U.S. to be proclaimed a "general strike," and heralded an era of labor unrest following World War I.

On Saturday, Feb. 7, from 1 to 5 p.m., union members, students, musicians, and others will come together at Seattle's Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave., to mark the 90th anniversary of the Seattle General Strike. Presentations and performances will revisit the event, followed by discussions of the strike's legacy for today.

In Portland, on Thursday, Feb. 5, KBOO Radio (90.7 FM) will feature music and present a history of the Seattle General Strike from 6 to 7 p.m.

The 1919 strike began when workers in Seattle's booming shipyards demanded increased wages to compensate for the federal government's freeze of raises during the war years. Over 100 local unions joined in sympathy. Union members banded together to provide essential services to Seattle's residents.

RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, preceded by a 9 a.m. Executive Board meeting, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave., Portland. Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

CARPENTERS

Retired Carpenters meet for lunch 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at Hometown Buffet, 10542A SE Washington St., Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Retirees meet between 11:45 a.m. and noon Monday, Feb. 9, at Hometown Buffet on Lancaster in Salem, which is next to Michael's Craft Store. If you have any questions,

please give Don Ball a call at 541-327-3388.

GLASS WORKERS 740

Retirees meet 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Izzy's Pizza & Buffet, 1307 NE 102nd Ave. (and Halsey), Portland.

INSULATORS 36

Retiree breakfast 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

MACHINISTS

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland for a brief business meeting and lunch at a restaurant to be determined at the meeting.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to

11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 9, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison #100G, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 503-239-9858, ext. 124.

TRANSIT 757

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Portland area retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Portland.



Officers installed at Columbia Pacific BCTC

Newly elected officers of the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council are sworn in to office Jan. 7 by Bob Shiprack (left), executive secretary of the Oregon State BCTC. Officers from left to right are: Trustee Brett Hinsley of Cement Masons Local 555; Trustee Tim Carrier of Painters District Council 5; President Jim Pauley of Iron Workers Local 29; Executive Secretary-Treasurer John Mohlis of Bricklayers Local 1; Sergeant-at-arms Herman Stonebraker of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290; and Trustee Dave Ritchey of Laborers Local 335. Not pictured is Vice President Tim Foster of IBEW Local 48. Terms are for three years.

Endicott re-elected business manager of UA Local 290

John Endicott has been re-elected business manager of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290. He defeated two challengers — Al Shropshire and Frank Harju, capturing over 48 percent of the votes.



JOHN ENDICOTT

All terms are for three years. Local 290 represents about 4,000 plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters in Oregon, Southwest Washington and Northern California. The local's master labor agreement expires March 31, so bargaining will take place this year.

Machinists District Lodge 24 reps all run unopposed

Bill Hargrave was re-elected president. He defeated Lyman Warnock 837-433.

Terry Neely defeated incumbent vice president Robert Porter 648-575, while Kyle Stancliff and Drake Pilcher ran unopposed for recording secretary and inside guard, respectively.

Elected to the Executive Board were John Kimberling and Teresa Neely in Region 1; Dennis Mask in Region 2; and Gary Barnes in Region 3.

Chris McNicholas, Dave Hauth and Rick Hindman were re-elected to the Finance Committee while Shawn Mask and Mark Aichele (pipefitter); Frank Boyle and Jeff McGillivray (plumber); Jeff Simons and Erv Garrison (ACR); Pete Bakker and Barry Sather (oil burner); and Jim Eastman and Steve Nitsch (metal trades) were tapped to Examining Boards.

Because there were no challengers, Bob Petroff, directing business representative of Machinists District Lodge 24 and four incumbent business representatives have been re-elected to new four-year terms.



BOB PETROFF

Nominations were held last month and an election was scheduled for Feb. 21. But because there was no opposition, an election will not be held. The new terms of office begin in February.

Re-elected as business representatives were Joe Kear, Britt Cornman, Scott Lucy, and Phil Dilsaver.

Labor Law Conference slated Feb. 27 at IBEW Hall

The 13th annual Oregon Labor Law Conference will be held Friday, Feb. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the IBEW Local 48 union hall, 15937 NE Airport Way.

The event is sponsored by Local 48, the Oregon AFL-CIO, the Oregon State and Columbia-Pacific Building

Trades Councils, and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

The conference organizer is Norm Malbin, in-house attorney for Local 48. The conference is for business managers, business agents and officers.

The goal is to provide information that will help them do their job better and to

help avoid legal liability.

The number of participants is limited to 230. Registration is \$85 and includes lunch and all materials. The deadline to register is Jan. 30.

For more information, call Kristi Straight at 503-889-3660 or Malbin at 503-889-3669.

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Lane CLC to host candidate training

EUGENE — Lane County Central Labor Council will host its second “campaign school and candidate training” Feb. 6 to 8. The idea is to equip union members and supporters with the know-how they need to run campaigns for local elective office.

The Oregon AFL-CIO is co-sponsor of the event, which is expected to attract would-be candidates, campaign managers and treasurers from around the state. Over a dozen consultants and elected officials will be giving the trainings. Some of the highlights include Steve Novick, past consultant to unions and candidate for U.S. Senate in the 2008 Democratic primary; Jon Isaacs, who ran the successful U.S. Senate campaign of Novick’s opponent Jeff Merkley; and union leader Michael Dembrow, one of Salem’s newest labor-legislators, who won the Demo-

cratic nomination to a Northeast Portland state house seat in a tough three-way race last May.

The first campaign school, held in December 2007, drew about 20 attendants for two days of workshops. One of those, Rob Handy, defeated a four-term incumbent for Lane County Commission in November.

The school is the brainchild of Pat Riggs-Henson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Lane County CLC. Riggs-Henson said her hope is to get one union member on every board and every elective body, so as to incubate future generations of political leaders.

Participants learn how to map and analyze an electorate to see whether it’s possible to win. They learn how to win endorsements, raise money, and develop and stick to a message; how to recruit and coordinate volunteers; and

how to maintain expense records to comply with campaign finance reporting requirements. Handy — a pro-labor landscaping business owner — said he was already an experienced campaign activist and attended the school thinking it would be a brush-up. But he says he was stunned by the quality of presenters and presentations, and credits the school as a factor in his win.

The campaign school is open to members of AFL-CIO and other unions, as well as members of the AFL-CIO’s Working America community affiliate. Participation is limited to 40. Register by Jan. 30 by contacting Riggs-Henson at 541-914-6928 or by e-mail at henson2831@comcast.net.

The school will take place at the United Association of Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 290 Training Center, 2861 Pierce Pkwy., Springfield.

Feeney, Rebel Voices to appear in Portland Jan. 23

Folk singers Anne Feeney and Rebel Voices will perform in Portland Friday, Jan. 23, at Carlin Hall, 1636 SE Hickory St. (in the St. Phillip Neri Church complex just north of SE Division St.). The concert is presented by the Portland FolkMusic Society and its monthly concert series, now in its 14th season.

Cost is \$10 for union members or members of the Portland FolkMusic Society, \$12 for others, \$5 for children 12 to 18, and free for kids under 12. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Feeney, of Pittsburgh, is the granddaughter of a mineworkers’ organizer, who also used music to carry the message of solidarity to working people.

Feeney has lived her life on the frontlines — performing at thousands of rallies, picket lines and demonstrations over the years — including the WTO demonstrations in Seattle, Solidarity Day in Washington, D.C., and for 1.5 million people at the April 2004 March for Women’s Lives.

Dubbed the “minister of culture” to the movements for economic and social justice and human rights, Feeney is “the best labor singer in North America,” said the late Utah Phillips.

Susan Lewis and Janet Stecher — members of the American Federation of Musicians Local 1000 in Seattle — have created incredible harmony as

members of The Belles of Hoboken, Shays’ Rebellion, and since 1989, Rebel Voices. They took their name from the book by Joyce Kornbluh, “Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology,” a collection of writings, songs, poems, and cartoons by members of the Industrial Workers of the World. “Wobblies” have always been rabble rousers, unionists, artists, and singers who attack the issues of their time with passion and humor. This same spirit moves Rebel Voices today as they sing out for social and economic justice.

For more information or for reservations, call 503 452-0130.

Oregon AFL-CIO, LERC, to hold legislative conference Jan. 24

The Oregon AFL-CIO and the Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) of the University of Oregon will hold a 2009 legislative conference Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Registration is \$25 per person and must be made by Jan. 19. Registration covers tuition, materials, lunch, and refreshments.

The conference will provide an opportunity for union activists to meet lawmakers, learn how to lobby, and become informed on labor’s agenda for the 2009 legislative session. Some of those issues include health care reform, green energy and job creation, and transportation.

Invited to attend are Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Attorney General John Kroger, Senate President Peter Courtney, and elected legislators.

For more information, call LERC 541-346-5054.

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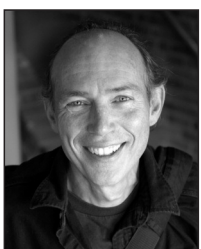
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Boeing to lay off 4,500 workers

Boeing Co. said Jan. 9 that it will lay off 4,500 workers at its Commercial Airplanes unit.

According to a memo sent to all department employees, many of the reductions will be in the form of overhead functions, as well as normal attrition and a reduction in non-Boeing labor. Layoff notices will be issued Feb. 20.

The cuts are expected to occur primarily in Washington State, where the Commercial Airplanes Division builds widebody planes such as the 747 in Everett and the 737 jets in Renton. Boeing officials said the workforce will be reduced to 63,500 workers — the same level of employees as in early 2008.

In Gresham, where Boeing employs some 1,200 members of Machinists Lodge 63, it was unknown how many jobs would be eliminated.

"We got the memo, too," said Bob Petroff, directing business representative of Machinists District Lodge 24.

Petroff said specific job classifications or numbers have not been defined, and that the memo was sent to

all employees in the division — both represented and non-represented. "We don't anticipate a huge impact here," he said.

Machinist District Lodge 751 President Tom Wroblewski urged Boeing to "do the right thing" by releasing contract workers who are doing maintenance and facilities work.

"We believe Boeing has many other options available, and we will push them to retain their valued employees," Wroblewski said. "When Boeing provides exact details on how many IAM members and what job codes are affected, we will issue a more comprehensive statement and present Boeing with additional alternatives to preserve these jobs."

Boeing has said layoffs will depend on skill sets. Spokesman Tim Healy said contract workers who have skills critical to producing airplanes will not be let go.

The union said no airplane orders have been canceled at this point and that Boeing is continuing to hire production workers.

Wroblewski said 32 new Machin-

ists have been added to the payroll in January.

Boeing said the 58-day Machinists' strike last fall hurt its total yearly delivery of commercial airplanes, with the company reporting 375 planes delivered in 2008, down from 441 a year earlier.

Healy said the intent is to keep production lines rolling, while cutting costs.

"We're going to be focused on overhead positions that aren't directly involved in producing airplanes," he said. "We don't anticipate a change in our rate of production, we don't want to impact development programs like 787 and adversely impact the delivery schedule they're trying to meet."

...Help is available for laid off workers at Freightliner

(From Page 1)

medium-duty Freightliner trucks. Daimler will eliminate 1,290 production line jobs in Cleveland, N.C., and another 275 jobs at its parts manufacturing plant in Gastonia, N.C.

About 1,400 members of the Canadian Auto Workers in St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada, also are losing their jobs.

In Portland, union officials and the company are meeting with affected employees to offer dislocated worker assistance, with help from Labor's Community Service Agency, the Oregon AFL-CIO, and Work Systems Inc. The IBEW and United Workers Federal Credit Union is providing help with budget counseling.

Jobs cuts are based on seniority, and workers losing their jobs have been with the company anywhere from 10 to 15 years.

The unions' collective bargaining agreement — which contains language calling for good faith bargaining on a severance package in the event of a plant closure — expires in June 2010. Kear said the sides intended to begin severance negotiations earlier this year, but bargaining for a severance package in Ontario is going slowly.

Kear told the Labor Press talks won't begin in Portland until a deal is finalized in Ontario.

...Solar project wages low

(From Page 3)

to pay prevailing wage. With the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC), private construction projects can get up to \$10 million in public tax subsidy without facing the prevailing wage requirement.

The Oregon AFL-CIO is on record calling for labor standards to be attached to the BETC.

"Businesses who take advantage of BETC have a responsibility to taxpayers to create good jobs that pay a family wage," said Oregon AFL-CIO president Tom Chamberlain in an e-

mail to the Labor Press. "Unfortunately, there is no accountability built into this program, and we have not seen data showing that good, family-wage jobs have been created as a result of BETC. Instead, BETC seems to have become another form of corporate welfare. We hope to see data that proves that BETC is working as it was intended, but if that data doesn't exist, BETC needs to be reformed to include accountability measures that make sure that the companies who take advantage of BETC uphold their end of the contract with Oregon's taxpayers."




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Local Motion

December 2008

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

Name of employer	Date	Name of union	Location	Results:		
				Union Yes	Union No	
Oregon Child Development Coalition	12/3	Laborers Local 320	Woodburn	66	9	
Turner Engineering	12/5	Iron Workers Local 516	Vancouver	11	18	
Columbia Distributing	12/5	Teamsters Local 162	Portland	61	24	
Umpqua Dairy Products (DECERTIFICATION)	12/15	Teamsters Local 962	Klamath Falls	70	61	
Prestige Care Inc., Glisan Care Center	12/19	SEIU Local 503	Portland	18	16	

Recognition by card check

Name of employer	Date	Name of union	Location	Number of employees
Imbler School District (classified employees)			Imbler	
12/31	Oregon School Employees Association			17

Requests for recognition election

Name of employer	Name of union	Location	Number of employees
US Metal Works (DECERTIFICATION)		Sandy	
Iron Workers Shopmen's Local 516			26
Kaiser Permanente (admitting specialists at Sunnyside)		Portland	
Service Employees International Union Local 49			28
Albertsons (lobby employees)		Roseburg	
United Food & Commercial Workers Local 555			3
Sodexo (Medford School District contracted cafeteria)		Medford	
UNITE HERE/SEIU			81
Vigor Marine		Portland	
Boilermakers Local 104			30

Celebrating Martin Luther King Day

Voices from the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike

By JAMES PARKS
National AFL-CIO

In the fall of 1967, T.O. Jones and Joe Warren, the first two leaders of the effort to organize a union of sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn., met with then-Mayor Henry Loeb to recognize and bargain with the almost all-black union, AFSCME Local 1733.

As Warren recalls: "He told us you can have it, but you can never get dues checkoff or recognition. When I told him we would strike, he told me I would be the first one fired."

But after a two-month strike in 1968, the sanitation workers, many of whom were standing up against white authority for the first time in their lives, won recognition of the union. That victory was the catalyst for change in the paternalistic racist environment in Memphis. Today, the city has a black mayor and county executive, and Local 1733 represents public workers across the city.

Warren joined seven other veterans of the strike and told their stories at the annual AFL-CIO Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration last year in Memphis. King, a longtime supporter of unions, went to Memphis in April 1968 to lend his support to the sanitation workers' strike, and was assassinated while he was there.

The Rev. Ezekiel Bell was the first minister to support the strikers and one of their strongest backers. The city's only black Presbyterian minister at the time, Bell had turned down a scholarship to Harvard to attend all-black Tennessee State University. His father had been a Mississippi sharecropper and once worked as a sanitation worker, so Bell says he understood the workers' pain.

"I felt my place was out there with them. These men were working for sub-standard wages. For me not to be there would have been a denial of what I was preaching about every Sunday," he said.

Now retired, Bell says the strike was a key turning point in Memphis and the nation because it showed the power of being organized and determined.

"It was time for change. They helped people to see that we could make things better for us all if we worked together, he said.

AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer William Lucy agrees. The sanitation workers recognized the importance of union membership to lifting black workers out of poverty, says Lucy, who was one of the organizers working with the Memphis strikers in 1968.

As Lucy says today: "The workers in the Memphis public works department, and I think workers across the South, recognized that their future was tied to their ability to organize a union and have a union represent them in the areas of wages, hours and conditions of employment. So no matter how bad the situation was, it would be worse if they were not able to form a union. And as bad as the strike got and as tough as life was, they were not about to give up until they



Martin Luther King Jr. addresses striking sanitation workers the day before he was killed in Memphis.

achieved recognition of a union.

"Dr. King's involvement showed he recognized the fact that you had people who worked every single day and yet were not able to raise themselves out of poverty ... and that the civil rights struggle and the struggle for workers' rights are intertwined."

Hattie Jackson says the strike happened because blacks in Memphis were tired of being treated like slaves. "You wake up one morning and say 'no more.' You just have to get on with it and not be a slave anymore," she said.

Jackson and her late husband, the Rev. H. Ralph Jackson, were involved in the strike from the beginning. Ralph Jackson was one of the leaders of the strike. The strike was a family affair for the Jacksons, she says. Not only were she and her husband marching with the strikers, one of their daughters came home from college to march with them.

Contrary to the common perception that the strikers and marchers were all poor, Jackson says they had many middle-class black supporters. She was, at the time, the only black principal of an all-white school in Memphis, and her husband was a national officer of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination.

"A lot of teachers and principals came to the mass meetings and gave money to support the strikers, but they hid their faces because they were afraid of losing their jobs," she said.

Jackson says the strike was good not only for black men, but for women as well. "You know that slogan 'I Am A Man,' well we wanted to let them know that 'I Am A Wo-man' and we deserve dignity and fair treatment as well," she said.

Bell, who says he was arrested more times than he can count during the strike, says he was enraged with the racism not only of Memphis' political leaders, but he was even more outraged at the racism of its white religious leaders.

He recounts that on the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he and a representative

of the national Presbyterian church met with the white Presbyterian ministers in Memphis to deliver a \$10,000 check from the national Presbyterian Church to help support the strikers.

"They went on about how it was an illegal strike and they refused to take the money. So I got [the national Presbyterian staffer] out of there and we were on the way to the Lorraine Motel [where King was killed] to pick up his bags and take him to the airport. That's when the news came over the radio that Dr. King had been shot. Later they reported he was dead," he said.

"When we got to the Lorraine, those same ministers called to say they would take the check. I'll never forget that."

(Editor's Note: The 2009 National AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance will be held Jan. 15-19 in New Orleans. In addition to celebrating the historic election of Barack Obama as the nation's first black president, union members will examine what the election means for working families. They also will volunteer with community service projects in and around New Orleans, which continues to suffer from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. For more information, contact Eva Walton in the AFL-CIO Civil, Human and Women's Rights Department at ewalton@aflcio.org or at 202-637-5274.

Portland State University will host a full week of events Jan. 19-24 to commemorate the legacy of Dr. King. In addition to library exhibits, films, and a musical performance, PSU's Student Leaders for Service will take part in a day of service — "A Day On, Not a Day Off" — with Portland VOZ, an organization that supports day laborers in the city. PSU also will host former Georgia Congressman Andrew Young as the "Living the Legacy" guest lecturer on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., at Smith Memorial Student Union. For more information, call Haili Jones Graff at PSU at 503 725-8763.)

AFSCME Local 88

acknowledges the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19, 2009

In 1968 Dr. King marched with striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee. Today, we honor Dr. King and those who struggled and stood for the dignity and rights of all workers. We acknowledge their many sacrifices in helping to create AFSCME Local 1733.

In addition, we acknowledge the historic inauguration of Barack Obama on January 20, 2009. President-elect Obama supports workers, the right to form unions, and the Employee Free Choice Act.

On this national holiday, let us reach out and help serve our community. Let us continue to organize those who are unrepresented and fight for the dignity and rights of all workers.

AFSCME Local 88
Representing Multnomah County,
Central City Concern,
Transition Projects, Inc., and
American Friends Services Committee

