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Bill Sizemore is back in business

Judging by recent initiative filings, Bill Sizemore is back. But if he thinks old methods will fly, he may have to rethink. Some Oregon lawmakers are preparing new laws to clean up the initiative process.

By DON McINTOSH
Associate Editor

Defying predictions that a 2002 conviction for forgery and fraud would end his run in politics, staunchly anti-union ballot measure sponsor Bill Sizemore is back in business.

Sizemore has so far submitted 38 initiative petitions for the November 2008 ballot, many of them different versions of the same idea, filed to increase the odds of getting a favorable ballot title. Of those petitions, 29 are still active, 10 have been approved for circulation, and at least five have been sighted on the clipboards of Sizemore's roving signature crews.

In the 1990s, Sizemore's ballot measure machine was a major force in Oregon politics. His influence is said to have peaked in 1996, with the pas-



BILL SIZEMORE

sage of Measure 47, a property tax limitation, or in 2000, when he had a record seven initiatives on the ballot. Either way, subsequently, the Sizemore operation fell on hard times. None of his seven measures passed in 2000. Union vigilance prevented him from qualifying two measures in 2002. His group Oregon Taxpayers United was legally dissolved in 2003. Fallout from a successful union lawsuit appears to have sidelined him in 2004.

But in 2006, he was back on the ballot, with an initiative that would have banned the use of credit scores in setting insurance premiums. The somewhat innocuous measure may have been designed to rehabilitate his image. It was defeated.

Judging by his latest crop of initiative petitions, he's attempting a come-

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Unitus employees say, 'Show us the love'

Linda Taylor, Linda Staniford and Paula Johns — members of Communications Workers of America Local 7901 — walk an informational picket line at Unitus Community Credit Union in downtown Portland Feb. 9 to draw attention to slow negotiations for a new contract. Approximately 80 employees at four branches have been working under the terms of a contract that expired on Nov. 30. The union decided to go public two days after management proposed gutting all grievance procedures. "It came out of left field," said CWA President Madelyn Elder, adding that management also has proposed eliminating two floating holidays. Three years ago, employees accepted wage freezes for two years as the company expanded to be more competitive in the market. "The expansion is done. They have this new downtown office building. Now it's time to recognize their employees, who are the face and voice of this credit union," Elder said. The union wants supporters to call the credit union and demand they settle a fair contract. The phone number is 503-227-5571, or 1-800-452-0900.

Unions team with ... Wal-Mart! in push for national health care

Service Employees and Communications Workers of America join the 'Better Health Care Together' coalition

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Leaders of two big unions — the Communications Workers of America and the Service Employees International Union — joined Wal-Mart and several other Fortune 500 companies on Feb. 7 to launch a new coalition that will push for universal health care by 2012.

Members of the coalition, which include AT&T (the nation's largest union employer), Intel and Kelly Services, and public policy groups such as the left-leaning Center for American Progress and the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center (Baker was chief of staff under President Ronald Reagan), did not disclose or endorse a specific plan. But the group did draw some flak because of its most prominent member: Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott.

Wal-Mart, the nation's largest private employer, has been targeted by labor groups for the expensive health care coverage it of-

fers employees, skimpy wages, labor-law-breaking mistreatment of workers and the fact that 46 percent of its workers and their families are in publicly-paid health care programs.

And when a reporter asked Scott if Wal-Mart would commit to spending more on health care or covering more of its workers at a lower cost, he said "no." Scott said he was pleased that 90 percent of Wal-Mart employees qualified for health insurance. "We're not pleased that 90 percent choose not to take health insurance."

That, and the presence of other unionists, drew criticism from United Food and Commercial Workers International President Joe Hansen, who said Scott's presence was nothing more than PR-driven public "posturing."

In an announcement released shortly after the coalition's news conference, Hansen (who served for over a year on a special congressionally-created health care panel) said that although the union supports universal health insurance, "It's not appropriate to take the stage with a company that refuses to remedy its mistreatment of workers, among other irresponsible practices. Wal-Mart is actually decreasing health care coverage to employees and facing the

largest gender discrimination case in the history of this country." UFCW and SEIU are part of the Change to Win labor federation.

SEIU and Wal-Mart are the founding members of the new coalition dubbed, "Better Health Care Together." Stern said he and Wal-Mart CEO Scott had met privately to outline the principles of the coalition,

"It is time to admit that employer-based health care is dead," Stern said. "We can't keep tinkering, hoping that incremental change will fix our broken health care system. We need fundamental change, and it is going to take new thinking, leadership, new partnerships, some risk-taking, and compromising to make it happen. But that is what we all owe our country."

Nearly 47 million Americans lack health insurance, while insurance premiums have jumped 87 percent over the last five years.

Larry Cohen, president of the Communications Workers of America, explained that he joined the coalition because "Our current system puts a huge strain on employers that provide quality

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Let me say this about that

—By Gene Klare



Willie Marion honored

WILLIE MARION of Portland, a retired business manager of Molders Local 139, is the newest member of the Labor Hall of Fame, which is sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Retirees Council.

The Retirees Council is affiliated with the NW Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and holds its monthly meetings in NOLC's boardroom in the Scandia Building at 1125 SE Madison St., Portland.



WILLIE MARION

MARION, who turns 71 next week, retired as Local 139's executive officer in 2001. Local 139's parent union is the Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers International Union (GMP) of the AFL-CIO.

Willie Marion Jr. was born on Feb. 22, 1936 in Tupelo, Mississippi. His father was a plumber whom Willie Jr. helped in his boyhood years. Willie Jr. graduated from Nettleton High School south of Tupelo. While in high school, he had a job in a doctor's laboratory. Later, he worked as a railroad section repairman, a job known as a

"gandy dancer." He worked with his father on the railroad.

MARION SERVED in the U.S. Army in 1956, '57 and '58. During most of those three years he was stationed at an anti-aircraft base in Fairbanks, Alaska, and earned the stripes of a specialist-fifth. He received his honorable discharge at Fort Lewis, Washington.

After his Army duty, Marion settled in Tacoma, Wash., and found a job in a foundry, joining the Molders Union. He worked there for eight-and-a-half years, then moved in 1966 to Portland. He was hired at Oregon Steel Foundry and transferred his membership to Local 139. He later worked as a molder at Western Foundry.

IN 1977, after 11 years of being active in Local 139, Willie Marion was elected to the union's top job, business representative. He succeeded Jim Rogers, who was appointed to an international representative's job based in Seattle. Marion told the Northwest Labor Press that he thinks he's the first black unionist to be elected to a Portland local union's top job in which one person was responsible for handling every function in the union's operation. That makes him a trailblazer for black unionists. In Marion's tenure, the title of Local 139's top post was changed from business representative to business manager.

Marion negotiated collective bargaining contracts with employers, handled grievances and other problems; served as a trustee on health & welfare and pension trust funds. He represented Local 139 at meetings of the Multnomah County Labor Council and later at NOLC meetings; served on the labor council board; represented Local 139 at Molders International Conventions and at sessions of the Oregon AFL-CIO. He also represented the Molders at meetings of the Portland and Vicinity Metal Trades Council. In his many years on that council, Marion recalled a series of executive officers including Lloyd Knudsen of the Electrical Workers, Dick Schneider of the Machinists and Mike Fahey of the Shipwrights, an affiliate of the Carpenters.

MARION SHARPENED his union skills by attending training sessions conducted by his international union back east, and by participating in classes at the Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon.

Looking back, Marion told the Labor Press that it took him about three years on the job of running Local 139 to gain the respect of the employers with whom he dealt.

A historical note regarding the Molders Union: The Iron Molders Union was organized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1859 and later evolved into the Mold-

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Former union volunteer, organizer Willy Myers elected BA at Sheet Metal Local 16

Union organizer Willy Myers was elected business agent at Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 in votes counted Feb. 2. Myers outpolled three other candidates to replace Steve Kowats, who left to take a job with the training department of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association.

Myers will be one of four business agents of the 2,200-member local, and will be responsible for dispatch, contract negotiations and member grievances in the construction side of the industry. The local's top elected office — business manager/financial secretary — is held by Len Phillips.

Myers said he hopes to continue what he began as organizer — an energetic effort to unionize workers in the local sheet metal industry.

Myers got his start with the union in 1994. As a shop superintendent at a nonunion HVAC installer, he was driving a service department van back to the shop when the brakes went out. The van tumbled down a 50-foot embankment outside Salem, hitting trees on the way down. Coughing up blood, he called the company owner, who had

his son drop him off at the hospital. But Myers came away from the experience feeling like he was valued less than the equipment. After two weeks recovery, Myers asked to be returned to a job he had earlier held at the company, but had his pay cut 25 cents. He decided to take action.

The owner had promised employees a job review and a raise after six months of work, but hadn't followed through. Myers got two dozen co-workers to sign a petition, and marched into the office with the demand, which the owner refused.

Myers went back to his co-workers and said, "They can't fire all of us; let's walk." Employees called in sick the following day, and instead of going to work, met in a park with Local 16 representative Mike Anderson, whom



WILLY MYERS

Myers had invited.

Three days later Myers was fired. "I was right," Myers recalled. "They couldn't fire all of us; they just fired me."

A charge was filed with the National Labor Relations Board, but the government agency, charged with protecting workers' union rights, ruled that Myers was a supervisor and therefore didn't have rights.

But Myers' termination lit the fire under him. He volunteered his time to help Local 16 unionize the company. It took a year, but eventually the owner signed a union contract, and has been a good union employer since, Myers said.

Meanwhile Myers became a union member and kept busy with jobs through the Local 16 hiring hall. He volunteered to help organizing campaigns, and in 1999 was hired as the Local's staff organizer.

His new post brings a pay raise and a new set of charges, including responsibility for the well-being of hundreds of members.

"I've seen both sides of the fence," Myers said. "There are so many people out there that don't know what unions stand for. I want to take that message to every member of my craft, and tell them 'You deserve more respect from your employer, and you can win more respect with a union.'"



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Editor: Michael Gutwig
Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice

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Unionists rub elbows with lawmakers at legislative forum

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

A chance to chat up Oregon lawmakers and coordinate labor's lobbying efforts drew over 100 union members to a Feb. 3 legislative conference in Portland. Oregon House Speaker Jeff Merkley and a half-dozen other legislators attended the four-hour session, as did Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner, who labor leaders regard as a rock-solid ally. Political consultant Steve Novick, who is mulling a 2008 run against Republican U.S. Senator Gordon Smith, also addressed attendees, earning an enthusiastic reception.

The conference is a biennial event organized by the Oregon AFL-CIO and the Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon. This year, participants were notably optimistic, thanks to the leadership change in Salem: Democrats control both houses and the governor's office, giving unions their best chance in years of winning substantive improvements to Oregon labor laws.

Gardner shared an anecdote that illustrated just how different the political climate is in Salem this time around. Two years ago, the labor commissioner watched as Republican Karen Minnis, who was then speaker of the House, squashed an incredibly minor bill he had introduced. His agency, the Bureau of Labor and In-

dustries, accepts legal service when servers can't locate farm labor contractors who operate migrant worker camps. Gardner wanted to expand that to all migrant worker camps, not just those where the residents are employees of the owner. The bill passed the Senate and the House committee, only to have Minnis tell her caucus, "It's Dan Gardner's bill. I want you all to vote no." Merkley, who was then House Minority leader, paid Minnis a call to argue for the bill on its merits, and related back to Gardner her response: "What makes you think it has anything to do with the merits of the bill?"

Such ugly partisan pettiness is out of fashion now that the Democrats are in charge again, Gardner said. Democrats will need Republican votes to pass revenue increases, so while they intend to use their majority to pass legislation, revenge isn't on the agenda.

Instead, the agenda is filled with pro-active proposals.

Gardner's office, for example, is supporting bills to:

- Require overtime pay after 8 hours in one day, instead of after 40 hours in one week. [The bill has an exception for work weeks that contain four 10-hour shifts.]

- Require state contractors to submit a personnel plan showing how many Oregonians they or their subcontractors intend to employ to accom-



House Representative Greg MacPherson (right) hears from Kevin Card, legislative director for the Oregon Council of National Association of Letter Carriers at a Feb. 3 union legislative conference in Portland. Card, it so happens, is also the person who delivers mail to MacPherson's Lake Oswego address.

plish the work [This is meant to avoid repeat of a recent case where Oregon's food stamp hotline was answered by a call center in India.]

- Allow nursing mothers to take a 30-minute unpaid work break to pump breast milk while on the job.

The Oregon AFL-CIO, meanwhile, is pushing a set of bills to make it eas-

ier for nonunion workers to unionize.

House Speaker Merkley, a member of the AFL-CIO community affiliate Working America, told attendees he personally would introduce what is the capstone of the "freedom to organize" package: a bill called the Worker Freedom Act. The Worker Freedom Act would make it illegal for Oregon em-

ployers to require their employees to attend anti-union meetings. Such meetings are a staple of consultant-led "union-avoidance" campaigns but are perfectly legal under federal labor law.

Other bills in the package include:

- "Card-check" elections for public employees — state and local government workers would automatically get union representation once over half of a unit signed union authorization cards.

- A ban on using tax dollars to fight unionizing campaigns — public agencies, as well as private employers that get state contracts or grants, would not be allowed to pay consultants or attorneys in order to prevent unionization.

- Support for the Employee Free Choice Act — the Legislature would go on record in a non-binding resolution of support for a bill in the U.S. Congress that would add teeth to workers' rights protections in America's basic labor law.

To stay informed about labor's activities at the Oregon Legislature, sign up for the Oregon AFL-CIO's Weekly Update by sending an e-mail request to afl-cio@orafcio.org.

Bruc Holte of ILWU appointed to Port of Portland Board

Bruce Holte, a 19-year member of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8, has been appointed to the Port of Portland by Gov. Ted Kulongsoski.

Holte, 47, of Canby, served two terms as president of Local 8.

He also serves on the Canby Planning Commission.

The appointment is pending Senate confirmation. If confirmed, Holte will join two other union members on the Port Commission. They are Grant Zadow of Electrical Workers Local 48 and Ken Allen, executive director of Oregon AFSCME Council 75.

Zadow's terms expires in September.

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...Court case exposed Sizemore's shenanigans

(From Page 1)

back in '08.

This year, his causes are education, land use and tax policy, and judicial elections. His measures would:

- Allow minor improvements to property without a building permit;
- Link teacher pay to the test scores of students (an idea defeated in 2000);
- Allow students to take no more than two years of English as Second Language classes;
- Make federal taxes fully de-

ductible on state income tax return (an idea defeated in 2000); and

- Ban the labeling of judges as "incumbent" on the ballot.

Several other measures, not yet circulating, are aimed directly at union political clout or worker rights. One would ban public employee unions from making political campaign contributions. Another would ban "card-check" union recognition for public employees. A third would allow employers to deduct cost of employees' medical and retirement benefits from the Oregon minimum wage they're required to pay. Sizemore also introduced, and then withdrew, a repeal of the state's "little Davis-Bacon" requirement that government-funded construction projects pay the prevailing wage.

But wasn't he supposed to be out of business?

In a lawsuit filed by the Oregon Education Association and American Federation of Teachers-Oregon, a jury declared in October 2002 that Sizemore's organizations were guilty of a pattern of criminal activity that resulted in placing Measures 92 and 96 on the 2000 ballot. Specifically:

- Sizemore had his political action committee hire his own company, I&R Petition Services, to "oversee" signature collection, which was done by subcontractors. Employees of his subcontractors forged signatures, signed the names of fictitious people, and illegally copied legitimate signatures from one petition sheet to another; even the signatures of the petition circulators themselves were sometimes

forged.

• Sizemore set up Oregon Taxpayers United Education Foundation as a "sham charity," to give his supporters tax-deductibility while using their contributions illegally to fund political campaigns (by direct cash transfers and by paying the salaries of all his political staffers.)

• To get around campaign finance disclosure laws, Sizemore arranged phony "stock" purchases that enabled one supporter to secretly contribute \$170,000 to the campaigns. To evade disclosure of other supporters' names, Sizemore arranged to have them write their checks to Americans for Tax Reform, a Washington, D.C.,-based group headed by right-wing power-broker Grover Norquist. Sizemore would bundle these checks, then have ATR write a check back to his groups, or directly to petitioners for the total amount.

• Sizemore filed false Contribution and Expenditure reports with the State of Oregon, omitting cash, overhead, and in-kind support from his "charitable" foundation, including foundation checks totaling more than \$120,000 written to Sizemore's company and its subcontractors. He also signed and filed false reports to the IRS and the Oregon Justice Department denying that donations to his charitable foundation were being used for political purposes.

In May 2003, a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge ordered damages of \$2.5 million, dissolved Sizemore's Oregon Taxpayers United Education Foundation, and issued an injunction restricting his political activities for five years.

But Sizemore sought ways to get around that judgment, just as he earlier got around — and crossed over — laws on signature-gathering and campaign finance reporting. He emptied his group's bank accounts. He re-named his group. And he appealed the jury verdict.

In October 2006, an appeals court struck down the third of three counts of his conviction, on a legal technicality. That reduced his civil liability to about \$300,000. Sizemore was jubilant. Both sides are now appealing to the Oregon Supreme Court. The Supreme Court doesn't have to review the case, and normally does so only if it wants to use it to settle a particular point of law. Lawyers expect to learn

'I get so sick of being accused of being involved in forgery. I have never knowingly broken the law.'

Bill Sizemore

some time in the next six months whether the Court will look at the case.

So far, the unions have gotten very little out of Sizemore. They went after him personally for collection, and when he sold some property were able to get about \$16,000 out of him.

But union leaders say they have no regrets about the suit, despite close to a \$1 million they've paid in legal bills. The suit revealed a great deal of unflattering information about Sizemore's operation, and must have made many Sizemore donors pause, particularly when it seemed his motive was as much personal gain as furthering the cause.

Sizemore was not the first chief petitioner to pay for signatures, but he may be the first in Oregon to make a vertically integrated business out of it. As revealed in the lawsuit, Sizemore made money at every stage. His 2000 personal tax returns reported \$213,000 income that year. In the 2000 election cycle, Sizemore collected a \$65,000 salary from his Oregon Taxpayers United, but his signature-gathering company I&R paid Sizemore \$50,000 directly and as much as \$170,000 indirectly, including: up to \$25,000 for construction work on his property; a \$123,919 loan to Sizemore's failing radio station; payments on his automobile, and \$20,000 in American Express bills.

And his operation brought the initiative process to new levels of lawlessness.

"Until our suit exposed rampant abuse, it was like the initiative process was run on the honor system," says Oregon Education Association staff attorney Mark Toledo.

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...Past Sizemore business practices raise eyebrows

(From Page 4)

The honor system assumes integrity.

But well before Bill Sizemore became a well-known political figure, his conduct raised questions about his integrity. During Sizemore's 1998 campaign for governor, an Oregonian investigation brought to light the messy details of his failed carpet and toy companies.

Sizemore walked away from \$358,000 in debts when Sizemore Carpet Brokers liquidated under bankruptcy protection in 1987. His Illuminated Toy Inc., founded in 1984, ceased operations in 1994, with unpaid debts of about \$795,000.

Anybody can have a business failure. It was Sizemore's business practices that raised eyebrows. Sizemore raised funds for his businesses by persuading members of his church and his softball team to loan him money, promising to double their money in six months. One fellow member of Portland Bible Temple cashed a life insurance policy to lend Sizemore \$30,000, which the entrepreneur promised to return in one month with \$3,000 in interest (That's 120 percent annual interest). Instead it took years, and a

lawsuit to recover the money. And he was the only creditor to get repaid. Another church member, dying of cancer, asked Sizemore in 1997 to return the \$98,000 he was owed, and was told it would be repaid after he became governor. Later, Sizemore asked the widow to recant what she had told the Oregonian about the incident.

In the end, Sizemore stiffed his landlord, the factories that made his products, the IRS, and a printing company he wrote a bad check to. He used toy company money to buy land that he would then build his family's home on. Later, he sold the company property and used proceeds to pay off personal income tax liens. The explanations he gave to the Oregonian of the details were contradicted by most of the individuals.

That was how he operated his toy business.

By 1994, Sizemore's business was politics. The businessman who hadn't paid his taxes now formed Oregon Taxpayers United, a political action committee, and devoted himself to raising money to wage ballot initiative campaigns. That year his Ballot Measure 8 won by 1,000 votes, requiring public employees to contribute 6 percent of their salary to their pensions.

The measure was later overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court as a violation of contract rights.

In 1996, Sizemore was back with a referendum that overturned the Legislature's plan to build statewide light-rail system. He also won passage of Measure 47, a property tax limitation to cap property taxes, limit increases to 3 percent per year, and establish a double-majority requirement for local temporary future tax increases.

In 1998, he went after public employees unions again; his Measure 59 would have restricted their ability to participate in politics. It was narrowly rejected by voters, but union political action committees reportedly spent over \$4 million opposing the measure.

Sizemore had a sure thing: Win or lose, his measures would drain union treasuries, weakening their ability to pursue other issues.

It was a cynical purpose, said judges on the appeals court panel, and the cynical means by which he conducted the campaigns spurred voters to approve Measure 46 in 2004, which banned the "bounty" by prohibiting initiative campaigns from paying by the signature.

But abuses continued. Media accounts about circulators paid in cash

on street corners led the Bureau of Labor and Industries to aggressively prosecute whatever violations of Measure 46 they could prove.

Now, the Oregon Legislature is preparing to clean up the initiative process. The House Committee on Elections, Ethics and Rules, chaired by Diane Rosenbaum, began hearings on initiative abuse in January.

"I am not an opponent of the initiative process," said Rosenbaum, who herself was a chief petitioner on a ballot measure that increased the minimum wage. "But we believe it has been hijacked."

"A lot of people wonder why can't we just ban paid petitioning altogether. Rosenbaum said. "The problem is the Oregon constitution doesn't allow it."

"By 2002 the ideal of citizen volunteers gathering signatures from their friends, neighbors and colleagues had long ago disappeared," Ellen Lowe told Rosenbaum's committee Jan. 31. Lowe was a longtime lobbyist for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, a social justice group. "Instead," Lowe said, "every initiative season, armies of mercenary signature gatherers descended on our state looking for a quick and easy buck Too often last year Oregon's initiative system looked

more like drug deals than democracy."

Legislators expect to look at a number of reform proposals in the coming months, including:

- Color-coding initiative petition sheets when campaigns are paying petitioners;

- Requiring paid signature gatherers to register with the Secretary of State's office, and provide a signature sample.

- Prohibiting anyone convicted of identity theft from gathering signatures;

- Requiring that campaigns gather 10 percent of required signatures before submitting their measure to the state for a ballot title, an idea meant to prevent "ballot title shopping;" and

- Making chief petitioners personally liable for what goes on in their campaigns.

Sizemore told Rosenbaum's committee he didn't like that last suggestion.

"I don't believe you get anywhere by pursuing chief petitioners," Sizemore testified Jan. 31. "It isn't possible to control what everybody circulating your petition does."

"I get so sick of being accused of being involved in forgery," Sizemore added. "I have never knowingly broken the law."

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Executive Board meets Wednesday, March 14, 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, Feb. 27, followed by a 10:30 a.m. General Meeting, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland.

PLEASE NOTE: There is an opening for an Executive Board position to be filled at the next meeting. Please call the union if you are interested.

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 1

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

Carpenters 247

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

Carpenters 1388

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, at 276 Warner-Milne Rd., Oregon City.

Clark, Skamania & W. Klickitat Counties Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 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, Feb. 20 and Feb. 27, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

Communications Workers 7901

General membership meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at 2950 SE Stark St., Portland.

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at 2950 SE Stark St., Portland.

Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 8, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

Exterior & Interior Specialists 2154

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 207, Portland.

Fire Fighters 452

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

Fire Fighters 1660

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

Glass Workers 740

Executive Board members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 1, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 1 at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME.**

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

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

Iron Workers 29

Members meet 7 p.m., Thursday, March 1, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, #200, Portland.

Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

Laborers 483

Municipal Employees

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

Laborers/Vancouver 335

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

Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 8 a.m. Friday, March 2, at Hometown Buffet, 7809-B Vancouver Plaza Dr., Vancouver, Wash.

Lane County Labor Council

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

Linn-Benton-Lincoln Labor Council

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, 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. 22, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

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

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting is **SPECIAL CALL** to vote on allocation of the contractual increase effective April 1.

Machinists 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 7. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, March 10. Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

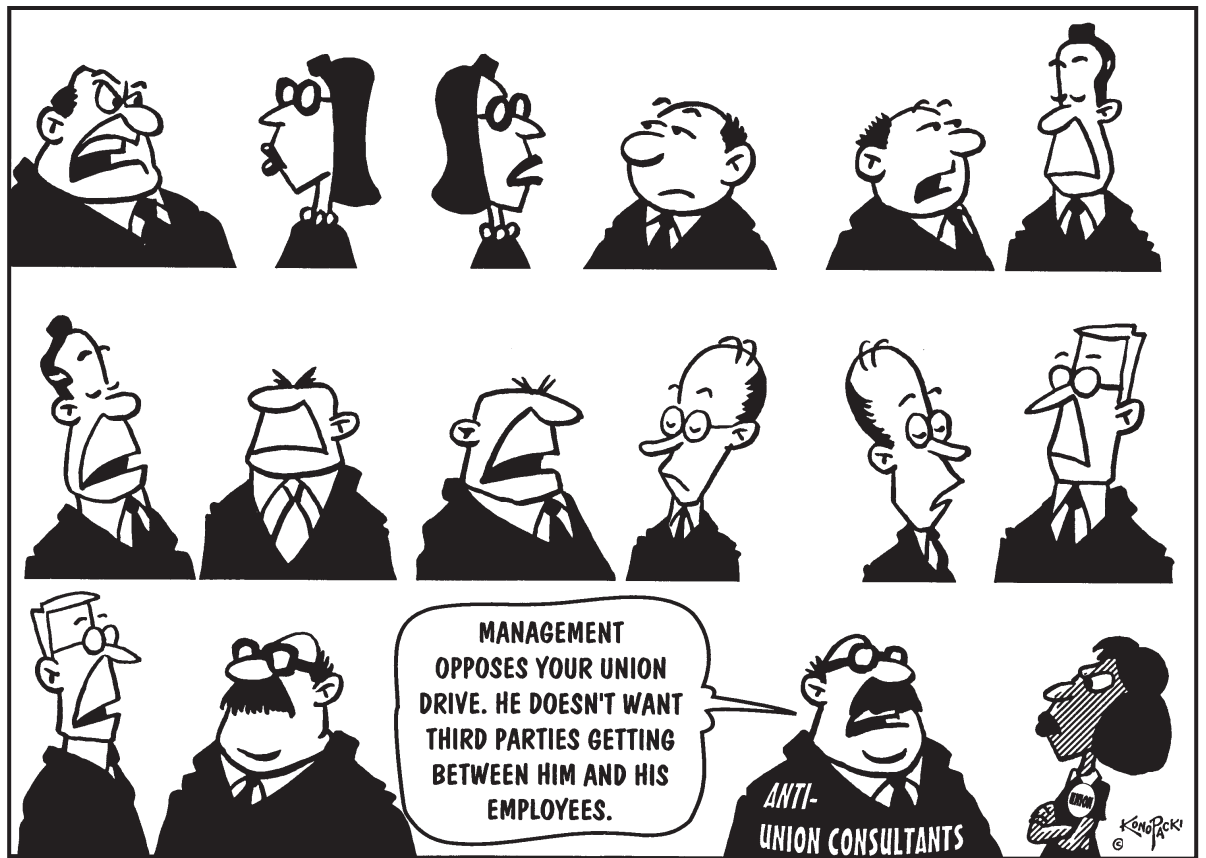
Machinists 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at noon Wednesday, March 14.

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

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

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



Metal Trades Council

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Executive Board meets 8 a.m. Monday, March 12, at NOLC board room, 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

Northwest Oregon Labor Council

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

Office and Professional Employees 11

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the Laborers/Teamster Hall, 2212 Andresen, Vancouver, Wash.

Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

PLEASE NOTE: The following meeting is "Special Call!" All members are requested to attend.

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

New Hours: Local 10 is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Plasterers 82

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

Portland City & Metropolitan Employees 189

General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at 6025 E. Burnside Portland.

Roofers & Waterproofers 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8.

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

Sheet Metal Workers 16

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

Portland.

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

Medford area members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, Abby's Pizza, 7480 Crater Lake Hwy, White City.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at UA 290 Hall, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, preceded by a 5 p.m. VOC meeting.

Coos Bay area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at the Labor Temple, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

Southern Oregon Central Labor Council

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

Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council

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

Transit Union 757

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the Comfort Inn and Suites (formerly Salem Inn) 1775 Freeway Court NE, Salem.

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd., Corvallis.

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Hampton Inn, 1124 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland school bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland.

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, WA.

Tillamook members meet 1:00 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Odd Fellows Hall, next door to the Bay City Fire Hall in Bay City.

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

PLEASE NOTE: ATU members are invited to attend any of the above-listed meetings.

United Steel Workers 1097

Members meet 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, preceded by a 3:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the union office, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

United Steel Workers L&E Committee Dist. 12

Members meet 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23, in Salem at Oregon AFL-CIO office, 2110 State. St. For more information, call 503-585-6320

The committee will be lobbying legislators following the meeting.

RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED

AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, preceded by a 9 a.m. Executive Board meeting, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave., Portland. All retirees are welcome to attend.

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, March 8, at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

ASBESTOS WORKERS 36

Retiree breakfast 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 8, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

BAKERS 114

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

CARPENTERS

Retired Carpenters meet for lunch 11 a.m. Monday, March 12, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

GLASS WORKERS 740

Retirees meet 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 14, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

MACHINISTS

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, 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, March 12, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison #100G, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 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, March 7, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

Local Motion

January 2007

Union election activity in Oregon and SW Washington, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

Elections held

Company	Date	Union	Location	Results:		
				Union	No Union	
Umatilla County						
	1/4	UC Law Enforcement Assoc.	Pendleton	54	0	
First Student						
	1/5	SEIU Local 503	Gresham	44	49	
Weber Distribution						
	1/17	Teamsters Local 81	Wilsonville	1	2	
Willamette Education Service District						
	1/23	OEA vs. OSEA	Oregon City	103	55 15	
City of Boardman Police Department						
	1/26	Oregon AFSCME Co. 75	Boardman	5	0	

Elections requested

Company	Union	Location	# of employees
Distribution Plus			
	Teamsters Joint Council 37	Tualatin	17
SERCO			
	Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization	Salem	4
Safeway (decertification)			
	United Food & Commercial Workers Local 555	Burns	32
West Ambulance			
	International Association of EMTs and Paramedics, SEIU/NAGE	Roseburg	40



Union youths bowl over lawmakers

State Reps. Chip Shields (D-Portland) and Tobias Read (D-Beaverton) were young-ish Oregon lawmakers who responded to an invitation to bowl Feb. 10 with young union members of Oregon Council 75 of the American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees). The event was hosted at Portland's Hollywood Bowl by newly formed Next Wave, a group that puts on monthly social events to get more young AFSCME members involved. Up next, the group hopes to get younger members to attend AFSCME's statewide convention in Bend in April. Organizers didn't say whether the bowling bill was paid out of the union "strike" fund, but participants did pause to hear details of a pro-worker legislative agenda from the lawmakers. Pictured above, from left to right, are Shields, Eric Vecchi and Matt Hilton of Local 328 (Oregon Health and Science University), and Martha Armstrong and Jeff Klatke of Local



3135 (Housing Authority of Portland). Above, bowler Jennifer Patrick exults after knocking down some pins. Patrick, who works at Multnomah County, is a member of Local 88.

'Union Night' at Blazers will aid Kidney Benefit fund

The Portland Trail Blazers are teaming up with area unions for a "Union Night" to raise funds for the National Kidney Foundation through the Teamsters Kidney Benefit.

The Blazers take on the Seattle SuperSonics at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 14 at the Rose Garden. A block of \$49 tickets has been set aside for union members at a reduced price of \$30. Five dollars from each ticket sold will go towards the Teamsters Kidney Benefit.

Tickets can be ordered online at <http://tickets.blazers.com/deals>. The password is "UNION."

For more information about the fundraiser, call Phil Horn at 503-963-3965.

Nurse staffing bill debated in Olympia

OLYMPIA, Wash. (PAI) — More than 500 nurses, led by the Washington State Nurses Association, rallied Feb. 6 at the State Capitol here to demand legislative action on a new nurse-patient staffing ratio bill.

The legislation, sponsored by Democratic State Rep. Dawn Morell, a nurse, would form a 15-member state committee to set minimum nurse staffing levels for every hospital. Nurse staffing levels have not been updated in several years, nurses at the rally said.

Morell said that unless the problem is solved, high turnover of overworked nurses would continue. They can't provide top quality care, so "I watch them drop out. They go to other jobs," she told local media before the rally. "This is a retention bill."



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- Blood Sugar
- Body Fat Measurement
- Consultation with nurse about your results
- Refreshments, socializing and network with other tradeswomen after the screening.

This screening made possible through a generous donation by the Women of Good Samaritan. Coordination by Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. Many thanks to our hosts at the HVAC & Metals Institute!

www.legacyhealth.org

Legacy Heart Services



Legacy Health System, a non-profit organization, includes Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, Emanuel Children's Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center, Meridian Park Hospital, Mount Hood Medical Center, Salmon Creek Hospital, Legacy Clinics and CareMark/Managed HealthCare Northwest PPO. ©2007

Screening Date & Location:

Tuesday, February 27, 2007
4:00-7:00 p.m. (Appointments scheduled every 15 minutes)
HVAC & Metals Institute
2379 N.E. 178th
Portland, Oregon 97230

FREE—Appointments required. Spaces are limited. Please call 503-335-3500 to schedule your appointment and for more information.

NO FASTING REQUIRED.

Is Oregon Building a Culture of Sustainable Success?

The following remarks are excerpts from a speech by John D. Carter, President and CEO of Schnitzer Steel Industries Inc. at the 5th annual Oregon Leadership Summit

“As you know, Oregon is strategically located on a major trade route connecting all of our businesses to points north, south, east and west. Portland is a creation of that strategic location and historical transportation focus — water, then rail and roads.

But I am, quite frankly, concerned about the condition of our transportation system, and hopefully at the end of the day ... you agree that collectively we need to be much more proactive in planning for and investing in our vitally important transportation network. In my view, we have been living off the foresight and investment that our parents' generation made — and the margin for growth that they built into our transportation system is now gone.

...sustainable success is a cultural value and common goal. Success can be developed by and into any organization, any company, or any state for that matter. It's developed by the leaders, the employees, the citizens.

But it takes the people at all levels of the organization working together — making a commitment — to achieve a cultural value and common goal.

The private sector is investing in Oregon ... unfortunately, in my view, there has not been a corresponding level of public investment, particularly in the freight network to support this private commitment.

While some in this community have questioned the need for transportation investments, I want to quote Gregg Weston, President of the Clackamas County Business Alliance: 'Virtually every job in the Metro area depends on our ability to move products and employees.'

Mr. Weston's observation holds true for every job in the state. Let me read excerpts from the Governor's recently released budget:

- Oregon's participation in the global economy is expanding.
- Foreign shipments of Oregon products reached a new peak in 2005, with more than \$12 billion worth of manufactured goods shipped from Oregon to foreign markets.
- Oregon exports are growing at an annual rate of 29 percent, and there are over 4,800 Oregon companies that export goods to foreign markets.
- Oregon is currently the ninth most trade dependent state in the nation.”

Oregon's Sustainable Advantage, evidenced by that passage out of the Governor's budget, is staring us right in the face — it's our historic competitive edge in transportation infrastructure, and particularly freight mobility, that leads us to those foreign markets where 4,800 Oregon businesses prosper.

Schnitzer Steel, for one, operates in North Portland because we are strategically located on a deep draft port with access to a variety of truck, rail, barge and ocean carrier services with great access to global markets, and we are also located in the heart of a metals industry cluster, which allows us to integrate with our customers, vendors, and industry partners.

And what are we doing to keep and improve that transportation advantage? We all know about Connect/Oregon and I congratulate the Governor and the Legislature in making this \$100 million investment in non-highway freight capacity. Another \$100 million is in the next biannual budget.

But you also know that in last fall's elections, Washingtonians voted to make a \$9 billion investment in its transportation system and Californians voted for a \$19 billion investment. In England, billions have been invested in rail improvements. China is making huge transportation investments. The world is investing in infrastructure in order to stay competitive in a global economy.

Are Oregon's political and business leaders keeping up? Several legislative sessions ago, Oregon made a good down payment on transportation needs, with OTIA III. But we have close to \$6 billion in need identified and nothing is in the pipeline to meet the need. If you look at the last quarter-century, Oregon's population has increased by a million people, plus those in Clark County that work here. During that time period, we have:

- Added little new capacity to our road and highway system in the Portland metropolitan area — even though ODOT has done a good job of stretching limited resources and gotten local commitment (and federal help) to achieve some good capacity additions like the Bend Bypass, Salem Parkway, and the Corvallis Bypass, and some suburban area lane additions. Most funded work has been for repair and maintenance on existing facilities, bridges, etc.
- Helped the rail system with Connect/Oregon, but have not made (nor

have the major railroads) major capacity or service improvements, particularly in the Portland area — despite efforts from the Port to encourage such investment. On balance, less service for business, certainly less service for passenger/ freight traffic in the small towns of this state.

- Improved our passenger terminals at the airport, but no new runway additions for added capacity.

And more than a million new residents (72% increase).

If we really want Oregon to define itself in the global economy and maintain a 'sustainable advantage' in the world economy, mobility and access to markets must be in our focus.

We must invest in our freight capacity.

To build a culture of sustainable success in Oregon, we need to make the economic connection between jobs and how the state spends money — and that connection starts with transportation.

...We need as a State to design and develop a comprehensive transportation system, made up of components that effectively respond to the various needs and changing circumstances.

At the national level, for example, the Class I railroads are pushing local shippers to truck. That will have an impact on our highways in Oregon.

We also know that short-line railroads need an infusion of capital. How might we help them to better serve local businesses? Connect/Oregon is a good start, but there are many examples of routes that business can no longer use because of needed repairs, etc.

...We have supported a multi-modal system that has a strong mass transit component because we know that for key point-to-point requirements, things like the light rail or the tram work well. But we must not forget that there is no light rail, streetcar, or even bus option for much of the state.

Our transit investment can't be made without recognizing that we still need to accommodate cars and trucks on the road system, and not just in rural areas.

...What if we thought about the Northwest as a regional whole? Or at least our part of it — why not merge the Ports of Vancouver and Portland? What about Kalama and Longview? Our largest opportunities in trade are with Asia, and will continue to grow ... BUT our competition

is Panama, Vancouver, B.C., LA- Long Beach, and the Oakland-SF Bay Area — not our neighbors across the Columbia. And should Seattle be competition, or joint partner in making the Northwest the height and energy gateway into the U.S.?

What if federal funds were no object? Could we invest in high-speed regular rail service between Seattle and Portland? Would this cut down on traffic? Would this link our two regional economies, particularly in high tech and biotech? Could this single investment put the NW further ahead of the NE Corridor or California? Just look at how the investment by the British Labour Government in the Channel Tunnel, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, and other major rail projects has spurred all sorts of additional economic activity. This link to the continent has helped preserve Heathrow as the major international air hub, it has help preserve the City of London as a center of finance, it will regenerate a major area of the city, and it was key to landing the Olympics for London.

...(We) need to make transportation investment priority number one. It won't get done without a concerted effort by the business leaders demanding it, and gaining the support of the political leaders who can make it happen.

... Local arterials are as important to moving freight as are the state highways. Yet, here in Portland we continue to alter our arterial network to suit localized 'wants' without regard for the 'needs' of the broader region or statewide system. As a consequence, trips that should have been on local streets are diverted to the state highways, further congesting critical trade corridors.

While we gather here today in the largest city in Oregon, the economic engine of the state, I ask you this — do we have an economic development strategy and a job growth strategy that will allow that engine to pull the load?

We simply cannot have a culture of business sustainability in Oregon if the political leadership sidesteps meaningful discussions with the business community over job growth, economic development, transportation, and land use — or worse still, contemplates localized land use and transportation decisions that impede the flow of goods to the ports of call serving all of Oregon. We are in global competition as a state, and should be as a region.”

(Paid Advertisement)

Letter Carriers union opposes 'Do Not Mail' bill proposed in Washington State

OLYMPIA — The National Association of Letter Carriers told key Washington state legislators Feb. 8 that passage of proposed bills to create a "Do Not Mail" registry would be detrimental to the U.S. Postal Service, its workforce, and the general public.

NALC President William H. Young, whose union represents 221,000 letter carriers in the nation, expressed his "fierce opposition" to the legislation in letters to Washington House Commerce and Labor Chairman Steve Conway and Senate Consumer Protection and Housing Chairman Brian Weinstein as Conway's committee held a hearing Feb. 8 on the legislative proposal.

About 5,500 letter carriers reside in

Washington state.

Young said the proposal "could jeopardize the very future of America's postal system," adding that while it may be well-intentioned, it is being erroneously promoted as similar to "Do Not Call" limits on telemarketers.

"Unlike the annoying phone calls that were routinely timed to coincide with the dinner hour, postal patrons are free to choose when and how to deal with the mail they receive," Young said.

Young said the third class mail earmarked in the bill constitutes more than 50 percent of all mail. "Elimination of a significant portion of advertising mail could be devastating," he said.

Young said letter carriers, as other citizens, have environmental concerns about the waste of natural resources, but added that most advertising mailing is printed on recycled paper and postal patrons can recycle that mail.

Kaiser gets okay to build new hospital facility

Kaiser Permanente has received approval from Oregon state regulators to build a \$285 million hospital on a 15-acre site in the Tanasbourne area of Washington County.

Kaiser has historically used union contractors and workers on its construction projects.

The 138-bed, 380,000-square-foot facility will house surgical suites, an intensive care unit, an emergency department, a labor and delivery unit and a pharmacy. The campus will also include a specialty care medical office and outpatient surgery center.

State law charges the Oregon Department of Human Services with reviewing proposals for new hospitals and nursing facilities to ensure health-care consumers don't pay for the cost of unnecessary facilities.

The hospital is projected to be complete in 2011.

Labor bowl for MDA scheduled Sunday, April 22

The 18th annual Labor Bowl Challenge to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) will be held Sunday, April 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Cascade Lanes, 2700 NE 82nd Ave., Portland.

Portland area labor unions have collected \$276,041 for the charity. Money raised from pledges and a silent auction helps provide wheelchairs and braces for youngsters, medical care, research and summer camps.

Pledge packets are available at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council or by calling Tor at MDA at 503-223-3177.



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Gresham, OR 97030
503-492-8487
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Salem
831 Lancaster Mall Dr. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-362-8359
Northwest Dental Associates, P.C.

Wilsonville
25700 SW Argyle Ave.
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503-682-8552
Northwest Dental Associates, P.C.

Salmon Creek
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Vancouver, WA 98686
360-574-4574
Chau Ngo, D.D.S., M.S.
Phong Bui, D.M.D.
Charles Stirewalt, D.D.S.
Stirewalt, P.C.

Klamath Falls
4052 S. 6th St.
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
541-883-7706
Northwest Dental Associates, P.C.

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Vancouver, WA 98683
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Labor council re-elects slate of officers

VANCOUVER — The Clark, Skamania, West Klickitat Counties Central Labor Council held officer elections Jan. 25. All ran unopposed.

Re-elected secretary-treasurer were Mike Phillips of Vancouver Fire Fighters Local 452; president, Cager Clabaugh of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 4; and vice president, Mike Carnahan of Electrical Workers Local 48.

Elected to the Executive Board

were Bud Bartunek of Painters District Council 5, Shannon Walker of Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 277, and Lucy Hamill of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555.

Elected trustees were Suzanne Scheans of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290, John Murphy of Bakers Local 364, and Mark Rauchenstein of International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 17.

Rick Thompson of Machinists Lodge 63 was elected sergeant-at-arms.

The Labor Council is hosting an internal organizing class on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Hall, 2807 Fruit Valley Rd in Vancouver. The class will be taught by the Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon. Seats are still available. Call Phillips at 360-921-7484 to register. Cost is \$35 with lunch provided.

Anti-sweatshop rally set Feb. 19 at City Hall

Workers' rights activists are holding a noon hour rally outside Portland City Hall on Monday, Feb. 19, calling for Portland to pass a "sweat-free" ordinance and join a consortium of local governments that would monitor labor conditions in sweatshops.

Oregon Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner is expected to speak at the

rally, along with Fire Fighters Local 43 Vice President Ed Hall and two Third World union leaders who are touring the United States to talk about sweatshops — Beatriz Fuentes, whose union represents a flower plantation in Colombia; and Kotagarahalli Jayaram, an organizer for the Garment and Textile Workers Union in India.

The Sweatfree Portland Campaign has been meeting with city commissioners and staff since October. Commissioners appear to be willing to pass a symbolic resolution opposing sweatshop abuses, but have balked at committing tax dollars to fight the problem without evidence that city government is purchasing sizable amounts of goods made in sweatshops.

In a Feb. 1 press statement, campaign activists said the city is buying goods from companies that have hired subcontractors accused of labor rights violations.

The campaign has been endorsed by more than a dozen labor organizations. The rally will go from noon to 1 p.m. on the Southwest Fourth Avenue side of City Hall, which is located at 1221 SW Fourth, between Madison and Jefferson.

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Let me say this about that

...Union trailblazer

(From Page 2)

ers and Allied Workers Union, which years later through mergers became today's Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers International Union.

IN ADDITION to attending meetings of the various labor organizations with which Local 139 was affiliated, Marion also was active in the A. Philip Randolph Institute, an organization which fosters black membership in labor unions. It is named for the late president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters who was the first black to serve on the national AFL-CIO Executive Council. Randolph also was a prominent civil rights leader.

Willie Marion and his wife, Corrine, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last July. They were high school sweethearts back in Mississippi. They have two daughters, four sons, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Their daughters are Deborah Moore and Pamela Lewis; their sons are Michael, Jeffery, Gerald and Ramon Marion. Michael and his family live in San Diego, Calif., and the others live in the Portland-Vancouver area.

THE MARIONS are members of the Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church in North Portland. Willie was an usher there for a number of years.

Sports play a big role in Willie Marion's life. He's been an umpire at high school baseball games in the Portland area for 30 years, and he's been a referee at high school basketball games for seven years. "I have to stay in shape for all that activity," he said.

Fishing is another pursuit. He enjoys fishing with his sons on rivers and other inland waters near the Oregon Coast. Sometimes the Marions are joined by Jim Rogers, who preceded him as Local 139's business agent and is now retired from GMP and lives on the Coast.

Once in while, Willie and Corrine go back to the South to visit relatives and friends.

★★★

FEBRUARY IS DESIGNATED as "Black History Month," so let's look back on some events taken from the information in "Black Labor" published in "Labor Firsts in America," a publication issued in 1977 by the U. S. Department of Labor

when the Secretary of Labor was Ray Marshall. Marshall was appointed to that Cabinet-level post by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1763, black chimney sweepers in Charleston, South Carolina, refused to work unless their price scale was met. Rather than being a strike against employers, this was a protest against price controls.

BLACK WORKERS in New York City formed the American League of Colored Laborers in 1850, which was a "first."

In 1869, the National Labor Union became the first organization of white workers to advocate the creation of black labor unions, and allowed blacks to attend the NLU's annual meeting.

ALSO IN 1869, the Colored National Labor Union was formed, making it the first national black labor organization.

In 1918, the first federal bureau to attempt to ease labor-related racial tensions caused by blacks leaving the South was the Division of Negro Economics in the Department of Labor.

In 1941, the first federal activity to promote fair employment practices was the Fair Employment Practice Commission, which sought to eliminate discrimination in hiring in the defense industry.

New York became the first state to pass legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment on the basis of race, creed or color. The year was 1945.

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH in 1957 became the first black vice president of the national AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations) and a member of its Executive Council. He was the president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

The first federal fair employment legislation was the Civil Rights Act of 1964, passed by Congress at the urging of President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

★★★

SEVENTY YEARS AGO, in 1937, General Motors Corp. agreed to recognize the United Auto Workers Union of the CIO as the bargaining agent of its members employed at GM's Michigan plants. GM also agreed to drop court injunction proceedings against UAW strikers and to not discriminate against union members and to establish grievance procedures.

ALSO IN 1937, United States Steel Corp. agreed to recognize the Steel Workers Organizing Committee as the bargaining agent for its members employed at U.S. Steel mills. A 10 percent raise, an eight-hour work day and a 40-hour work week were negotiated.

(This information came from a U.S. Department of Labor 1964 booklet.)



A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

OSHA safety training grants available

SALEM — The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA) has grant funding available to assist unions and others in the development of workplace safety and health education programs in Oregon.

The Training and Education Grants Program is accepting applications for projects until Feb. 28, 2007.

Grants are awarded to help develop education programs for use by an entire industry or for a specific work process to reduce or eliminate hazards. Appli-

cants may be any employer or labor consortium, association, or other non-profit organization. Educational institutions may apply if they are affiliated with any of these groups.

Applicants may apply for up to \$40,000 per grant project without a requirement for any matching dollars or in-kind contributions. Funding for the grant program comes from the Workers' Benefit Fund established by the Oregon Legislature.

All workplace safety topics are eli-

gible for consideration; however, preference is given to programs that support two goals listed in the OR-OSHA Strategic Plan:

- Change the workplace culture in Oregon by increasing employer and worker awareness.

- Improve workplace safety and health for all workers, as evidenced by fewer hazards, reduced exposures, and fewer injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

Materials produced by grant recipients become the property of OR-OSHA, and are housed in the OR-OSHA Resource Center for public use.

Application packets for the OR-OSHA Training and Education Grants Program are available for download from the OR-OSHA Web site at: www.orosha.org, on the "Education" page. For more information, call Claudia Marthaller at 1-800-922-2689.

Tickets on sale to win motorcycle and help sick children

Tickets are on sale to win a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle and raise funds for Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland.

It's all part of the fifth annual Motorcycle Poker Run and Chili Cook-Off, to be held Saturday, June 9. The event is sponsored by "Unions for Kids," a non-profit organization comprised of members of various unions in Portland and Southwest Washington.

Tickets to win the motorcycle — a 2007 suede blue and black Dyna Low-Rider FXDL — are \$10 each. Only 3,500 tickets will be sold, with the winner drawn following the poker run on June 9. The motorcycle is on display at the IBEW United Workers Federal Credit Union, 9955 SE Washington, St., Portland.

For more information, go to www.unionsforkids.org or call Lee Duncan at 503-260-5905.

Bush pushes for Korean free trade pact as trade deficit balloons to \$763.6B

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 100 union members from the United States and Korea gathered here Feb. 12 to protest KORUS, the proposed free trade agreement between the two countries.

The Bush Administration is pushing for passage of KORUS before "fast-track" authority, also known as trade-promotion authority, expires June 30. TPA allows the Administration to bargain trade pacts and then subject legislation implementing them to up-or-down votes in both houses of Congress, with no amendments. Without fast-track, such trade deals will have a harder time passing in Congress.

Based on more than 13 years' experience with the North American Free

Trade Agreement (NAFTA), unionists worry that trade agreements do nothing to protect the very people they claim to help: workers. Since 1998, more than 3 million good-paying U.S. manufacturing jobs have been lost.

The AFL-CIO, Change to Win and their affiliated unions, and Korean unions oppose the trade deal unless it includes enforceable provisions on workers' rights and environmental protections.

On Feb. 13, the Commerce Department reported that the U.S. trade deficit (the gap between what America sells abroad and what it imports) rose to a record \$763.6 billion last year — a 6.5 percent increase from the previous record set in 2005.

...Unlikely allies partner

(From Page 1)

benefits for employees — both current and retired — and their families. It forces many businesses to compete not on the quality of their products, services and performance, but instead on the cost of health care benefits. It is long past time to move health care — a public good — from the corporate balance sheet to the public balance sheet."

The crisis is solvable, the group declared, only if "business, government, labor, the health care delivery system and the nonprofit sector work together" around four principles of health care: quality affordable health insurance for all; individual responsibility "to maintain and protect their

health;" dramatically more efficient health care spending; and that "businesses, governments, and individuals all should contribute to managing and financing a new health care system."

Stern said the "partnership of unlikely allies offers even greater hope that we can finally stop talking about health care and do something about it."

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Partisan battle lines drawn over Employee Free Choice

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — Partisan battle lines were sharply drawn Feb. 8 in the first congressional hearing on the labor-backed Employee Free Choice Act.

Led by House Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee Chairman Rob Andrews (D-N.J.), Democrats lined up solidly behind EFCA, which would help level the playing field for working people by fixing a badly broken system in which workers are routinely denied their freedom to form or join a union.

EFCA, House Resolution (HR) 800 was introduced Feb. 7 following a press conference that included officials from the AFL-CIO and Change to Win labor federations, congressional leaders, civil rights activists and workers.

The bill has a majority 232 co-sponsors in the House, including Oregon Democrats Earl Blumenauer, David

Wu, Darlene Hooley and Peter DeFazio, and Washington Democrats Brian Baird, Jay Inslee, Rick Larsen, Norm Dicks, Jim McDermott and Adam Smith. Seven Republicans also support the bill.

But the legislation faces an uphill battle in the the Senate, and will certainly be vetoed by President George W. Bush if it gets that far. It is unlikely the Senate will garner enough votes to override a presidential veto.

Union officials believe the Employee Free Choice Act will be a major topic in the 2008 presidential election.

At the first committee hearing, Republicans, led by Rep. John Kline (R-Minn.), held to the line pushed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Right to Work Committee. The panel's Republicans declared the only way to put unions in workplaces is by National Labor Relations Board-run

secret ballot elections.

Proponents of the bill, however, maintain that under the current process for joining a union, employers routinely harass, intimidate and even fire workers for trying — and current labor law doesn't have the teeth to stop them.

Gordon Lafer, a professor at the Labor Education and Research Center at the University of Oregon, pointed to federal election laws, and how employers cannot coerce employees over their vote. Those same economic protections applied to voters do not apply to workers in union elections.

Lafer said management is free to express its views on the union at any time, supervisors are urged to hold one-on-one meetings with employees, making their pro-management views known, but at the same time, pro-union supporters are banned from discussing the union or posting pro-union literature anywhere in the workplace.

He pointed out how employers can force employees to attend mass meetings where pro-union employees are told that if they speak they can be fired on the spot.

"If during the 2004 election, the Bush Administration could have forced every voter in America to watch the Swiftboat Veterans for Truth movie, with no opportunity for response from the other side — or if the Democrats could have forced everyone to watch Fahrenheit 9/11 — they might well have seized the opportunity — but no one would have called it democracy," Lafer said.

HR 800 would outlaw mandatory

closed-door meetings and impose stiff penalties on companies that coerce or intimidate employees with threats of closure or firings. It also establishes a third-party mediation process when

employers and employees can't agree on a first contract. And it enables employees to form unions when a majority express their decision to join the union by signing authorization cards.

Increasing majority support unions

A December 2006 survey by Peter D. Hart Research Associates shows that the public support of unions is at a 25-year high — 65 percent approve of unions while only 25 percent disapprove. Some 57 percent of all prime-age workers — roughly 60 million in all — say they would join a union today if given the chance.

Yet, according to a recent Department of Labor report, the overall unionization rate in the U.S. continues to decline. Just 12 percent of wage and salary workers were union members in 2006, down from 12.5 percent in 2005 and down from more than 20 percent in 1980.

According to the Hart poll, 69 percent said they were supportive of the Employee Free Choice Act as a means to help workers level the playing field. Only 23 percent of Americans expect the next generation's standard of living to be better than today's.

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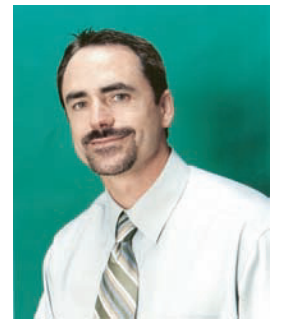
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