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MEETING NOTICES

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# NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

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## Spirit of Madison at Oregon rallies

The spirit of Madison came alive in Oregon at a pair of rallies Feb. 25 and 26 in Portland and Salem.

The actions were called to show solidarity with Midwest public workers who are under attack from governors determined to bust their unions, particularly in Wisconsin.

The Portland event, organized by Portland Jobs with Justice and the Oregon AFL-CIO, drew as many as 800 to a rally in Director Park and a subsequent march that snaked through downtown Portland.

Walker and other governors have energized, mobilized, and organized members across this country like never before, said National Education Association President Dennis Van Roekel, in town for a regional conference of affiliated teachers unions.

“Let’s not dance around what’s going on,” said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain. “Let’s not tiptoe. Let’s call it like it is. This is class warfare.”

“We’ve been here before,” Chamberlain said. “Your grandparents and great-grandparents stood in these

streets 75 years ago and fought for our right to create a union, fought, bled, and died to create the middle class. We remember their courage. We remember they made a better life for us. If we stand our ground, 75 years from now, our descendants will be standing in the same place, thanking us for what we did in turning back the tide.”

“This fight is not about state budgets,” said Oregon AFSCME Executive Director Ken Allen. “Wisconsin AFSCME already agreed to the pension and health care concessions that that despicable governor demanded. We agreed to those concessions and he still wants to eliminate collective bargaining.”

Portland teacher Adam Sanchez reported on several days he spent with the protesters in Wisconsin. Sanchez slept in the state capitol building alongside hundreds of high school, college and grad students, workers union and non-union, private and public sector from all across the state and other states who had come to join them in solidarity. He described a high degree of self-organization, with

organized distribution of donated food, a sign-making station, info center, a lost and found, free earplugs, mittens, and hand warmers, organized cleaning crews.

The following day, an estimated 1,000 people turned up outside the state capitol building in Salem for a rally set up by MoveOn.org with help from many other groups. The crowd was mostly nonunion, but citizen after citizen expressed what diehard unionists have been longing to hear: gratitude for past victories, and an understanding that union workers set standards for all.

“We’re not union members, but we know how important unions are to our wage scale,” said one business owner.

Oregon State Rep Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie), a union rep at United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, said he sees this struggle leading to a rebirth of the American labor movement. “You’ve woken up the sleeping giant,” Witt said. “There is no division. There is no public sector and private sector. This is trade unionism: You take one of us on, you take all of us on.”



Oregon State Rep. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) holds a “We are One” sign as Mary Winzig, sporting a Green Bay Packers foam cheesehead, listens to National Education Association President Dennis Van Roekel address a rally in Portland Feb. 25 in support of workers in Wisconsin who are fighting to keep their collective bargaining rights.

## We are all Wisconsin: *Nationwide fightback on the rise*

By DON McINTOSH  
Associate Editor

A new crop of Republican governors has declared war on unions, provoking the biggest showdown for the American labor movement since President Ronald Reagan fired striking air traffic controllers in 1981. Madison, Wisconsin, has become the center of the fightback.

State budget shortfalls are the context, but not the explanation, of the conflict. It’s now three years into the worst recession since the Great Depression, and direct federal aid to the states under the stimulus program has ended. Facing state budget shortfalls, governors across the country — including Democrats — are seeking to shrink public employee wages and benefits. But a handful of governors in the Midwest want to go much further, and have introduced legislation directly targeting unions.

Governors in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, are pushing bills that would curb or eliminate public employees’ right to collective bargaining. Indiana Republicans are also pushing to gut private sector unions with bills to repeal the state prevailing wage law and make Indiana a “right to work” state. In Missouri, there’s even a proposal to overturn

protections against child labor.

But it was Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker who fired the shot heard around the world. At a private Feb. 7 dinner meeting of his newly-convened cabinet, Walker held up a photograph of Ronald Reagan and announced that his forthcoming proposals on collective bargaining would be “our time to change the course of history.”

On Friday, Feb. 11, Walker unveiled what he called his “budget repair” plan, a 144-page bill that would strip collective bargaining rights from 175,000 public sector workers in Wisconsin. His bill would:

- eliminate all collective bargaining rights for home health care workers and University of Wisconsin faculty and academic staff, and for employees of University of Wisconsin hospitals and clinics;
- require public-employee unions to negotiate new contracts every year, but bar them from negotiating anything but base wages — not benefits, not work rules, nothing but wages;
- restrict even those wage negotiations — for state employees and teachers — by limiting raises to the consumer price index unless voters approve higher raises via a referendum;

- require government workers to pay half the cost of their pensions — in effect, a 5.8 percent salary cut — and to pay at least 12.6 percent of their health care premiums;
- allow state officials to fire workers for striking, or for missing work for three unexcused days;
- give public-sector workers in union-represented workplaces the right to pay no dues (currently, workers can choose not to join, but must make “fair share” payments to cover the costs of representation);
- halt state collection of union dues; and
- require unionized public-sector units to vote every year to determine whether a majority of workers still want to be unionized. [The reverse would not be true: Nonunion units would not vote annually whether to unionize.]

Local police, firefighters and state troopers would be exempt from the bargaining changes, but the changes would apply to state capitol police, university police officers, and prison guards.

Wisconsin state workers had already been without a formal contract since July 2009,

though the previous union contract remained in force under extensions. The same day he introduced the bill, Walker gave the legally required formal notice that those extensions would end effective March 13, meaning state workers will no longer have a union contract after that.

Even before protests began, Walker expected a reaction. At the press conference announcing the bill, Walker made repeated open-ended threats to call out the National Guard in the event of public worker unrest. He said he was the “commander and chief” of the state and that the National Guard would “respond to whatever the governor may call for,” that it “would fully prepared to handle whatever may occur,” and that he thought it prudent to “plan for the worst.”

Walker urged the Republican-controlled Wisconsin Legislature to pass the bill by Feb. 25.

The Legislature scheduled hearings for the following Tuesday.

The reaction was explosive. Within days, teacher sick-outs had shut school districts across Wisconsin; state Senate Democrats had fled to Illinois to halt action on the bill; and tens of thousands of union supporters were maintain-

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# Postal workers, customers testify before Workers' Rights Board

After listening to testimony from postal customers and workers about deteriorating service and substandard working conditions at the U.S. Postal Service, a Portland Workers' Rights Board recommended that USPS hire more letter carriers and clerks to help alleviate the problem.

The Workers' Rights Board is a project of Portland Jobs with Justice, a coalition of 90 organizations working for workers' rights. The board is drawn from a wide spectrum of community leaders willing to intervene when workers' rights are threatened.

Oregon state Sen. Chip Shields (D-Portland) chaired the public hearing Feb. 21 at Augustana Lutheran Church in Northeast Portland. More than 100 people attended, with 20 people offering testimony.

Joining Shields on the panel were United Methodist Pastor John Schwiebert; Geri Washington, a Multnomah Education Service District director; Don Oman, owner of Casa Bruno; Jon Bartholomew of OSPiRG; and Bill Bigelow of Rethinking Schools.

Workers testified of chronic mandatory overtime, late, irregular delivery, and pressure to work with injuries, while at the same time "transitional employees" revealed how they have worked under one-year contracts with no benefits for as long as four years.

Anil Nath has worked as a transitional employee (the equivalent of a temp) for three-and-a-half years. "I've worked very hard in very extreme conditions of weather, and I've been bounced around like a ping-pong from station to station."

He told the panel that while he was away from work to get treatment for a work-related injury, the Postal Service tried to fire him. "Thank goodness that I do have one benefit: I belonged to the union and they got my job back in days," he said.

Other transitional employees said they were afraid to take time off for fear of being fired or not having their contracts renewed.



**ABOVE)** Gloria McMurtry, a small business owner in Northeast Portland, testifies before a Workers Rights Board about the importance of having regular six-day a week delivery with the same carrier. **(BELOW)** Karen Staats, a member of Letter Carriers Branch 82, shows injuries she has incurred while delivering the mail. Staats told the panel that she felt pressured to return to work before she had fully healed from torn ligaments and a fractured ankle. She reinjured her ankle hurrying to finish her route and will live with permanent pain and swelling for the rest of her life. "You'd be surprised how much a foot impacts the rest of your body," she said.



Ken Wilson, a 26-year letter carrier, said for most of his career he has been able to balance job and family responsibilities without too much problem. That has changed the last couple of years.

A former Little League manager, he had to give that up because he couldn't always make practices or be on time for games. He said he's seldom home early enough to help his son with homework.

"I want to be there for them (family), but the Post Office is keeping me away from them with all of the mandatory overtime and working my day off because they won't hire enough people to do the job right."

Window clerk Patty Olsen, a member of American Postal Workers Union Local 128, said long lines, shorter hours, and closures have impacted everyone. She said under the USPS plan, 2,000 stations are earmarked for closure nationwide over the next few years, with rumors circulating locally that Creston and University stations are on the chopping block.

"Customers are unhappy, and workers are frustrated," Olsen said.

Postal workers said it only makes sense to hire more employees working regular 40-hour workweeks with no forced overtime. "It's easy to work harder and be more productive when you know you'll have time to recover and heal," one worker said.

But USPS management says the hiring freeze is necessary to cut labor costs because of declining revenue. The Postmaster General is further advocating cutting one or two days of delivery per week.

National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 82 Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Card reminded the Workers' Rights Board that USPS is a self-supporting government agency that doesn't use any taxpayer dollars to operate.

"Anyone saying the USPS is looking for a bailout is flat-out lying," he said.

USPS reportedly lost \$8 billion last year, but most of that loss — \$5.5 billion — was due to a burdensome retiree health care prefunding schedule man-

dated by Congress in 2006.

"No other government agency has to do this. No private company is required to do this," Card said.

Card said the fund currently has enough money (\$40 billion) to cover all retiree health care needs for the next 20 years. Additionally, the Office of the Inspector General has reported that postal employee retirement accounts are overfunded by more than \$50 billion.

"If Congress eliminates the mandate, we can keep your local post office open and continue to deliver six days a week ... refund the overpayment of ratepayer funds in our retirement accounts, and hire the unemployed," Card said.

After listening to testimony and asking questions, the Workers' Rights Board adjourned briefly before issuing its report, which included a pledge to request a meeting with USPS management to recommend it restore customer service and improve working conditions by fully staffing postal facilities.

The panel also pledged to communicate with Portland's Congressional delegation and President Obama their desire to see a swift fix to the USPS accounting problems.

"The issues facing the public Postal Service are of deep concern to all community members," Sen. Shields said. "I found particularly troubling certain management practices, especially with regard to understaffing and transitional employees, but I also came away with a sense of hope because of some great ideas for the future."

Teacher and Rethinking Schools editor Bill Bigelow said, "I learned something new here tonight. I didn't know this, and I feel that I'm a pretty informed person. I would like more people to hear what we've heard tonight."

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# Building trades miffed at Metro for bypassing Shiprack

Building trades unions are miffed at the Metro Council for not appointing Bob Shiprack, recently retired executive secretary of the Oregon State Building Trades Council, to fill a vacant seat in District 6.

Councilors of the regional government voted 5-1 on Feb. 17 to have former Oregon governor Barbara Roberts complete the unexpired term of Robert Liberty. Liberty is a former director of the environmental group 1000 Friends of Oregon who resigned in mid-January to take another job.

Union officials aren't sore at Roberts, a labor-endorsed Democrat who was elected the state's first woman governor in 1991. They're more perturbed by how the process played out that led to her appointment.

"It's a bit disconcerting," Shiprack told the Labor Press a week after the vote. "After going through this process, I definitely have a clearer understanding of why it's so hard to get things done in this region."

Here is what happened:

Following Liberty's resignation, Metro solicited applications for the vacancy through Feb. 9. Shiprack, a former six-term state legislator, was one of the first to announce his candidacy. Another was Bob Stacey, Liberty's successor at 1000 Friends of Oregon (and his next door neighbor). In November, Stacey lost a close election for Metro president to labor-endorsed winner

Tom Hughes. Six others applied to fill the vacancy, including Roberts — who did so eight minutes before the filing deadline.

Prior to Roberts' filing, Shiprack and Stacey were considered the front-runners.

According to news reports posted by a Metro writer on Metro's website, Roberts was recruited for the position based on concerns that there might not be a majority (four votes) for any candidate. Roberts said "people connected with Metro" gauged her interest in the position; she wouldn't say who recruited her to apply.

Metro also reported that within minutes of applying ... Roberts called Stacey, who worked for her administration. They didn't connect right away, but when they talked, she laid out the dynamics of her application.

"The first phone call came at 8:30 in the morning, from a councilor who told her that none of the applicants for the vacancy — including me — could get majority support from the council," Stacey said in a post on his website.

"This councilor asked Gov. Roberts to apply so that the council logjam could be broken. During the day more councilors called her, urging her to fill out the application form and submit it by day's end."

Roberts filed at 4:52 p.m. on Feb. 9.

Stacey withdrew his application, but not before declaring his candidacy in 2012. Roberts said she did not intend to run for election.

Shiprack, meanwhile, was out garnering support from business groups and labor organizations. Campaigning on "job creation," he met with each councilor individually and hand-

billed the entire district, which includes portions of Southwest, Southeast and Northeast Portland. He said he received "strong signals" of support from some of the councilors, although no outright endorsements.

At a public hearing/job interview on Feb. 16, more than a dozen people testified on his behalf. Representatives of neighborhood associations and school districts also testified before Metro councilors that their Number One concern was job creation.

"Bob offered knowledge, a concrete plan on how to create jobs, and ways to make it better for workers," John Mohlis, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, told the Labor Press. "With their vote, Metro councilors basically told all of the out-of-work residents in District 6 'screw you.'"

"What can you say?" Shiprack said. "When you have both labor support and business support and that's not good enough, I now understand why we've lost 26,000 jobs in Multnomah County."

Shiprack expressed gratitude for the broad support he received in such a short period of time. "I really want to thank all the people who got behind me on this. The support was overwhelming."

Shiprack said he won't run for the seat in 2012, but he believes labor and business "should pay a lot of attention to this agency. They have a lot of say in the way things operate."

Metro is a regional government that serves more than 1.5 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, and 25 cities in the Portland metropolitan area. Its responsibilities include urban growth boundary management, transportation planning, waste disposal planning and management, recycling, preservation of natural areas, long-range planning, habitat restoration, operating the zoo,

and venues for conventions, exhibits, and performing arts.

Roberts was sworn in March 1. She will serve the remainder of Liberty's term, which ends in January 2013. Three seats will be open in 2013, as term limits prohibit councilors Carl Hosticka and Rex Burkholder from running again.


The election will be held in May 2012, and if no candidate in their respective district receives more than 50 percent of the vote, the two highest vote getters in each district will advance to a run-off election that November.

*(Editor's Note: Metro President Tom Hughes was the lone vote for Shiprack. Following the initial vote, Councilor Carl Hosticka moved for a unanimous vote and Hughes supported Roberts in the second round.*

Roberts chaired Metro's charter review committee in the early 1990s. In 1992, in her second year as governor, voters approved the charter, which established Metro's role in regional land use planning. Roberts served as governor from 1991 to 1995 and as secretary of state from 1985 to 1991. She also served in the Oregon House of Representatives, as a Multnomah County commissioner and on the Parkrose School Board. Since leaving public office, she has served in leadership positions at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and in the Executive Leadership Institute at Portland State University's Hatfield School of Government.)

***"When you have both labor support and business support and that's not good enough, I now understand why we've lost 26,000 jobs in Multnomah County."***

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Laborers Local 483 Business Manager Richard Beetle presents check for \$600 to Vickie Burns, executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency.

## Laborers #483 donates to LCSA

Laborers Local 483 donated \$600 to Labor's Community Service Agency, whose Helping Hands program provides short-term assistance to the jobless. The union collected the money through an incentive program it has to get members to attend monthly union meetings. If a member's name is called at the meeting and that member is present, they win the cash. If not, the money is carried over to the next meeting. The kitty was at \$600 at the end of 2010. "We talked about what to do with the money and decided to donate it to Labor's Community Service Agency," said Local 483 Business Manager Richard Beetle. "There are a lot of people unemployed. This donation will only do a small part to help the jobless. It's not enough."

Beetle would like to see Congress quickly pass a jobs program. "High unemployment is a crisis for working families," he said. "We bailed out Wall Street; where are the jobs for Main Street? Tax money must be used to stabilize the economy."

Beetle encourages all union members, their families and friends, and the unemployed to attend a "Jobs Rally" at the front steps of the Oregon State Capitol at noon, Monday, March 7, sponsored by the Oregon AFL-CIO. Buses and carpools will be available from several locations. For more information, contact Chris Hewitt at 503-287-3114 or by e-mail at [chris@oraficio.org](mailto:chris@oraficio.org).

## Obama names Trumka, UFCW's Hansen to new jobs council

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Obama named national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and United Food and Commercial Workers Union International President Joe Hansen to his Council on Jobs and Competitiveness. The panel was created in January to focus on lifting hiring and promoting growth.

The Council is chaired by Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric. Among others named to the 22-member committee were Paul Otellini, CEO of Intel; Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg; AOL founder Steve Case; and

Comcast chief executive Brian Roberts. In his State of the Union address, Obama discussed the need to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build global competitors in order to win the future. The President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness is charged with carrying out those goals by finding new ways to promote growth through investments in American business to equip workers with the skills they need to succeed, encourage the private sector to hire and invest in American competitiveness, and attract top jobs and businesses in the United States.

## Sweeney gets Medal of Freedom

Retired AFL-CIO President John Sweeney received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, at a White House ceremony Feb. 15.

Sweeney was honored along with 14 other Americans that included former President George H.W. Bush; baseball Hall-of-Famer Stan Musial; author and poet Maya Angelou; civil rights icon

John Lewis; and billionaire investor Warren Buffett.

Prior unionists who received the medal include the late longtime labor lobbyist Evelyn Dubrow and the late political cartoonist Herbert Block of The Newspaper Guild. Both received the honors from President Bill Clinton.

Sweeney served as president of the national AFL-CIO from 1995-2009.

## Union sponsors sought for kids' fishing event

The 12th annual Kline Kids Fish-In will be held Saturday, April 9, at Kline Pond, located at Salmon Creek Park in Vancouver.

More than 1,500 children ages five to 14 are expected to attend. Cost is \$5 and each child will receive a Zebco rod and reel.

The program is presented by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and Kline Kids Fishing, a partner with the non-profit Go-Play Outside Alliance of Washington.

In the past, this and other similar fishing events throughout Washington have been subsidized by the State of

Washington, but with budgets stretched thin, financial assistance has been cut off.

Roben White of Painters Local 10 is asking unions to step up as sponsors to help fill the budget gap. A donation of \$250 will get your union logo on T-shirts that are given to each child, and provide space to hang your union banner at Kline Pond the day of the event.

"We need young people to replace us in the labor force. We need to teach the children about natural resources so we have good enough quality and access to those resources," White said. "Seeing

and being guided by members of labor at these events is an imperative for both, and one hell of a bang for the buck."

Unions have been involved in the event for many years, both with financial assistance and as volunteers. Last year, for instance, a dozen members of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16's Volunteer Outreach Committee spent the day at the pond helping kids fish.

Donations should be made to Kline Kids Fishing. A deadline of March 15 has been set in order to have your logo printed on T-shirts.

For more information, contact White at 360-608-8537.

## Effort to defund NLRB fails 250-176

The U.S. House defeated an amendment Feb. 17 that would have defunded the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the agency that oversees and rules on labor-management relations for most U.S. industries and workers.

The proposed amendment to H.R. 1, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, would have set a funding level for the NLRB that was so draconian it would have defunded the agency completely through the end of the fiscal year in September.

The vote was 250-176 to reject the amendment.

Every one of the 190 Democrats voting opposed it. Republicans voted 176-60 to kill the NLRB. Among Republicans voting against the amendment were Greg Walden in Oregon's 2nd

District and Jaime Herrera Beutler in Washington's 3rd District.

The amendment was introduced by Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.), chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee. Price charged the "out-of-control" NLRB with "rigging the deck" for unions and workers. A portion of the amendment read: "... the blatant shilling the current NLRB is doing at the behest of union bosses, a defunding of this union-corrupted agency would be a welcome step to making it easier for America's job creators to create jobs."

The brief debate the day before the vote roused the minority Democrats to defend the NLRB against the onslaught.

"This creates chaos and denies people rights, be they employers or employees, be they pro-union or anti-union,

whatever it is," said Rep. George Miller, (D-Calif.), top Democrat on the House Education and Workforce Committee.

Had Price's amendment passed, Miller added, workers who are "fired every day for simply suggesting ... they would like to have a union" would be left "without a job and (with) no right of action to find out whether they were wrongfully fired."

Defunding the NLRB was just one of the provisions in the Republican federal budget proposal. It also attacked the middle class by taking away job safety protections, employment training opportunities, and slashed hundreds of thousands of family-supporting jobs.

AFL-CIO Legislative Director Bill Samuel described it as an "all-out assault against middle-class Americans."

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# Tickets on sale for chance to win new motorcycle

A 2011 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail Classic motorcycle is currently on display at IBEW & United Workers Federal Credit Union. One lucky person will have an opportunity to win the bike, part of the Unions For Kids Motorcycle Poker Run and Chile Cookoff, slated June 11 at the IBEW Local 48 Hall in Northeast Portland.

The motorcycle will be raffled off following the poker run on June 11. Tickets are currently on sale at several locations, and from many union outlets. Only 4,000 tickets will be sold at \$10 each. All proceeds from the raffle, poker run, and a silent auction go to Doernbecher Children's Hospital. On this year's list of auction items is a Hamer "Slammer" strat guitar autographed by

John Kay and Steppenwolf. The instrument was donated by MIR Music in Hillsboro.

Since its inception in 2003, the Poker Run has raised \$221,000 for the charity.

For more information about participating in the poker run, donating to the auction, or purchasing tickets for the motorcycle, contact Lee Duncan at 503-260-5905.

### Where To Buy Raffle Tickets

- **IBEW & United Workers Federal Credit Union**  
9950 SE Washington St., Portland
- **Teamsters Joint Council #37 Federal Credit Union**  
1866 NE 162nd Ave., Portland

## Forum will explore social media impacts

Oregon's Public/Private Employment Relations Conference scheduled for March 15 will address the controversial topic of social media and its impact on the workplace.

Speaker panels will feature discussions by legal experts and officials of the National Labor Relations Board, as well as case presentations on actual experiences with this new phenomenon.

The conference is sponsored by the Oregon Labor Employment Relations Association. Registration is \$125, with discounts for members and students.

The event begins at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 15, at the World Trade Center, 121 SW Salmon Street, Portland.

For more information, contact Bill Rector at 503-939-3421 or go online to: [www.regonline.com/PPERConference](http://www.regonline.com/PPERConference).

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# Official Notices

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

Executive Board meets 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 29, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

## BOILERMAKERS 500

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, March 12, at 2515 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

## BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** Annual Pin Awards Dinner, March 19 at 2 pm. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** Please call 503-232-0358 for details.

## CEMENT MASONS 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

## CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 28, at A290 Training Center, 2161 SE 1st St., Redmond.

## COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, March 8 and March 15, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in the Executive Boardroom.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in the Meeting Hall.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in the Dispatch Lobby.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 9 and March 16, in the Executive Boardroom.

SW Washington Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver.

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, in the Executive Boardroom.

General Membership Meeting meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, in the Meeting Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for sandwiches.

Your Business Manager Meeting, Saturday, March 26, in the Meeting Hall. Call Kierstan at 503-889-3662 for an appointment.

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, March 28, in the Meeting Hall.

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

**DEATH ASSESSMENTS:** The following deaths have been declared—No. 2260, W. Darrell Hunsaker; and No. 2261, John D. Davenport. Assessments are \$1.50 per month per active member.

## ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 10, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** Local 23 will mail ballots to members 25 days after the February meeting to vote for delegates to attend the August IUEC Convention.

## FIRE FIGHTERS 452

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

## FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, March 10, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

## GLASS WORKERS 740

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, March 7, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

## INSULATORS 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 9.

Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, March 11. Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, March 10, 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

## LABORERS 483

**MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**  
Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

## LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

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

## LABORERS 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave., Portland.

## LANE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

## LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, March 23, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway.

## LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, March 7, at the Union Office 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at the Union Office, 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is a SPECIAL CALL meeting to vote on the allocation of the April 1, 2011 increase.

## LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, preceded by a 7 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

## MARION-POLK-YAMHILL LABOR COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, followed by a 7 p.m. general meeting at 2110 State St.

## METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 10. Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 22. Meetings are at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

## MID-COLUMBIA LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at 3313 W. 2nd, The Dalles.

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## MULTNOMAH COUNTY EMPLOYEES 88

General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, preceded by 6 p.m. stewards meeting. Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at the AFSCME union office. Meetings are held at 6025 E. Burnside St., Portland.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, March 28, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

## OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES 11

Membership meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at Laborers/Teamster Hall, 2212 Andresen Rd, Vancouver. The purpose of the meeting: Conduct the general business of the local and accept nominations for open Officers & Executive Board seats: Vice President\*, Secretary-Treasurer\*, Recording Secretary\*, Sgt-at-Arms, 4 Executive Board Seats, 1 Trustee. Nominations may be made by mail, e-mail or at the meeting; acceptance at meeting or by prior written or electronic medium. Elections will be in April, if necessary. \*Delegate to International Convention.

## PAINTERS 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the

Asbestos Hall, 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: www.iupatlocal10.org.

## PORTLAND CITY & METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEES 189

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 8. General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 22. Meetings are held at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

## ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS 49

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10. Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7. Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave, Portland. (Phone: 503 232-4807)

## SALEM BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, April 7, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

## SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland. Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Med-

ford. Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Sheet Metal Local 16 Hall, 1887 Laura St., Springfield. Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay. Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

## SIGN PAINTERS & PAINT MAKERS 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## SOUTHERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

## SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, March 7, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

## SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

## UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 18, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 417 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, at 4816 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at 950 Industrial Circle, White City.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, March 21, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at the Eureka Training Center, 634 California St. Eureka, CA.

## UNITED STEELWORKERS 1097

Members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, preceded by a 3 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the union office, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

# Retiree Meeting Notices

## ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, March 10, followed by an 11 a.m. General Membership meeting, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland. All retirees are welcome to attend. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

## BAKERS 114

Retirees meet 11:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at Izzy's Restaurant, 1307 NE 102nd Ave., Portland.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees, wives and friends will meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12725 SE

93rd Ave., Clackamas Promenade. For more information, please call Glenn Hodgkinson at 503-656-0028.

## ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees and wives meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 12, at Kirkland Union Manor, Portland for lunch.

## IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 9, at the Union Hall meeting room, 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle #200, Portland for a catered lunch.

## NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, March 14, at 1125 SE Madison #100G, Portland.

## OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 15, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954 ext. 226.

## SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 10, at the Village Inn, 10201 SE Stark St., Portland.

## UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Salem retirees meet 12 noon, Wednesday, March 9, at Almost Home Restaurant, 3310 Market St., NE, Salem.

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, March 17, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

**Mr. President:**

# Americans can't afford another job-killing trade deal

U.S. President Barack Obama visited Intel's Ronler Acres complex in Hillsboro Feb. 18. Outside, several dozen labor rights activists held picket signs to remind Obama of his 2008 campaign pledges to renegotiate NAFTA and put a halt to NAFTA-style trade treaties like the one with Korea that President George W. Bush had negotiated. Since entering office, Obama has not renegotiated NAFTA. And he has said he will send the Korea treaty to Congress for approval.

Obama flew into the Hillsboro airport by helicopter convoy and didn't see the protesters, because his motorcade entered the industrial campus by a different gate. But trade was on his mind. The president was visiting Ronler Acres to announce his appointment of Intel CEO Paul Otellini to a "Council on Jobs and Competitiveness," and to deliver the message that education is what will make the U.S. more competitive in the global economy.

"If we want to make sure Intel doesn't have to look overseas for skilled, trained workers, then we've got to invest in our people — in our schools, in our colleges, in our children," Obama said. "We can't win the future if we lose the race to educate our children. Can't do it!"

Protesting outside, Arthur Stamoulis didn't think much of the president's arguments.

"There are plenty of folks with world-class educations who cannot find a job in the U.S. tech sector," said Stamoulis, director of the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign. One of them, protesting alongside Stamoulis, was Mitch Besser, a software engineer with a master's degree and two decades of experience in the field. Besser was a software engineer at IGT in Corvallis until the

company shut its doors last year on over 50 employees, moving most of the work to China. Besser and his coworkers spent their final months training their Chinese replacements.

"No one's going to speak against better education," Stamoulis said. "But what the country really needs is jobs, and what the president is putting out there is trade policy that makes it easier for companies to offshore jobs."

Intel, too, has outsourced. Its workers have qualified 18 times over the years for federally-funded Trade Act benefits — retraining, relocation and extended unemployment compensation for the victims of trade-related layoffs.

But more than other U.S. tech firms, Intel has invested in manufacturing in the United States. Intel CEO Paul Otellini told the president that three-fourths of the company's manufacturing is done in the United States. Obama praised Intel and its founder Andy Grove for that commitment. He then proposed a set of ideas for keeping companies like Intel in America.

"In a world that is more competitive than ever before, it's our job to make sure that America is the best place on Earth to do business," Obama said. Obama said that's why he's proposing "lowering the corporate tax rate," "eliminating unnecessary regulations," and getting the federal government's fiscal house in order with a five-year spending freeze. "That's a freeze that will bring our annual domestic spending to its lowest share of the economy since Eisenhower was President."

Ironically, those proposals directly contradict what Grove, the Intel founder and CEO until 2005, suggested in a provocative essay in Business Week last July.

Grove said Asian economies succeeded in large part because of their

governments were involved in the economy and targeted the growth of manu-

facturing. The U.S., by contrast, seems to have forgotten that manufacturing is crucial to a country's economic future, Grove said. When American companies discovered that they could have their manufacturing and even engineering done more cheaply overseas, Grove wrote, the American job machine began sputtering. Today, 166,000 Americans are employed in manufacturing in the computer industry, fewer than in 1975, while in Asia, computer manufacturing employs 1.5 million factory workers, engineers, and managers.

To turn this around, Grove didn't call for lower corporate taxes, gutted regulations, or cuts in federal spending. He proposed levying an extra tax on the product of offshored labor, and loaning the money raised to companies that want to scale up their American operations.

"If the result is a trade war," Grove wrote, "treat it like other wars — fight to win. If what I'm suggesting sounds protectionist, so be it."



**Ben Basom, Bruce Dennis, and Mitch Besser send a message to President Obama during his recent visit to Intel's campus in Hillsboro asking him not to sign the Korea Free Trade agreement, and to renegotiate NAFTA. (Photo by Douglas Yarrow courtesy of Oregon Fair Trade Campaign.)**

## Labor leaders attend Obama Intel visit

More than a dozen Oregon labor leaders attended President Barack Obama's Feb. 18 "winning the future" speech at Intel Corp. in Hillsboro.

Obama toured Intel's Ronler Acres campus and met with a handful of middle school and high school math and science students before speaking to some 350 invited guests, which included Intel workers, politicians, and other dignitaries.

Obama focused his remarks primarily on education, but he also talked about new investments, innovation, and

American manufacturing.

Among the labor leaders in attendance were Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain; Oregon State Building Trades Council Executive Secretary John Mohlis; Oregon AFSCME Council 75 Executive Director Ken Allen; Northwest Oregon Labor Council Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bob Tackett; Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 Business Manager John Endicott;

IBEW Local 48 Business Manager Clif Davis; International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8 President Jeff Smith; Oregon School Employees Association Executive Director Steven Araujo and President Bonnie Luisi; Dave Tischer, business manager of Laborers Local 320; Dick Schwarz, executive director of American Federation of Teachers-Oregon; and Kelly Bach of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council.



### Oregonians want to work

Oregon Wants to Work, a new group for unemployed workers, held its first meeting in Portland Feb. 16. The group is one of a handful around the country created with grants from the national AFL-CIO. About 60 participants attended the meeting, recruited by AFL-CIO-affiliated unions and the AFL-CIO's door-to-door canvass group Working America. It took place at the Portland Metro Workforce Center on Northeast Killingsworth. At the meeting pictured above, unemployed or underemployed workers were asked what they want, what resources they need, and how the group can help them. The next meeting will be March 23 at a location to be announced. Visit [www.oregonwantstowork.com](http://www.oregonwantstowork.com) for details.

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# Boeing wins \$35B tanker contract

The Air Force has given a major boost to U.S. job creation by awarding a \$35 billion contract to build the next generation of air refueling tankers to Boeing Co.

The announcement to build 179 new 767-based tankers — the largest contract in Air Force history — was made at the Pentagon Feb. 24.

Boeing said the contract will supply 50,000 jobs across the country — many of them good-paying union jobs. The airplane itself will be built in Everett, Wash., with the refueling boom and other military modifications made in Wichita, Kansas.

Some 26,000 Boeing workers are

## Obama renominates union attorney Becker to NLRB

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — Showing he won't take Senate Republican "no's" for an answer, President Barack Obama renominated former top union attorney Craig Becker as a member of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Becker serves in that post under a recess appointment, which ends at the close of this congressional session. A GOP filibuster in the last Congress prevented a vote on the former counsel to the AFL-CIO and the Service Employees International Union. Republicans objected to Becker's union ties and some of his academic writings.

No sooner did Obama renominate Becker than Sen. Mike Enzi, (R-Wy), the top Republican on the Senate Labor Committee, said he would oppose Becker again.

Obama also renominated Bill Boarman, former head of Communications Workers of America's Printing, Publications and Media Workers sector, for Public Printer, which oversees the Government Printing Office — the world's largest publisher. Boarman currently is serving in that post under a recess appointment.

## Donations accepted for Workers' Memorial Scholarship fund

Each year, children in Oregon must cope with a parent being taken from their lives through a workplace death. The loss can have a profound effect on a family's ability to finance higher education.

The Workers' Memorial Scholarship fund was established by the 1991 Legislature at the request of the Oregon AFL-CIO to help surviving family members reach their educational goals.

Private donations to the fund can be accepted, but are not solicited by Oregon OSHA. Please make checks payable to "DCBS Workers' Memorial Scholarship Account" and mail your donation to Oregon OSHA, c/o Melanie Mesaros, P.O. Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309.

represented by the International Association of Machinists (IAM). The Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace represents another 24,000 employees at the company.

Boeing said the new tankers will ensure more than 11,000 direct and indirect jobs in the Puget Sound area, with an economic impact of \$693 million every year. Another 7,500 direct and indirect jobs are anticipated in Wichita.

Job gains aren't expected to be as extensive at the Boeing parts manufacturing plant in Gresham, which employs more than 1,500 workers.

"My understanding is we will not see an increase in employment, but we will see a gradual increase in production, which means job retention for us," said Bob Petroff, assistant directing business representative of Machinists District Lodge W24. "After all, the first 18 tankers aren't scheduled for delivery until 2017."

Some media reports quoted a Boeing spokesperson from Auburn, Washington, stating that the tanker contract will include enough work for about 45 employees in Gresham, and that the company expects to add 100 new jobs there this year.

Boeing earlier indicated that the tanker deal would create as many as 300 news jobs in Oregon, with an economic

impact of \$14 million. Many of those jobs, however, will go to area suppliers and vendors.

The Air Force has tried for nearly a decade to replace its aging fleet of Eisenhower-era tankers, the equivalent of a flying gas station. For much of that time Boeing was locked in a competition with European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co. (EADS), which builds the Airbus.

"(Today's) news, that after nearly 10 long years, the Pentagon has finally seen the light and decided to order 179 Boeing tankers, built by our Machinists — (this) is certainly cause for celebration," said Tom Wroblewski, president of Machinists District Lodge 751 in Seattle. "We've worked hard on Boeing's behalf for nearly a decade on this tanker deal. In fact, we could have built and delivered an entire fleet of tankers in the time it's taken to settle this deal. As we've all learned over the past 10 years, with the tanker, it ain't over 'til it's over and even then you can't be sure. But just as we've said all along, the Boeing tanker is the right one for America's military, for our taxpayers and for the U.S. economy. We are the Fighting Machinists, and we're going to keep on fighting for the Boeing tanker, right up 'til our members start building the first one for the Air Force up in Everett."



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# Busted!

A sampler of recent charges of employer labor law violations filed with the local office of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

## Hospital tears down letter from Congressman

At Springfield's **McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center**, 340 support workers have battled for over a year to get a decent contract out of the Tennessee-based parent company, Community Health Systems. So union members were heartened when their congressman, Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), wrote to CHS urging the for-profit hospital chain to negotiate a just contract, "because it is the right thing to do." DeFazio warned in the letter that CHS' determination to short-change employees by scrimping on wages and benefits is putting the hospital's reputation at risk. But hospital supervisors have been taking the letter down from union bulletin boards since December. That affront is one of eight violations spelled out in the latest charge filed by **SEIU Local 49**. A Feb. 15 trial on three other charges was postponed.

## Yeah, times are hard, but show us the records

Is **Ross Island Sand & Gravel** going bust, or is the privately held company trying to throw sand in the eyes of its 185 unionized workers so it can pick their pockets? At a Dec. 28 contract bargaining session, the company proposed over \$10 an hour in concessions — lower wages, fewer paid holidays, elimination of paid sick leave, and less overtime. Such takeaways are necessary, company negotiators said, because Ross Island has a serious cash flow problem and hasn't had profits since 2007. **Teamsters Local 162**, understandably, asked for proof: an audit of the company's records. Management said no. That's bad faith bargaining, the union charges, and a violation of federal labor law.

## Workers have the right to discuss wages

**Fred Meyer** has another court date. On March 15, company lawyers will explain to a federal judge why Fred Meyer fired Barbara Sideroff. The NLRB believes that Sideroff — an apparel department worker at Northeast Portland's Hollywood West Fred Meyer — was canned last August for talking to a co-worker about their wages. The agency has been prosecuting a rash of such cases in the last year. A similar charge was filed last month against **Providence St. Vincent Hospital** for banning co-workers from communicating about wages and conditions. That's illegal under federal labor law.

## Throwing worker rights under the bus

**First Student**, the UK-headquartered multinational that specializes in privatizing school bus operations, has racked up 121 charges of U.S. labor law violations since January 2010 — nine in Oregon alone. In Central Point, Oregon, First Student changed all kinds of rules without bargaining with **Teamsters Local 962**, and terminated workers for breaking the new rules. Local 962 also accuses First Student of surveilling union activity, threatening pro-union workers, and unlawfully giving anti-union workers an employee list to help them pursue a decertification drive.



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# ...President Obama calls governor's action 'an assault on unions'

(From Page 1)

ing a 24-hour-vigil inside the state capitol building, a sleeping bag protest that was still under way two weeks later. Protests outside the capitol grew day after day, reaching 100,000 two weeks after the bill was introduced. The protests spread to 66 cities and every state capital in the nation.

Here is the remarkable chronology of the fight-back movement:

**Friday, Feb. 11:** Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker introduces SS SB 11, a bill that would eviscerate public employee collective bargaining rights.

**Sunday, Feb. 13:** 150 University of Wisconsin students protest outside the state capitol building.

**Tuesday Feb. 15:** The Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature opens a hearing on the bill at 10 a.m. AFSCME members bus in from at least seven Wisconsin cities and are joined by hundreds of Madison high school students who leave school to protest. Over 10,000 march and rally outside the capitol building, while 3,000 more pack the halls inside, signing up by the hundred to testify at the hearing, which runs until 3 a.m. Republican leaders cut off debate and close the hearing, but Democrats continue taking public testimony in another room, which gives protesters the right to stay overnight in the capitol. Thus begins a 24-hour-a-day occupation of the state capitol building, which continues at press time 13 days

later. Current and former members of the Green Bay Packers, America's only fan-owned non-profit pro sports team, issue a statement, nine days after their Super Bowl win: "Public workers are Wisconsin's champions every single day and we urge the governor and the State Legislature to not take away their rights."

**Wednesday Feb. 16:** Madison public schools close as teachers call in sick. The protest outside the capitol, now joined by teachers, students and parents, swells to 20,000. [Madison schools remain closed for three more days.] A U.S. Labor Department official warns the Legislature that under 13(c), an obscure provision of federal transit law, Wisconsin could lose federal transportation money if it denies transit workers their collective bargaining rights.

**Thursday, Feb. 17:** By now at least 15 school districts around the state are closed due to a spreading teacher sick-out. Capitol protesters — now numbering 25,000 — block the door to the state Senate chambers. All 14 Wisconsin state Senate Democrats flee to Illinois, leaving the Senate one member short of the 20-member quorum it needs to vote on the bill. President Barack Obama, in an interview on Milwaukee TV station WTMJ, says the Wisconsin proposal seems like "an assault on unions."

**Friday, Feb. 18:** Rev. Jesse Jackson and national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka speak outside the capitol as 40,000 people rally. The

Madison school district asks a judge to order teachers back to work, since teachers strikes are illegal in Wisconsin; the judge refuses.

**Saturday, Feb. 19:** Outside the capitol, an estimated 60,000 protest the Walker bill, while several thousand, organized by Americans for Prosperity, rally in support of Walker.

**Sunday, Feb. 20:** It's snowing in Madison, but thousands continue to rally outside of the capitol. Inside, demonstrators by now have organized cleanup details, set up a system of marshals, and brought in food.

**Monday, Feb. 21:** The capitol is ringed by 40,000 protesters. Madison-based South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, unanimously passes a resolution endorsing a general strike if the bill becomes law.

**Tuesday, Feb. 22:** Madison teachers return to school voluntarily. The Wisconsin Assembly (lower house) takes up the bill. In part to delay passage, Assembly Democrats propose over 100 amendments and insist on their right to debate them. MoveOn.org, backed by the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Service Employees, and over 40 other organizations, announces plans to rally in every state capital on Feb. 26.

**Wednesday, Feb. 23:** Gov. Walker takes a phone call from a man he thinks is David Koch, a well-known right-wing billionaire who contributes to Republican causes. The caller turns out to be a progressive blogger, who records the phone call and puts it on

line. In the recording, Walker says he "thought about" planting troublemakers among the Capitol protesters, underscores his refusal to meet with unions, and gives details of his plan to trick Senate Democrats into returning to the state.

**Thursday, Feb. 24:** The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issues a strong statement supporting workers' collective bargaining rights.

**Friday, Feb. 25:** At 1 a.m., after more than 60 hours of debate, Republican leaders in the Wisconsin Assembly abruptly call a vote on the bill and declare the bill passed before some Assembly Democrats even have a chance to vote. Thus ends the longest

continuous Assembly session in Wisconsin history, with Assembly Democrats shouting "Shame!" and denouncing the maneuver as illegal. But the bill can't move forward in the Senate, since not a single Democrat has returned from Illinois. Supporters of Gov. Walker announce plans to close the capitol over the weekend and evict the protesters. The head of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association urges the governor to keep the capitol open, and calls on police union members from across the state to come to the capitol to sleep among the throngs of union supporters.

**Saturday, Feb. 26:** Up to 100,000 (Turn to Page 12)

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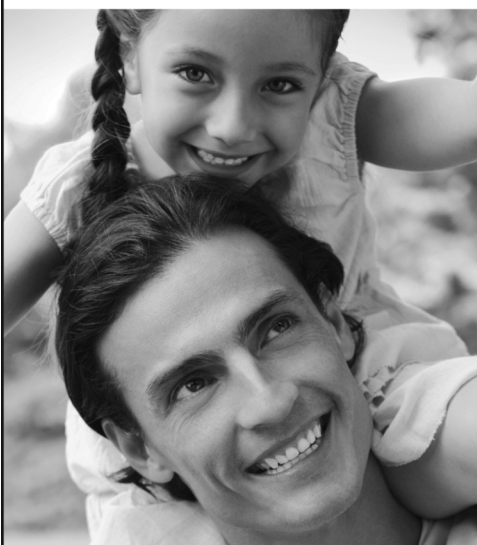
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# Radical Republicans' goal is to destroy all unions

**To the Editor:**

Working people in Wisconsin have staged a rebellion against a brutal attack on the rights of workers by a governor and Legislature dominated by sociopathic Republicans. These plutocrats want to destroy collective bargaining for all public employees and turn Wisconsin into a right-to-work state for private employees.

Gary Huck and I both grew up in Wisconsin. Gary was raised in Racine and I grew up in Manitowoc. Both towns are on the shores of Lake Michigan and both towns were manufacturing centers. Racine and Manitowoc were devastated by the Reagan recession of the 1980s and are still part of the Rust Belt.

I've lived in Madison since 1971 when I came here to finish college.

Wisconsin was the birthplace of Fightin' Bob LaFollette, the founder of the Wisconsin progressive movement. Progressivism merged into the New Deal, and Wisconsin was influential in the creation of laws and culture that respected working people. This is from the Wisconsin Historical Society: "Wisconsin's workers and reformers made significant contributions to the history of labor in the United States, helping to enact legislation such as workers' com-

pensation and unemployment insurance that served as models for similar laws in other states. The study of labor history itself also began in Wisconsin when University of Wisconsin economist John R. Commons set out to document the history of work and labor in America at the turn of the 20th century. Commons and his associates also joined labor leaders, the business community, and politicians to bring about some of Wisconsin's groundbreaking social policies."

Wisconsin was also the birthplace of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), formed in 1932. They created what would later become Wisconsin State Employees Union/Council 24.

The progressive pro-labor culture dominated the state until the dismal 1950s when Joe McCarthy was elected and launched the McCarthy era of brutal repression of working people.

We are now experiencing another period of repression. The workers of Wisconsin know their history and know what is at stake. Again, robber barons are trying to destroy our traditions and the history that our forebears fought and died for. We are determined to preserve our proud history and fight against the forces of decay.

In the election of 2008 we thought that change was coming. But change never comes from the top down. It comes from the bottom up.

Allow me to use a football metaphor. The Green Bay Packers won this year's Super Bowl. The Packers, the smallest market city in the NFL, are named after a meat packing plant in Green Bay. They are not owned by a plutocrat, they are a non-profit owned by the community. To Wisconsin, Packer football is as much a part of our tradition as the labor movement. In the Super Bowl, the team, devastated by injuries all season, lost two of their top players to injury in the first half. The game went back and forth, and in the fourth quarter the Packers found themselves in trouble. Kevin

Greene, outside linebackers coach, pulled linebacker Clay Matthews aside and told him that the time had come to take control of the game. "It is time!" He said. Matthews helped cause a fumble that led to victory.

For those of us who believe in the dignity of workers, and believe in fighting for the least among us, IT IS TIME. Wisconsin workers are up to the challenge.

**Mike Konopacki**  
AFT & IWW  
Madison, Wisconsin

*(Editor's Note: Mike Konopacki is a labor cartoonist and author whose cartoons appear regularly in the Northwest Labor Press.)*

## OPEN FORUM

### Congress should rebate their Social Security rebates

**To the Editor:**

When President Obama invited the Republican Congressional leadership to the White House recently, some of the results were: continuation of the Bush tax cuts for all, cut the inheritance tax, and a one-year rebate of 2 percent of the Social Security contributions to every wage-earner who contributes to that fund — up to \$106,000 of their earnings.

The net effect of this last issue is that all members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives will, because their base pay is \$174,000 annually, receive the maximum rate of \$2,120.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "the champion of Social Security," was quoted as saying to a group of progressive activists after listening to their plans, "You have some very good plans, now make me do them!"

I urge progressives to call, write, e-mail or fax their members of Congress and ask that they, "REBATE THE REBATE," and send their \$2,120 to their respective state's food bank or other social relief agency.

**Ben Fain, Jr.**  
ATU Local 757 Retiree  
Portland

### More moderate attitude could solve problems in Wisconsin, elsewhere

**To The Editor:**

The Wisconsin labor bill being pushed by the governor is just plain wrong. It will do absolutely nothing significant towards reducing Wisconsin's deficit ... but it will reduce the workforce by a great amount because they will leave the state.

I won't go there. I won't work for the \$2-a-day, six days a week, 1920s meat-grinder attitude; while corporate hoards all the profits from their impoverished workforce. A fair and honest day's wage for a fair and honest day's work — nobody loses. Everyone has a good (reasonable) living and no one (corporate or labor) gets screwed.

Thanks to the Italian mob that infiltrated the unions back east and began extortion among its members, a bad name has been directed towards all of

labor.

I am glad to be associated with a union that has no such affiliations and has the brass (and the strength) to stand for its worker membership and its signatory corporate members. Corporate gets a well-trained, competent workforce; labor gets a decent wage and reasonable benefits. Everyone benefits.

I have worked both sides, and was treated well by only one nonunion company and satisfactorily by another. All the others, I was left on my own and got the short end for all my work. I finally moved and joined my local union.

The real problem is that Wisconsin, evidently like California, has been binging upon an unchecked, extremely liberal, wild spending spree. Now they are whining, pointing errant fingers because the irresponsible spending has caught up to them, hastened by a rotten economy that is in a full-blown deep recession that it is hard to distinguish from the 1930s Depression.

Liberalist "left" and tight-wad "right" are not the ideal stance. Rather, a moderate "liberal/conservative" attitude is the solution. All sides will then listen and discuss. All sides will then exercise common sense and integrity. All sides will know when a circumstance requires a liberal solution or a more conservative one to keep the budget in check, as well as keep the citizens (who ultimately pay the bills) protected by reasonable law(s).

It is well past time for America to wake up, turn on their individual brains, and ignore the rhetorical hype so frequently spewed by the irresponsible yellow journalism of all the media.

Be observant of your governmental affairs and, if necessary, remove the greedy, self-gratifying, even corrupt leaders of federal, state, and local areas (referring categorically, not specifically).

**Steve Dietrich**  
IBEW 48  
Gresham

### There's still time to register for MDA Labor Bowl

The 22nd Annual Labor Bowl Challenge to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) will be held Sunday, March 13, at Hollywood Bowl, 4030 NE Halsey St., Portland.

Thirty lanes have been reserved. To date, 23 teams from eight union locals have registered to bowl, so there is room for seven more teams. The goal is to have 18 unions represented.

Money is raised by pledges and a silent auction. Since its inception, Portland-area labor unions have collected \$311,828.75 for MDA. Money goes to buy wheelchairs and braces for children, as well as research and summer camps.

Registration starts at noon, with bowling under way at 1 p.m.

For more information, call Jim Cook, president of Letter Carriers Branch 82, at 503-493-5903. To donate items to the auction, call Debbie Burbank at 971-404-5384.

## IN MEMORIAM

**JOHN P. CRANSTON**, a retired secretary-treasurer of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 364, died of lung cancer at home with his family Feb 13, 2011. He was 82.

Born Feb. 7, 1929 in Fermagh County, Northern Ireland, Cranston moved to New York as a teenager, where he worked various jobs. He relocated to Washington to live with his aunt and uncle. In the Pacific Northwest, he entered a nursing program and became a licensed practical nurse.

Cranston enlisted in the Army in 1951, serving as a medic during the Korean War.



On return, he joined Local 364 working at Nabisco and Frito-Lay. He eventually was elected secretary-treasurer of the union. He retired from that post in the spring of 1990.

Once retired, Cranston enjoyed riding his John Deere tractor to mow the grass and spend time outside. His other hobbies were woodworking in his shop and reading.

He is survived by his wife Angeline; two daughters, Margaret Harms and Shaun Mettler; and three grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held at St. Philips Catholic Church in Woodland, Washington on Feb. 17.

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# ...Wisconsin battle is not about the budget

(From Page 10)

people rally in Madison, the largest protests there since the Vietnam War. The message, "We are all Wisconsin" goes nationwide as an estimated 50,000 people take part in solidarity rallies in 66 cities across the country — including all 50 state capitals. [See Page 1 for details of the Portland and Salem rallies.]

**Sunday, Feb. 27:** Dozens of priests, rabbis, and ministers join the capitol

## Danner Boot lays off 90

Danner Boots laid off 90 employees — 70 last week, and 20 at the end of January, after a contract to manufacture combat hiker boots for the U.S. military was not renewed.

Most of those let go were members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, although some came from the ranks of management.

Workers met with union leaders, management, and a rapid response team from Labor's Community Service Agency Feb. 25 to get assistance dealing with the job loss.

Last year, Danner, whose parent company is LaCrosse Footwear, Inc., employed roughly 210 union workers at its facility on Airport Way in Northeast Portland. It is now down to 130.

protests, pledging to risk arrest if the building is closed to the public. Disregarding an announcement that the building is closed, 600 spend the night. In Washington, D.C., hundreds of unionists march outside the hotel where Walker is expected to chair a panel at the National Governors Association meeting; he is a no-show.

**Monday, Feb. 28:** Walker and Senate Republicans direct that the capitol's windows be welded shut to prevent supporters from passing food to demonstrators inside.

When this issue went to press, the protests continued in Madison. State Senate Democrats remained outside Wisconsin. The fate of Walker's bill is still uncertain. But several conclusions have emerged as the Wisconsin struggle developed.

Number one: The Wisconsin battle is not about a state budget crisis. Other governors are asking public sector unions for economic concessions without trying to eliminate bargaining rights. The only parts of Walker's bill that have an immediate budget impact are its requirements that public employees' salaries be cut in order to increase their contribution to pension and health care. Walker says he has to take away bargaining rights because unions won't agree to those concessions, but AFSCME and other unions have since said they would accept those changes. Walker



A crowd estimated at 500 rallied at Directors Park in downtown Portland Feb. 25 objecting to Gov. Scott Walker's plan to cut collective bargaining rights and benefits for public workers in Wisconsin.

has shown no willingness to meet with them, or to accept the concession.

What happens in Wisconsin will have not just practical but also symbolic importance. Wisconsin was the first state to give public workers the

right to collective bargaining. Madison is the birthplace of AFSCME, the largest union of state employees. Van Jones, writing in the Huffington Post, said the idealism and fighting spirit on display in America's heartland is a rare, second chance for the movement

for "hope and change."

Both sides agree that if Walker wins passage of the bill, other governors will be emboldened to try it. The bill's defeat, on the other hand, could give heart to other workers' struggles for justice around the country.

Above all, the strategy of Walker and his backers is to divide American workers and redirect their anger away from the true culprits responsible for their economic distress. Walker refers to public employees as the "haves" and private sector employees as the "have nots." His bill exempts police and firefighters from the union busting. Parents are to be turned against teachers, workers turned against their unions, private sector workers against public sector workers, even public sector workers from other public sector workers.

It follows that the way to defeat the Walker bill and others of its kind is for workers and people from all walks of life to unify, and to direct their attention to the real perpetrators of the crisis.

The National AFL-CIO is calling on union members to connect to the campaign at [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org). The Wisconsin AFL-CIO has set up a Worker Defense Fund; contributions can be made online at [www.wisafclio.org](http://www.wisafclio.org).



## ATU's 'dogged' determination

Retired ATU Local 757 member Al Thomas pets Jersey during an informational picket in downtown Portland Feb. 23 prior to a TriMet board of directors meeting. Also pictured are Jersey's owner, Jeff Hunt, and TriMet mechanic Andy Heesacker. Transit workers and their allies have been picketing board meetings for several months now trying to persuade the governor-appointees to direct TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane to rescind his unilateral implementation of higher health insurance co-payments. The union says those are mandatory subjects of collective bargaining and thus his action is illegal. State law prohibits transit workers from striking. Contract disputes are settled by binding arbitration. ATU has filed two unfair labor practice complaints, which won't be heard until mid-May. Binding arbitration won't take place until the ULPs are settled. "As I have said time and time again, we are ready to drop the ULPs and move immediately to binding arbitration once TriMet rescinds its unlawful implementation," said ATU Local 757 President Jon Hunt. TriMet has yet to do so.

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