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A crowd estimated at 1,000 gathered at Pioneer Courthouse Square Jan. 8 before marching through the streets of downtown Portland to rally in support of saving postal services. In a notice posted in the Federal Register, the USPS has proposed to revise its service standards to eliminate overnight delivery of First-Class mail, change next-day delivery to two days, and two-day delivery to three days. The Postal Service proposes shuttering 3,700 post offices and 252 mail processing centers.

Portland area postal workers rally to save jobs, Saturday delivery

An estimated 1,000 Portland-area postal workers, their families, and allies marched through the streets of downtown Jan. 8 to call attention to tax-free solutions before Congress that will save America's postal service from massive cuts.

The march and demonstration were coordinated by the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 82, which represents 1,200 letter carriers in the greater Portland area. It started at Pioneer Courthouse Square and ended on the front steps of the Main Post Office on Northwest Hoyt. Signs calling for saving 6-day delivery, door-to-door and curbside delivery, community post offices, and family-wage jobs dotted the blocks-long procession.

"Oregonians know about the USPS's financial crisis, but few know what caused the crisis or that there are solutions before Congress that won't

cost the taxpayer a dime," said Branch 82 President Jim Cook. "In fact, by subjecting the USPS — unlike any other agency or company in the country — to a pre-funding obligation starting in 2007, Congress itself has caused the bulk of the red ink."

Cook was referring to a requirement imposed by Congress in 2006 that forces USPS to massively prefund the cost of retiree health benefits (to the tune of \$5.5 billion a year) over the next 75 years in just 10 years' time. This cost covers not only current employees, but employees who have yet to be hired — and it is on top of the cost for health benefits for current retirees. No other company or agency in America is required to prefund future retiree health benefits.

Some 19 postal-related bills have been introduced in Congress. Some offer to help the agency, while others try

to destroy it.

At the rally, letter carriers talked about two bills in particular that postal unions and the AFL-CIO support — HR 1351 and S. 1853.

S. 1853, introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and co-sponsored by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), would eliminate the pre-funding requirement, along with making other changes aimed at saving the Postal Service.

HR 1351 addresses a decades-old accounting error that led the Office of Personnel Management to overcharge the Postal Service by as much as \$75 billion for payments into the Civil Service Retirement System. It also would return a \$10.9 billion overcharge in the postal portion of the Federal Employees Retirement System pension fund;

HR 1351 has bipartisan support

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ILWU showdown in Longview near

By DON McINTOSH
Associate Editor

LONGVIEW, Washington — A showdown is coming in Longview. Some time in late January or early February, the first ship will come down the Columbia River to be loaded at a brand-new grain terminal — and will be confronted by union members, families, supporters, and Occupy Wall Street activists from Longview, Seattle, Portland, and Oakland.

The ship reportedly will be escorted by the U.S. Coast Guard. That intervention by the U.S. military in a domestic labor dispute drew a strongly worded resolution of condemnation Jan. 9 from the San Francisco Labor Council. Meanwhile, at the terminal, Port of Longview Berth 9, it's expected that local police from multiple jurisdictions will stand guard.

Officially, the employer in the dispute is EGT, which is registered in Oregon as a limited liability corporation with offices at 101 SW Main St, Suite 1800, Portland. But EGT (Export Grain Terminal) is a stand-in for Bunge, an agribusiness giant with operations in 40 countries. Bunge, valued at \$8.5 billion on the New York Stock Exchange, has a 51 percent controlling interest in EGT, alongside two co-investors: ITOCHU Corporation of Japan and STX Pan Ocean Co. of South Korea.

EGT's \$200 million facility, constructed with nonunion workers, is on public land leased from the Port of Longview. The Port says its lease agreement with EGT requires the company to employ members of Longview-based International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 21. But EGT is disputing that in federal court.

For a time, EGT met with Local 21, but negotiations broke off in early 2011: Local 21 would not agree to 12-hour shifts at straight-time pay, and the employer would not agree to use the union hiring hall to staff the terminal.

After EGT broke off negotiations with Local 21, it hired a construction contractor — General Construction — to staff the terminal under an agreement with Operating Engineers Local 701. ILWU picketed Local 701's Gladstone, Oregon, office, but since has returned

its focus to targeting EGT.

Now, Local 21 and the central labor council are calling on working people to support their struggle when the ship arrives.

The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, passed a resolution Jan. 2 calling on "friends of labor and the 99% everywhere to come to the aid of ILWU Local 21, and to support them in any way possible in their fight against multinational conglomerate EGT."

"This is the time for workers everywhere to take a stand," declared Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Kyle Mackey, in a letter accompanying the resolution. "We are imploring all able working class people ... to come to Longview, Washington for a historic protest." Mackey is a member of ILWU Local 21.

Labor activists and participants in the Occupy movement are taking up that call. Occupy Wall Street in New York has made available \$12,000 to help Occupy groups mobilize in Oakland, Portland, and Seattle. And activists are meeting in all three cities to plan rapid response for when the ship arrives. A multi-city working group of Occupy has been formed, and set up a web site, occupytheegt.org, where supporters can sign up for notifications by e-mail or text message, and coordinate rides and housing.

The plan of response is still being worked out, with talk of actions on land and water, but also concern about legal consequences. Kari Koch, a spokesperson for the working group, said that for legal reasons, the Occupy effort can't coordinate directly with the ILWU. But inasmuch as participants will be mobilizing in Longview in support of local workers' struggle against EGT, Koch said participants will follow the lead of the local workers when the time comes.

ILWU itself is facing tremendous legal pressure. More than 200 people have been arrested in connection with protests over the terminal, and a federal judge has fined Local 21 \$315,000 for conduct on the picket line.

In a Jan. 3 letter to all longshore locals, ILWU President Robert McEllrath

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Rich Ahearn, NLRB regional director, retires

Ahearn's replacement is Ronald Hooks, from the NLRB's Memphis office

Rich Ahearn — northwest regional director of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) — retired Dec. 30 after 37 years with the agency.

NLRB attorney Anne Pomerantz will serve as acting regional director until Ronald Hooks replaces Ahearn in April. Hooks, a 40-year NLRB employee, currently directs the Memphis, Tennessee, regional office.

The NLRB is an independent federal agency that administers the National Labor Relations Act, the law that spells out the union rights of most private sector employees. The NLRB conducts elections to determine if workers want a union, and it investigates accusations of "unfair labor practices," its term for employer or union violations of the act.

NLRB's northwest region, Region 19, has a staff of 48 that is responsible for Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Northern Idaho and Western Montana. It's headquartered in downtown Seat-

tle, with satellite offices in Portland and Anchorage, Alaska. The job of regional director is to oversee NLRB staff, and to make all decisions about elections and about whether to issue a complaint in unfair labor practice cases.

Two very famous NLRB cases bear Ahearn's signature: last year's Machinists vs. Boeing case, and the 1997 Kentucky River case.

Ahearn, 65, told the Labor Press he learned about unions at the dinner table growing up in Northampton, Massachuset. His father, a custodian at Smith College, was a member of Service Employees International Union. Ahearn studied political science at Columbia College in New York City, graduating in 1968. For a time, he taught American history at the Dalton School in Manhattan. Then in 1973, while attending Northeastern University School of Law, he went to work at the NLRB Boston office as a student assistant. He later worked at the NLRB's Albany, Baltimore, Buffalo,



RICH AHERN

and Cincinnati offices, before becoming regional director in Seattle in 2003. Ahearn was Cincinnati regional director when the Kentucky River case came to his desk. Kentucky River Community Care argued that its registered nurses were supervisors and therefore had no right to be in a union under the law. Ahearn looked at the facts and determined that they were employees, not supervisors. But the case was appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which overruled the NLRB by a 5-4 majority in 2001.

Then, last year, Ahearn's office handled the Machinists vs. Boeing case. With the backing of the NLRB's top prosecutor, Ahearn issued a complaint against Boeing for having built a new assembly line in South Carolina specifically because its union workers at other locations had exercised their right to strike. A furious reaction by Republicans in Congress threatened to take the NLRB down, but in the end, the union settled with Boeing and dropped the charge.

Unionists may think of the NLRB as an agency that defends workers' union rights, however weakly. But agency staff look upon themselves as neutrals when it comes to disputes between workers and employers.

One of Ahearn's final decisions was to issue a complaint against a union, the

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Stumping for Bonamici

Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland (left) joined Oregon 1st Congressional District candidate Suzanne Bonamici (right) for a luncheon with union officials Jan. 13 at the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters office in Northeast Portland. With them is Paul Riggs, executive secretary-treasurer of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council. Hoyer said electing Bonamici in the Jan. 31 special election is the first step in getting Democrats back in charge and the first step to start revitalizing America's middle class. "The whole country is focused on this race," Hoyer said. "What happens in Oregon will make an impact on 434 other House districts in this country." Hoyer said for the last two years House Democrats have pushed jobs bills, only to have them bottled up by the Republican leadership. "They won't consider our plans, and they put nothing up of their own," he said. Hoyer believes Republicans are "holding the American people hostage" in order to damage the re-election efforts of Democratic President Barack Obama this November. Bonamici has been endorsed by most of organized labor, including the Oregon AFL-CIO, where she attained a Gold Star rating during her time in the Oregon Senate. The 1st Congressional District is comprised of Columbia, Clatsop, Washington, and Yamhill counties, and a piece of Multnomah County. Ballots must be mailed back or turned in to the Elections Division by Jan. 31.

Laborers Local 320's Guetzloe-Parker tapped to lead building trades council

Jodi Guetzloe-Parker of Laborers Local 320 has been elected executive secretary treasurer of the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council. She defeated Paul Riggs, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48 in an election of affiliated delegates held Jan. 3.

She will be sworn into office Feb. 7.

Riggs has served in the post since Aug. 30, 2010, filling the unexpired term of John Mohlis, a member of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1. Mohlis vacated the seat to become executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, following the retirement of Bob Shiprack, a member of IBEW Local 48.

Guetzloe-Parker, 51, is an 18-year member of Laborers Local 320, which represents workers in heavy and highway construction, at industrial plants, non-profit pre-school child care, and some public sector workers. Guetzloe-Parker started in the trade as a flagger. She was hired to Local 320's staff in 2005.

She is one of only a handful of women in the country leading a construction trades council.



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Endicott retires as business manager of UA Local 290

John Endicott, business manager of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 for the past decade, retired Jan. 20.

Endicott, 58, was appointed interim business manager in March 2002, following the death of Business Manager Matt Walters. Walters died of a heart attack at age 54.

Endicott was one month into a new job as Walters' assistant, after working 10 years as an organizer and business agent. Three more senior business agents had all recently retired when Walters named Endicott assistant to the business manager.

"I didn't aspire to be business manager. It kind of fell into my lap," Endicott said.

The union's bylaws place the assistant to the business manager in



JOHN
ENDICOTT

charge of the local in the event the business manager can't fulfill the duties of the job. Endicott stepped into the position and subsequently was re-elected for three more terms.

A native of Vancouver, Washington, Endicott grew up in a pipe trades family. His father was a fitter and his grandfather and two uncles were plumbers.

He enrolled in the steamfitters apprenticeship program after graduating from Hudson's Bay High School in 1972. At that time it was Steamfitters Local 235. [Local 235 merged with Plumbers Local 51 in the mid-'80s to form United Association Local 290.]

Endicott turned out as a journeyman in 1977.

Always an advocate of training



Retiring Local 290 Business Manager John Endicott (second from left in back) opened the training center to students from the Tigard-Tualatin School District.

and skills upgrading, Endicott taught classes at the training center and went on to complete a five-year instruments training certificate program out of Purdue University. He has served on the joint apprenticeship training committee since 1986.

"It's all about training — apprentice and journeyman," he said, noting that last year alone Local 290 completed 50,000 hours of journey-level training.

Endicott was doing service work at Control Contractors in Portland when, in 1988, he accepted an offer from the company to go into man-

agement. That lasted until 1992, when Walters hired him as an agent.

During his tenure at Local 290, Endicott has served as either a trustee or co-chair on a half-dozen of the union's pension, health and welfare, scholarship and apprenticeship training trusts.

He recently resigned as president of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council; from the Executive Board of the Oregon AFL-CIO; from the board of the Fair Contracting Foundation; and as a trustee and board member of the Pipe Fabricators Institute of America.

Endicott will finish out his term as secretary-treasurer of the Western Mechanical Association, which expires this July, and he'll complete his second term to the governor-appointed SAIF board of directors. SAIF is the state-owned workers' compensation insurance carrier. He was first appointed to the board in November 2004 by Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

Endicott also served a governor appointment to the Boiler Board, one term as chair.

Endicott is turning over the reins of Local 290 — which represents 4,200 workers in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and four counties in Northern California — having recently completed major collective bargaining agreements that will take most of the membership through 2014. He said most of the out-of-work books are clear for fitters, with only scattered unemployment for plumbers. Intel currently has 1,600 fitters on site.

"There's still not a lot of commercial work out there," he said.

"It's been a great run. We have a great group of contractors. I wish all the new folks at the local the very best," he said.

In retirement, Endicott says he will "retire, retire." He wants to spend more time with his 4-year-old granddaughter, improve his golf game — "and ... you know ... I haven't bought a fishing license in 10 years."

Shropshire elected business manager of UA Local 290

Al Shropshire has been elected business manager/financial secretary-treasurer of United Association of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290. He defeated Lou Christensen, assistant to the business manager, 897 to 655. The two were running to succeed John Endicott, who retired.

In other races, Robert Porter was elected president, defeating Paul Elder and Steven Cowell; Gil Freeland defeated incumbent Terry Neely for vice president; Amy Sprengelmeyer outpolled Barry Bledsoe for recording secretary; and Craig Weismann bested Preston Hunt for inside guard.

Eight members ran for two seats on the local's Executive Board representing Region 1. The winners were Mark Sundstrom and Teresa Neely. In Region 2, Dennis Mask defeated one other candidate; and in Region 3, Rick Two Bears outpolled four other candidates.

Dave Hauth, Rick Hindman and Chris McNicholas were re-elected to

the Finance Committee.

Elected to the Examining Board were Pete Bakker and Barry Sather representing Oil Burners; Jim Eastman and Craig Harguth representing Metal Trades; and Frank Boyle and Drew

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OFFICIAL NOTICES

BOILERMAKERS 500

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at 2515 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

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

CEMENT MASONS 555

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

CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

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

COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 24 and Jan. 31, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Jan 23 the Meeting Hall

General Membership Meeting meets 6:30pm Wednesday, Jan 25 in the Meeting Hall. Doors open at 5:30pm for sandwiches.

Your Business Manager Meeting, Saturday, Jan 28 in the Meeting Hall. Call Nancy at 503-251-9681 for an appointment.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb 1 and Feb 15 in the Executive Boardroom

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb 8 in the Dispatch Lobby

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb 8 in the Meeting Hall

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb 8 at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb 9 at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria

Washington Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb 9 at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan 14 in the Executive Boardroom

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb 20 in the Executive Boardroom

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

DEATH ASSESSMENTS : No 2291, Glen A. Hansen; and No. 2292, Earl Waldram. The Jan. 2012 assessment is \$1.50.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent, OR.

Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.

Joint Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

FIRE FIGHTERS 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

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

GLASS WORKERS 740

Executive Board members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

INSULATORS 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8. Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10. Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

IRON WORKERS 29

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting at 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle #200, Portland.

IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN'S 516

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday Jan. 26 at the Ironworkers Apprenticeship Training Center and Union Hall, 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, Portland, OR.

LABORERS 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave., Portland.

LABORERS 483

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

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

LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

LANE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24. Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9. Meetings are at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

MID-COLUMBIA LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 3313 W. 2nd, The Dalles.

MOLDERS 139B

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

MULTNOMAH COUNTY EMPLOYEES 88

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1. General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, preceded by a 6 p.m. stewards' meeting. Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

OREGON TRADESWOMEN

General meeting 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31. Free and open to all tradeswomen to meet up, learn about employment and training opportunities, and find out what is happening at Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. at McMenamins Kennedy School in The Boiler Room located at 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland.

PAINTERS & DRYWALL FINISHERS 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the Asbestos Hall, 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: www.iupatlocal10.org

PLASTERERS 82

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

PORTLAND CITY & METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEES 189

General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24.

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14. Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside St., Portland.

ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9. Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave., Portland. (Phone: 503 232-4807)

SALEM BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at the

IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy. 99E, Tangent. SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

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

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford. Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Local 16 Hall, 1887 Laura St., Springfield.

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

SIGN PAINTERS & PAINT MAKERS 1094

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

SOUTHERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 517 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 4816 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at 950 Industrial Circle, White City.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Eureka Training Center, 634 California St. Eureka, CA.

UNITED STEELWORKERS 1097

Members meet 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, preceded by a 5:45 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office building, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

Operating Engineers attorney picked for open seat on NLRB

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Operating Engineers General Counsel Richard Griffin was among the three new members of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) President Obama appointed Jan. 4 through recess appointments.

Also named were Sharon Block, currently deputy assistant secretary for congressional affairs at the U.S. Department of Labor. She has served as the senior labor and employment counsel for the Senate HELP Committee. The third member named was Republican Terence F. Flynn, chief counsel to NLRB member Brian Hayes. He also was counsel in the labor and employment law firm Crowell & Moring.

Griffin has been chief counsel of the Operating Engineers for 17 years and has served in its legal department since 1983.

Since Jan. 1, the NLRB had just two members and could not carry out most business. Two previous members of the Board also were recess appointments, but their terms expired at the end of 2011.

Republican Senate leaders have continually blocked all of President Obama's NLRB nominations in a move most regard as an attempt to shut down the agency, which protects workers' rights on the job. With the Senate in recess, Obama is allowed to make appointments that last through the current session of Congress.

On Jan. 4, Obama also used a recess appointment to name Richard Cordray head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

"We commend the president for exercising his constitutional authority to ensure that crucially important agencies protecting workers and consumers are not shut down by Republican obstructionism," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "Working families and consumers should not pay the price for political ploys that have repeatedly undercut the enforcement of rules against Wall Street abuses and the rights of working people."

All will serve until the 112th Congress adjourns.

Obama has used his recess appointment power very sparingly, according to ThinkProgress.org. Counting Cordray, Obama has made a total of 29 recess appointments. By comparison, George W. Bush made 171 recess appointments; Bill Clinton made 139 recess appointments; George H.W. Bush made 77 recess appointments; and Ronald Reagan made 243.

Retiree Meeting Notices

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, followed by an 11 a.m. General Membership meeting, in the Labor Services board room, at 1125 SE Madison #102B, Portland. All retirees are welcome to attend.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees, wives and friends meet for lunch 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Rhinelander Restaurant, 5035 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Retirees meet between 11:45 a.m. and noon Monday, Feb. 13, at The Old Country Buffet on Lancaster in Salem, located in the Lancaster East Mall. If you have any questions, please give Don Ball a call at 541-327-3388.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees only meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at Denny's Restaurant, 15815 SE 82nd, Clackamas.

GLASS WORKERS 740

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at Izzy's Pizza, 1307 NE 102nd Ave., Portland.

INSULATORS 36

Retiree breakfast 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

FLOOR COVERERS 1236

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at Izzy's Pizza, 1307 NE 102nd Ave., Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to noon, Monday, Jan. 9, in conference room of Labor's Community Service Agency, 1125 SE Madison #103B, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME

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

TRANSIT 757

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at Westmorland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

IN MEMORIAM

JIM RIDDERBUSCH, a retired member of Operating Engineers Local 701, died Jan. 6 after being hit by a car crossing the street in Southwest Portland. The accident occurred just before 7:45 p.m. at Southwest Macadam Avenue and Southwest Pendleton Street, the neighborhood where he lived.



James A. Ridderbusch was born June 14, 1935, in Portland, Oregon and was a lifelong Oregon resident. He was raised in Bend, Oregon, and graduated from Bend High School in 1953. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1957-1960.

Ridderbusch enjoyed the outdoors and had a wide range of interests that included traveling, fishing, hunting and rafting.

Ridderbusch is survived by four children: daughters Amy McCann of Battle Ground, Wash., Anne Holman of Bend, and Terry Ocker of Las Cruces, N.M.; and a son, Tony Jackson of Beaverton; seven grandchildren; and a brother, Chuck Ridderbusch of Bremerton, Wash.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 22, at the Local 701 Union Hall, 555 East First Street, Gladstone, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Local 701 scholarship fund in memory of Jim Ridderbusch.

Ridderbusch, 76, joined Operating Engineers Local 12 in Southern California in November 1966. He transferred to Gladstone-based Local 701 in September 1973.

He went to work for the local as a field representative in Central Oregon and was eventually made a field supervisor. He also served as a trustee and recording corresponding secretary on Local 701's Executive Board.

Ridderbusch left the union staff in 1991 for a position at Fair Contracting Foundation. He stayed in that post until 1998, when he went to work for Cascade General as a labor relations consultant and contract administrator.

He retired in 2002.

...Richard Ahearn retires from NLRB

(From Page 2)

International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 21, for aggressively picketing the EGT terminal in Longview. The NLRB asked for a court injunction to stop the picketers from blocking the facility. A judge issued an injunction, and then ordered fines totaling \$315,000 after he deter-

mined that union members were violating it.

In retirement, Ahearn says he may do some work in labor arbitration.

His wife is a retired associate dean at Seattle University Law School. They have two grown daughters.

Hooks, Ahearn's replacement, has been Memphis regional director since

...Postal workers rally to save USPS

(From Page 1)

with 227 co-sponsors, including the entire Oregon congressional delegation except Greg Walden.

On Dec. 7, Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio introduced HR 3591. That bill mirrors the language in S. 1853.

Postal unions adamantly oppose HR 2309 and S. 1789. Combined, the bills would end door-to-door and curbside delivery for 90 percent of postal patrons; end Saturday delivery; close

thousands of community post offices; close half the mail processing plants; eliminate hundreds of thousands of jobs; and end overnight delivery of First-Class mail. Neither bill repeals the pre-funding requirement.

Cook said Republican leaders of the House are pushing for HR 2309 and have buried bills favorable to the union.

"We called for this rally to build public understanding of the current postal crisis and support for the very viable solutions available," Cook said.

(Editor's Note: NALC and USPS have been in bargaining for a new contract since August 2011. The 2006-2011 National Agreement was set to expire Nov. 20. Bargaining has been extended three times—first to Dec. 7; a second time to Dec. 16; and a third time to midnight Jan. 20, 2012. If the parties fail to reach an agreement, federal law establishes a system of mediation and binding arbitration to resolve the dispute. Federal law forbids strikes by postal workers.)

...Major battle looms in Longview

(From Page 1)

said members are being "methodically and maliciously prosecuted" for exercising free speech rights.

"Locals need to be aware of the narrow path that we must cut through a federal labor law (the Taft-Hartley Act) that criminalizes worker solidarity, outlaw labor's most effective tools, and protects commerce while severely restricting unions," McEllrath wrote. "The ILWU's labor dispute with EGT

is symbolic of what is wrong in the United States today. Corporations, no matter how harmful the conduct to society, enjoy full state and federal protection while workers and the middle class get treated as criminals for trying to protect their jobs and communities."

Activists don't know when the ship will arrive, but they expect it to be in late January or early February. They may have as little as 12 hours notice.

(Editor's Note: ILWU and Operating Engineers Local 701 are affiliates of the AFL-CIO at both the state and national levels. In September 2011, national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka nullified an Oregon AFL-CIO

Executive Board resolution condemning Local 701 in the dispute. "The work at issue involves a jurisdictional dispute," Trumka wrote, pointing out that jurisdictional disputes are governed and settled by Article 20 of the AFL-CIO Constitution. "In view of these provisions, neither the Oregon AFL-CIO, nor any other AFL-CIO state, area, or local central body has authority to intervene or take sides."

"Let me be clear that this letter concerns simply the issue of the authority of the state federation to take action relating to jurisdictional disputes. This should not be construed as a judgment on the merits of the dispute," Trumka concluded.)

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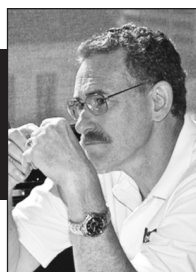
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Who's On Our Side?

By Tom Chamberlain



Oregonians in the 1st Congressional District (CD 1) have received their ballots in the Oregon special election, which the whole country is watching. This is the first congressional election of 2012, and the pundits have already claimed that the results will set the tone for the year.

I hope that they're correct. Here's why:

First, Oregonians vote in higher numbers than average. If we want a pro-worker Congress who will stand up to corporations and help us create more jobs, working people must vote. I know I can count on union members in CD 1 to vote. But it's up to all of us to talk to our friends and family in Northwest Oregon and make sure they turn their ballots in before Jan. 31.

Second, the two major-party candidates in our election give us a clear choice between an irresponsible business owner, and a consumer-advocate who has stood up for workers' rights and working people for her entire career.

There's still a lot of work to be done and ballots to be cast before we'll know the winner. But I hope that every election this year focuses on the important economic issues

that we've seen the candidates talk about in CD 1.

When you pay attention to those issues, there's a clear winner for union members in Oregon.

Suzanne Bonamici started her career standing up to predatory lenders' illegal practices — and she won. She first got involved in Oregon politics as a citizen activist, calling for better investment in our schools. And in her three terms in the Oregon Legislature she has been a tireless advocate for workers' rights, a strong education system for our kids, and for keeping in line the same predatory lenders and financial institutions who she took to court at the start of her career.

Most importantly, though, Suzanne is committed to a job creation plan that puts working people and small business owners first.

Rob Cornilles, her main opponent, says his primary qualification is his time as a business owner in Oregon. But if he plans to run Congress like he ran his business, we're all in for hard times. Rob claims he's created 60 jobs in Oregon.

That's true, in that he's employed a total of 60 people over 16 years. Currently, his company doesn't even own building space. And during

those 16 years Cornilles has had to pay a settlement to past trainees who claimed they'd been treated as employees, working hundreds of hours without ever being paid; he has had staff forget to pay the company's share of payroll taxes for employees; and he recently let his business registration lapse for over a year.

Let's prove the pundits right. This month, let's show the country that in Oregon we vote — all of us. And that in Oregon a commitment to middle class families and working people matters. Let's elect Suzanne Bonamici with an overwhelming victory, and tell the rest of the state — and the country — that in November it'll be their turn to send pro-worker representatives to Congress.

Suzanne Bonamici has been on our side her whole career. Let's send her to Washington, D.C., and see what it's like to have a strong congresswoman on our side.

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

New contract: Two-year pay freeze for 1,200 Portland Public Schools support staff

Support workers at Portland Public Schools (PPS) will get no wage increase or cost-of-living adjustment in a new two-year contract between the school district and Portland Federation of School Professionals (PFSP) Local 111. With the cost of living rising just over 2 percent a year, the 1,200 workers are likely to fall behind economically. They'll also have to pay more out of pocket for health insurance. The district agreed to increase its monthly health insurance contribution by \$50 in 2013, to \$1,026 a month. But costs for the district's self-insured health trust are expected to increase more than that amount — and that's *after* a reduction in benefits.

"Our members are just thankful to

have jobs," said PFSP President Belinda Reagan. "Our group has been so hard hit by layoffs."

PFSP numbered 1,400 several years ago, but 130 members were laid off in summer 2010, and 60 in summer 2011, in what Reagan, a former library assistant at Fernwood Middle School, described as an annual ordeal of "un-assignments."

"We're seeing clerical workers, some of whom have been with the district 25 years, laid off," Reagan said, "and that's very frightening for people."

The tentative agreement was announced Jan. 9, after nearly a year of bargaining. It covers the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. Members voted to approve the contract Jan. 11, and the school board will ratify it at a later date.

PPS Superintendent Carole Smith, in the district's press statement, said the contract is "grounded in the reality that we all must make sacrifices in order to maintain the maximum number of staff in our schools who support students."

PFSP — formerly known as Portland Federation of Teachers and Classified Employees, is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers. The union represents PPS workers in about

60 occupational classifications, the most numerous of which are paraeducators (450 employees) and school clerical staff. Paraeducators — special education teacher assistants — are paid \$14.04 to \$19.45 an hour.

The new contract is retroactive to July 1, 2011. The previous four-year agreement contained some cost-of-living increases and some step increases. Step increases — which reward workers for longevity as they move up a pay scale — used to be automatic, but now must be bargained for.

Still, Reagan said, district negotiator Brock Logan bargained fairly. Non-represented employees have had no raises either, including PPS Superintendent Smith, who has had no raise since she began in 2007, though she does make \$190,000 a year. Logan, a former negotiator for AFSCME Council 2 in Washington, went to work as PPS' director of labor relations in March 2010. Having little to offer in economic issues, the district agreed to some union proposals that don't have an economic impact, including rules that give workers more vacation time sooner than they do now.

Reagan said members are likely to demand pay increases in the next contract.

STAT OF THE WEEK

Since 2000, says a new GMI research group study, 21 U.S. CEOs have pocketed severance packages worth over \$100 million. The chief executives averaged only 13 years with the companies they exited.

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Union leaders, Gov. Kitzhaber, join president at White House 'Insourcing American Jobs' forum

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Steelworkers President Leo Gerard and Auto Workers President Bob King joined President Barack Obama at the White House Jan. 11 to call on companies across the nation to invest in America at an "Insourcing American Jobs" forum.

Gerard and King joined the vice president, members of the Cabinet and other senior administration officials, along with Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber and representatives from companies that have brought jobs back or decided to make significant investments in the United States.

The forum focused on the increasing trend of insourcing — where companies are bringing jobs back to the United States and making additional investments here in America.

In conjunction with the summit, Obama released a \$12 million proposal to expand current U.S. programs that lobby firms to invest and create jobs here.

Gerard spent his time at the summit reiterating points he has made before to Obama, about the need for investment in high-quality, high-paying factory jobs and in rebuilding the crumbling U.S. infrastructure.

The summit produced no specific ideas to encourage insourcing, but provided examples of firms returning jobs to the United States. They included stories from Ford, DuPont, Intel, Oregon's KEEN, Inc., and others.

"Ford's competitive labor agreement with its UAW partners is making it possible to build small cars profitably in the U.S., invest \$16 billion here at home, and add 12,000 jobs in U.S. plants by 2015," an Administration fact sheet on summit participants said.

"Ford is insourcing jobs from China, Japan and Mexico. Instead of adding production for the Fusion in Mexico, Ford is planning to bring that additional work to its Flat Rock plant in Michigan. This insourcing effort will ensure the viability of a key assembly plant in the

U.S. and add over 1,200 new jobs. Also, Ford has committed to in-source the production of F-650 and F-750 commercial trucks from a joint venture in Mexico to Ohio Assembly Plant in Avon Lake," the fact sheet added.

Portland-based KEEN has grown from its first trademark sandal with innovative toe protection, to more than 500 shoe styles, becoming a worldwide leader in the footwear and apparel industry. It operates nonunion.

The Administration released its own blueprint, to be included in its budget to be sent to Congress in a few weeks, for federal "lobbying" for businesses to invest and expand in the U.S. Obama said his budget plan also would include new investment tax incentives, but did not detail them. The centerpiece of the White House plan is expanding the SelectUSA program, which the Administration launched last year, by \$12 million and 35 more workers.

Obama called SelectUSA "the first

federal program to promote and facilitate U.S. investment in partnership with our states." The program will also work with states on more than 300 cases per year to overcome investment obstacles.

Obama also wants to increase current federal small business international trade loans to up to \$5 million per loan, with a 90 percent federal loan guarantee. The loans would go to small businesses trying to expand overseas, which face competition from subsidized foreign imports, or who are trying to insource jobs from abroad.

"To maintain our manufacturing base and to encourage even more production in Oregon, we need to have a long-term business plan, an educational system that provides students and workers with advanced skills, reliable and affordable energy, and an environment that encourages investment by lowering fixed costs such as health care," Gov. Kitzhaber said. "We are working on all these things, and following through on them will mean a sustained and robust advanced manufacturing sector in Oregon."

Bakers, Teamsters scramble to protect members in Hostess Foods bankruptcy

KENSINGTON, Md. (PAI) — The Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco and Grain Millers (BCTGM), the Teamsters, and other unions representing Hostess Foods employees scrambled to protect their members as the snack food company filed for bankruptcy Jan. 11 for the second time this century.

The 2012 filing, like that in 2004, could affect some 5,500 BCTGM members at Hostess plants nationwide, Union President Frank Hurt told Press Associates Inc. Teamsters represent 7,500 Hostess drivers and merchandisers, while several other unions have smaller contingents there. There are no Hostess plants in Oregon, and one in Seattle.

Regardless of the final details, Hurt predicted his members would be harmed by whatever the federal bankruptcy judge in New York City permits the firm's owners — mostly a group of venture capitalists — to do.

"Those with the gold make the rules," Hurt said. "And hourly workers are left holding the bag."

The big question, Hurt said, will be if the bankruptcy court gives the reorganizers of Hostess so much leeway in cutting workers' pay, pensions and benefits, and tearing up union contracts, that it doesn't make sense to continue the effort to save Hostess.

"I haven't heard from our attorneys to what extent the law will let them gut our contracts," he added. "I'm telling our members we want to keep the company in business."

Bakers Union attorneys appearing at a Jan. 11 hearing asked the court to order the company to tell them their bot-

tom line to stay in business. "Then let us decide whether we will work under those conditions or not," Hurt said.

Hostess, maker of Twinkies and Wonder Bread, first flagged the unions that it was headed for the financial rocks last summer. The company wanted to cut costs by proposing "a lousy-ass" health insurance plan for the workers, Hurt said.

The Teamsters said, and Hurt agreed, that workers' sacrifices helped Hostess emerge in 2009 from its first bankruptcy.

In a formal statement, Hurt said Hostess' financial problems — which have prompted the company to stop its payment into the labor-management run Taft-Hartley multi-employer pension plan covering the industry — were the result of mismanagement. Hostess claims its pension obligation of \$1 billion is too much.

"I find it deeply offensive and highly disingenuous for the company to claim its financial woes are the result of its union contracts and pension and health benefits obligations," Hurt said. "We contend the company is in dire financial shape because of a string of failed business decisions made by a series of ineffective executives who have been running this company for the past decade."

"BCTGM has contracts with dozens of baking companies across the country, including Bimbo Bakeries USA, the nation's largest and most successful. The vast majority of those companies are doing just fine because they have experienced baking industry professionals managing them," he

added.

Hurt said Hostess has been a longstanding participant in the Taft-Hartley pension fund. He said the \$1 billion number cited by management is Hostess' "withdrawal liability" — the cumulative amount it would have to pay if it dropped out of the plan.

The union pointed out that contributions Hostess paid into the fund were negotiated through the collective bargaining process and are part of an overall economic compensation package. "Pension benefits that retirees receive each month are paid by the fund and not the individual companies," Hurt noted.

Both the Bakers and Teamsters hope Hostess gets back on its feet and members retain their jobs. Both unions said they will fight for that while working with other stakeholders to restructure the firm.

Dennis Raymond, director of the Teamsters Bakery Conference, said management must sacrifice, too. "Our members have already given at the well, and this time it will take sacrifices among all parties — management, lenders, equity holders and employees — to restructure Hostess into a viable enterprise well-positioned for future growth," he said.

Noting the venture capital firms that control Hostess are in it to make money for themselves, Hurt said their interests "are driving" the bankruptcy filing "and that doesn't bode well for us."

Hurt concluded: "It's criminal what happens to workers in this country" in corporate bankruptcies.

Why it's Bonamici for me

By former
Congressman Les AuCoin

As I watch the special election in Oregon's 1st Congressional District — a seat I captured for Democrats 38 years ago for the first time in history — I think of advice the iconic Senator Wayne Morse gave me in my first campaign in 1974. In the darkness of his car at the end of a long day of campaigning, the old warhorse tapped me on the knee and said:

"Young man, always remember who you are and what you're willing to lose an election for! The one who cannot will do anything to win. And that's a dangerous man — because he will always put politics above principle and self above country."

Morse's standard distinguishes the Democrat in this race, Suzanne Bonamici, from her contortionist Republican challenger, Rob Cornilles. Bonamici is an unapologetic Democrat who will put government back on our side — to create "trickle up" policies, to protect the environment, to safeguard Medicare, to stop wars of choice rather than necessity, and to make the very rich pay a fair share of taxes to help reduce the deficit.

Her weather vane Republican challenger is posing as a moderate because he knows it's the only way he can win against Suzanne, a former Federal Trade Commission lawyer and state legislative star. So he talks about a flat tax, while in truth, he supported the Bush tax cuts that added \$2.5 trillion to the deficit to benefit the 1 percent.

Cornilles just told the Portland City Club that he'd be an independent moderate. But less than two years ago, he called himself "the original Tea Party candidate." And two years ago last Sep-

tember he was warmly received as a pep talk speaker at a Portland Tea Party rally.

The differences go on — Bonamici protected consumers as a lawyer with the Federal Trade Commission. Cornilles exploited his workers by failing to pay his share of their payroll tax — for which the government slapped him with a \$83,000 federal lien. Bonamici will protect Social Security and Medicare; Cornilles told the Daily Astorian (January 2010) that he would cut those programs before he'd cut the Pentagon budget.

The 1st District's Jan. 31 balloting will be the nation's only federal election on that day.

Trust me, a Cornilles win will be seen as a mandate for House Speaker John Boehner and his Tea Party obstructionists to step up their war against our values.

But a Bonamici victory will be an unmistakable call to end the rise of Republican Ayatollahs and Wall Street flimflam artists who almost destroyed the U.S. banking system and created our current economic mess.

I urge you to vote for Suzanne Bonamici, the only candidate in this race who puts "principle above politics."

[NOTE: 14 months ago, my wife and I moved to Montana to spend our remaining good years close to our granddaughters. But having started the Democrats' 38-year hold on Oregon's 1st District, I am compelled to comment on this race.]

(Editor's Note: Les AuCoin was the labor-endorsed congressman in the 1st District from 1975 to 1993. In 1992 he ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate against Bob Packwood. Today he is a full-time author, writer, lecturer and blogger.)

OPEN FORUM

Resolution prioritizes living wage, local jobs in contracts

The Clackamas County board of commissioners unanimously passed a resolution Jan. 12 pledging to prioritize the use of local source hiring of workers, materials, and expertise that provide family wage jobs whenever it puts out for bid public construction projects and/or personal and professional service contracts.

The resolution, submitted by County Chair Charlotte Lehan, says the county “will place as a priority the selection of projects that result in jobs that pay living wages to skilled and educated workers with high productivity, provide health care benefits, encourage the longevity of workers in their positions, promote safety, advance the certifications of workers, and provide the opportunity for a pension.”

The resolution further states that “using local sources for workers, materials, and expertise is recognized as the method producing the most immediate economic benefit to the workers and businesses of Clackamas County”



Clackamas County Chair Charlotte Lehan (center) signs a resolution that calls on the county to prioritize local source hiring and family wage jobs when letting contracts. With her at the Jan. 12 signing ceremony at Machinists District W 24 in Gladstone are Commissioners Jim Bernard (left), Jamie Damon, and local union officials.

and that commissioners will “observe at all times the requirements for bidding on public improvement contracts and the prevailing wage law that provides a living wage for workers” as set out in state regulations.

A few hours after the 5-0 vote, a signing ceremony was held at the Machinists District W 24 hall in Gladstone with labor officials from construction unions, Machinists and Woodworkers locals, Teamsters, AFSCME and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, Lehan and Clackamas County Commissioners Jim Bernard and Jamie Damon.

“Local hire is the most important part of this resolution,” Bernard said. “We want local businesses to get the business.”

“This proclamation solidifies our commitment to living wage jobs,” Damon added.

Lehan said the unanimous vote “makes this proclamation a much more powerful statement.”

Troutdale City Council gets earful from IBEW Local 48 members

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48 and allies in East Multnomah County protested before the Troutdale City Council Jan. 10 the awarding of a contract to an out-of-state, nonunion electrical contractor on a new police station currently under construction.

Local 48 and its training center are located a few miles west of Troutdale and many of the union’s members live

in Troutdale. Last year voters approved a \$7.5 million bond to build the police station. Local 48 endorsed the bond measure and most of its members living in Troutdale voted for it.

P & C Construction was awarded the general contract, and it in turn awarded the electrical portion of the job to nonunion Prairie Electric of Vancouver, Washington.

Local 48 Business Manager Clif

Davis told the Labor Press that Prairie Electric was up against three nonunion and one union contractor for the job. Davis said the initial union bid by Heil Electric wasn’t the lowest, but it was \$20,000 lower than Prairie’s bid.

“The construction manager cited ‘non-responsive bidder’ issues as the reason for the decision, but has failed to show us the basis for this claim,” Davis said. “They will be profiting from a project paid for in part by our members due to the fact that the construction manager chose to exclude the union bid for reasons that have not been explained.”

Davis told city councilors the decision to use an out of state contractor could cost the city millions in lost revenue. “Governments always talk about the ripple effect of public works projects where a million dollars turns into as much as four million dollars to the local community due to wages, taxes and other spending related to the jobs created. So Troutdale is choosing to send millions across the river.”

Additionally, several members of Local 48 who live in Troutdale pointed out to city councilors the donated work, supplies, and money they and their union have contributed to the community. Those donations include, in part, the installation of electrical services, outlets and modifications of the street lamps that are along the Historic Columbia River Highway in downtown Troutdale, and a scoreboard for the local high school.

“This was at zero cost to the City of Troutdale. The City requested this of us and we willingly donated it to them,” Davis told the Labor Press. “Yet the project was awarded to a company with

absolutely no community ties or any history of community involvement.”

Troutdale Mayor Jim Kight directed the city staff to prepare a response to

the issues brought up by the electricians. “We will take your comments to heart and see what we can do for the future,” he said.

...Shropshire takes helm at #290

(From Page 3)

Waits representing Plumbers; Randal Nelson Jr. and Ramon Ramon outpolled three other candidates to represent Pipefitters; and Eric Fanning and Erv Garrison topped two other candidates to represent ACR.

Local 290 represents 4,200 members working in all branches of the piping industry in construction, industrial, and at shipyards in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and four counties in Northern California.

Shropshire, 58, is a 37-year member of the union. He started his career as a pipefitter in 1973 working in ship repair at the Portland shipyards. In 1979 he passed the pipefitters exam for building trades construction and subsequently worked on commercial and industrial jobs.

Shropshire comes from a pipe trades family. His grandfather, father, brother, wife, and two sons are all union pipefitters — the latter three are members of Local 290.

Shropshire was hired as a business agent for the union in 1993 by the late



AL SHROPSHIRE

business manager Matt Walters. In more than 15 years in that job he covered pipeline and gas distribution; members in east Portland through the Columbia Gorge to Morrow County and Southwest Washington; and for a short time the Portland shipyard.

He has served on Local 290’s joint apprenticeship training committee and he’s been a journeyman instructor at the training center.

“My favorite part of working as a business agent was enforcing our master labor agreement, fighting for our jurisdiction, and most of all standing up for members on the job,” he said.

In 2008, Shropshire ran unsuccessfully for business manager. He returned to work in the field in early 2009, and retired in November that same year. He was drawing a pension check when he decided to run again for the union’s top post.

Shropshire and all other officers were installed Jan. 20. All terms are for three years.

Local Motion

December 2011

A list of Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces deciding whether to be union-represented – as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Voting in union elections

Date	Workplace (Location)	Union	Yes	No	
12/2	Parry Center for Children (Portland)	SEIU Local 503	56	40	👍
12/20	Pacific Coast Camera and Crewing (Boring)	IATSE	51	9	👍
12/28	Comcast SportsNet Northwest (Portland)	IATSE	11	15	👎

Unionizing by majority sign-up

Date	Workplace (Location)	Union	Number of workers in unit
12/21	Metro seasonal parks and environmental workers (Portland)	Laborers Local 483	5

Requesting a union election

Workplace (Location)	Union	Number of workers in unit
Ochoco Manufacturing water truck maker (Prineville)	Iron Workers Local 516	5

LEGEND

- 👍 workers will be union-represented
- 👎 workers will be on their own
- DECERT** A decertification election occurs when some union-represented workers declare that the union no longer has majority support. A ‘yes’ vote is a vote for the union.