

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

IN THIS ISSUE

LABOR'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY Executive Director Vickie Burns retires | Page 2

SEA OF RED Corporate conservatives plot their course in many of the nation's state capitals. | Page 5

ObamaCare defense rally p. 3 **Meeting Notices** p. 4

VOLUME 118, NUMBER 2

PORTLAND, OREGON

JANUARY 20, 2017

Staples boycott ends with union win

Postal unions declared victory this month when the United States Post Office notified the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) that the "Approved Shipper" program at roughly 500 Staples stores will be shut down by the end of February 2017. Late in 2013, USPS set up post offices staffed by Staples employees in 82 Staples stores — a move postal unions called a first step in privatizing the Post Office.

APWU launched a Stop Staples campaign, staging protests at Staples stores throughout the country. The demonstrations were followed by a national Staples boycott. That pressure resulted in USPS ending the mini post office idea, but it didn't stop it from expanding postal services with Staples through the already existing "Approved Shipper" program.

The union filed unfair labor practice complaints with the National Labor Relations



Postal workers and supporters demonstrate against postal privatization at a Staples store in Northeast Portland June 20, 2014.

Board (NLRB) arguing USPS was improperly subcontracting bargaining unit work to Staples. The NLRB agreed, and on

Jan. 4 it ordered the Postal Service to discontinue its retail relationship with Staples.

Photo by Jamie Partridge

Instafab hires union-buster Bob Tiernan

Vancouver steel fabricator Instafab, the target of a 23-month strike by ironworkers, is now paying the former head of the Oregon Republican Party for labor relations advice. The adviser is attorney Bob Tiernan, a former GOP legislator from Lake Oswego who now represents companies in labor disputes.



Bob Tiernan

Tiernan is a familiar name to many union members. As a legislator, he worked to cut public employee retirement benefits in the 1990s, and he was chief petitioner on a 1994 ballot measure that would have diverted 6 percent of public employee salaries to the pension system. (It passed narrowly but was struck down in court.) He chaired the Oregon Republican Party from 2009 to 2011.

In 2011, he was hired by Dosh, a chain of Aveda-branded salons, after workers voted to unionize. Tiernan told workers the company would act as if the union wasn't there, and 16 months later, the union was no more: Communications Workers of America Local 7901, unable to get a first union contract, walked away.

Federally-required disclosures also show that Tiernan was paid \$65,000 for advising a successful 2011 effort to decertify United Food and Commercial Workers Local 5 at Berkeley Bowl, a natural foods market in Berkeley, California. And UFCW Local 8 blames Tiernan for a 10-day strike in 2012 at Raley's, a West Sacramento grocery chain.

Instafab is a nonunion steel fabrication and erection company. A handful of workers there walked out Feb. 27, 2015, and were later joined by others. Strikers learned of the Tiernan hire in a Dec. 23 text message

from company owner Bruce Perkins in which he says the company won't be attempting any further negotiations with the strikers:

"Your group has never shown any real interest in settling anything," Perkins wrote. "What you seem to value is conflict, misinformation and negativity. We have come to realize that any harm you and your 'backers' can do to Instafab has, for the most part, already been done. We know we can withstand whatever you send our way. Our workforce is unified, and we intend to keep it that way. Our customers and suppliers have grown numb to your attacks and threats ... We are looking forward to a busy, prosperous and profitable 2017, and we wish you the same. If you have any questions, feel free to email myself or my General Counsel, Bob Tiernan ... with questions. Happy Holidays!"

— Don McIntosh

THE OBAMA YEARS

Obama ignored labor on trade and healthcare, and pro-worker reforms came mostly too late

By Don McIntosh

As Donald Trump takes office, some union true believers may be tempted to look back with rose-colored glasses on the Obama years. Unfortunately, the real record of his administration shows that Barack Obama was no great friend to labor.

American unions lost half a million members while Obama occupied the White House, even as America's workforce grew by more than 9 million workers.

At a rally in 2007, Obama said if American workers were being denied their right to organize and collectively bargain, as president he'd put on comfortable shoes and walk the picket line with them. That never happened. Obama did and said nothing when Wisconsin stripped 175,000 public employees of collective bargaining

rights, when Michigan and three other states passed anti-union right-to-work laws, or when 30,000 teachers went on strike — against Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel, Obama's former chief of staff.

Obama fought tooth and nail for his NAFTA-style Trans-Pacific trade pact (it failed), but kept his powder dry when it came to raising the federal minimum wage, still at \$7.25 after eight years of his presidency. He never lifted a finger to help with labor's top priority, the game-changing labor legislation known as the Employee Free Choice Act, which would have made it easier for workers to unionize and get a first contract. In fact, Obama aides told labor to cool its heels on the bill until after Congress passed health care legislation. By the time that was done, Democrats had lost their filibuster-proof Senate supermajority.

Turn to Page 8

Anti-union 'right-to-work' laws spreading quickly

Less than a week after Republicans took control of the Kentucky state House, Senate, and governor's office, Kentucky became the nation's 27th right-to-work state. Missouri is up next: right-to-work legislation is expected to pass there within weeks. Right-to-work also has a chance in New Hampshire this year.

Right-to-work is the rather misleading term for a law that prohibits any union contract that requires union-represented workers to pay union dues or fees. It's intended to keep unions weak and poorly funded.

And it's on the march. Michigan and Indiana went right-to-work in 2012, followed by Wisconsin in 2015 and West Virginia in 2016.

That's not all: On Nov. 18, 2016, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling that

could allow county governments in Ohio to pass local right-to-work ordinances. And several dozen test cases are now in federal courts that challenge the Supreme Court's 1977 *Abood* ruling, which allows public employee union contracts to require represented workers to pay, if not union dues, then at least their "fair share" of the costs of representation. If and when a Trump nominee makes it to the U.S. Supreme Court, the court would likely have a 5-4 majority to overturn *Abood*, making America right-to-work nationwide for all public employees.

UNDERSTANDING RIGHT TO WORK

In coming issues of the Northwest Labor Press, we'll take a look at what it means when right-to-work takes effect — and how that changes unions.

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)
 Established in 1900 in Portland, Oregon as a voice of the labor movement. Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co. Inc., a non-profit mutual benefit corporation owned by 20 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 120 union organizations in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Office location:
 4275 NE Halsey St., Portland, Oregon

Mailing address:
 P.O. Box 13150, Portland, OR 97213

Phone: (503) 288-3311

Web address:
<http://nwlaborpress.org>

Editor & Manager: Michael Gutwig
Associate editor: Don McIntosh
Office manager: Cheri Rice

Printed on recycled paper, using soy-based inks, by members of Teamsters Local 747-M.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Individual subscriptions are \$14 a year for union members, \$22 a year for all others. Pay by credit card online at nwlaborpress.org/subscribe, or send a check to our mailing address (above) along with your name, address and union affiliation, if any. **Group rates of \$10.08 a year per person** are available for 25 or more subscriptions; call 503-288-3311 for details.

CORRECTIONS: See an error? Please let us know at editor@nwlaborpress.org or by phone at 503-288-3311.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT PORTLAND, OREGON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you move, let us know at nwlaborpress.org/subscriber-services or by mail at our mailing address (above). Be sure to provide your old and new addresses and the name/number of your local union. Please allow three weeks for the change to take effect.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS P.O. BOX 13150 PORTLAND, OR 97213-0150



Burns retires from Labor's Community Service Agency

Vickie Burns has retired as executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA). Burns has served in the post since May 2010. Prior to that she was the agency's office manager. Her last day in the office was Jan. 20.

LCSA is a non-profit organization that operates under the auspices of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and a 16-person board of directors. The agency works with an array of community-based and governmental organizations throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington to provide education, information, social service programs, and referral services. More than half of the agency's funding comes from United Way of the Columbia-Willamette. Other funding is through state and federal dislocated worker contracts, and from donations from unions and others.

Burns, 62, is the fourth person — and first woman — to serve as director since the agency was founded July 5, 1974.

Under Burns' leadership, LCSA extensively promoted United Way's annual fundraising campaign. She served for many years on United Way's Cam-



Vickie Burns

paign Cabinet.

As executive director, Burns also served as labor's voice on workforce investment boards and dislocated worker programs for several regions. She was the "go to" person for statewide rapid response teams called to assist laid off workers transition into new jobs.

Under her tenure, Burns revamped LCSA's Helping Hands temporary hardship assistance program to make it easier for union officials to refer members in need; she launched the Team Labor! program to help union members and labor advocates

volunteer for neighborhood and public service projects throughout the Portland metropolitan area. Unionists have helped repair homes, knit items for newborn babies, and more; and she grew the annual Presents from Partners toy drive and distribution program.

"We have buy in," Burns said. "We have a huge volunteer base from labor. It's not just 'what can LCSA do for me and my members' — unions and their members are a part of it. They've embraced it, made it their own. To remain successful, that's what it will continue to take."

There is no better example than the Presents from Partners toy drive. The annual event makes sure no child in need goes without gifts during the holidays. The program has grown by 20 percent or more each year since Burns took over the agency. In December it impacted 500 families, with 120 volunteers from union ranks helping out.

An Oregon native, Burns grew up in a union family. Her father was a member of Teamsters Local 162 at Cascade Construction and her mother was a member of Bakers Local 114 at Sunshine Bakery. After graduat-

ing from Jackson High School she earned associate degrees in technical/professional writing and computers and office management from Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) and Portland Community College.

She held several office jobs before leaving the workforce to raise her three children. A divorce forced her back into the workforce.

She was working as an administrative aide at MHCC's Dislocated Workers Project in 1993 when newly-hired LCSA Executive Director Glenn Shuck recruited her to be his office manager. In that job she became a member of Office and Professional Employees Local 11.

Burns said the job opportunity couldn't have come at a better time. Her 10 year old son had recently been diagnosed with Type I diabetes. The LCSA job was part-time, which allowed her to spend more time with her children. It also paid more than MHCC and provided much better health insurance.

"I felt like I hit the lottery," she said. "Right then and there, I was a labor person for life."

Turn to Page 5

PLEASE SHOW OUR ADVERTISERS YOU APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THIS LABOR MOVEMENT NEWSPAPER!

Your Oregon & Washington Union Mail House.

MORE LINK
 Print anything, mail anywhere.
 Formerly Witham and Dickey

Proud Mailers of the Northwest Labor Press

www.morelink.biz | 503-736-0111 ext. 140

Low Prices!

WHITE & WESCO
 "Always the best Quality"
10" SMOKE JUMPER
16" LINEMAN
 HUGE SELECTION WATERPROOF BOOTS
 SIZES IN NARROW, MEDIUM & WIDE
AI'S SHOES
5811 S.E. 82ND • 771-2130
 Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9:30-5:30, Sun 12-6

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family



Are you in need of a 4 wheel drive vehicle? Let us help...apply for an auto loan today!

◆ **Low Rates**

◆ **Flexible terms**

◆ **Call 503-253-8193**

ext. 340 or apply

online at

www.ibewuwfcu.co



9955 SE Washington Street * Portland, OR

97216

(503) 253-8193 * (800) 356-6507

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family



DON'T END OBAMACARE. IMPROVE IT. A Portland gym overflowed in one of a series of rallies Jan. 15 called by Bernie Sanders and Democrats in Congress to defend Obamacare. When every space was taken at the SEI gym, hundreds more rallied outside in the snow-filled street. They heard from U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley (front left) and Ron Wyden as well as U.S. Reps. Earl Blumenauer, Kurt Schrader and Suzanne Bonamici. Blumenauer's call for Oregon to look at a single payer system got by far the loudest applause. Union nurses lined the stage's back row, including, from left: Elizabeth McPhee and Teri Mills of the Oregon Nurses Association; Adrienne Enghouse of Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals; and Travis Elmore of Washington State Nurses Association.



Maurice "Mo" Starks

Tragedy strikes Cement Masons Local 555 ... again

More tragedy has struck the small Cement Masons union in Portland. On Dec. 27, Local 555 member Maurice "Mo" Starks was killed in a roll-over car crash on I-405 in Portland. Starks, 30, was pronounced dead at the scene and his girlfriend, Krystle Lenae Webster, 26, was hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries.

A week earlier — on Dec. 21 — longtime Local 555 member Chris Brown lost his wife and home to a fire. Gayle Brown was a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555. Chris Brown received burns on his hands and arms, and broken bones in his foot. He has been off work since the mishap.

According to news reports on the car accident, Starks was exiting the Fremont Bridge on the Kerby Avenue off-ramp when he failed to negotiate a curve, struck a barrier and went over it before

crashing into another one.

Police said speed may have been a factor in the crash.

Starks came to Portland from Tennessee. He joined Local 555 as an apprentice, and turned out as a journeyman cement mason in August 2015.

Geoff Kossak, a business agent at Local 555, told KOIN 6 News that Starks "worked very hard at it (training) and he was very appreciative of the instruction he got. He was cared about very much and he was just a kid."

Starks leaves behind a young son and a daughter.

"It's just a sad day, a real shock," Kossak said. "I received a phone call from his brother-in-law in Tennessee. It just left me devastated."

A GoFundMe page raised \$4,250 to help pay for funeral expenses, and to transport Stark's body back to Tennessee.

Portland Bakery Union member Shad Clark made international VP for Western Region

Shad Clark, a member of Portland-based Bakers Local 114, has been elected international vice president for the Western Region of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM). He succeeds Randy Roark, who retired Dec. 31, 2016.

Clark, 46, was elected by the BCTGM General Executive Board to complete the unexpired term of Roark, which runs through December 2018.

As international vice president, Clark's primary duty will be assisting Western Region locals in organizing and contract bargaining campaigns. With the title, Clark also will have a seat on the BCTGM General Executive Board, and he will be a union trustee on health and welfare plans and pension funds.

The Western Region covers locals in Oregon, Washington, California, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Arizona.



Shad Clark

It's a diverse membership, ranging from big industrial bakeries to Boise sugar beet factory workers to Bay Area employees of Ghirardelli, See's Candy, and American Licorice (makers of Red Vines).

Clark has worked as an international representative for the Western Region since June 2015. Prior to that he was a business agent at Local 114.

Clark was born in Honolulu, but grew up in Portland, where he has a long history as a union worker and activist. His mother

was a member of the Oregon Nurses Association. According to Clark, growing up he often helped her at the office stuffing envelopes and other union tasks. And the BCTGM has been a part of his life for many years prior to his joining the union. His father, Pat Clark, served as secretary-treasurer of Local 364 in Portland. In his youth, Clark spent time as a member of the Machinists Union working summer jobs at the Portland shipyard.

Clark earned a bachelors degree in human resources at Winthrop University under a soccer scholarship. He later worked at Franz Bakery in Portland, where he became a member of Local 114. He has served the local as president, recording secretary, and on the Executive Board.

"It's an honor to take over the legacy of Randy Roark, who has been on staff for 35 years," Clark said.

Building Trades Council joins group challenging Portland's ban on new fossil fuel terminals

The Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council has joined a coalition challenging a new City of Portland ordinance that restricts the development and expansion of bulk fossil fuel terminals.

The yet-to-be-named coalition includes the Portland Business Alliance and a wide range of businesses along the Portland Harbor that are part of another group, the Working Waterfront Coalition.

The ordinance, sponsored by out-going mayor Charlie Hales, changes zoning codes in order

to halt the construction of new large fossil fuel terminals — and the expansion of existing facilities — within city limits.

The ordinance passed City Council Dec. 14 by a unanimous vote.

Willy Myers, executive secretary of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council and spokesman for the coalition, said the new zoning ordinance was done in violation of Oregon's land-use laws.

"It's not only bad policy for the citizens of Portland, but also to the entire state, since 90 per-

cent of all the basic fuels we consume pass through the City," Myers said in a press statement.

Myers said that disallowing new fossil fuel infrastructure within the City of Portland "could create an energy bottleneck in meeting the needs of businesses and households across the state and lead to increased costs if supply is constrained, which could hamper economic growth."

The coalition is preparing to file a petition for review with the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA).

Washington state lawmakers introduce bills to guarantee paid family and medical leave

Bills have been introduced in the Washington state House and Senate to give new parents and those who are sick or caring for a loved one paid time off from work. A coalition of legislators, business owners, parents and advocates announced the proposal to bring paid family and medical leave to the state in Olympia on Jan. 10.

State Rep. June Robinson of Everett, sponsor of House Bill

1116, says paid leave has advantages, both for employers and employees.

If the bill passes, employees would have 26 weeks of paid leave to care for a newborn or newly-adopted baby or an ill family member, starting in 2019. In 2020, employees could take up to 12 weeks of paid medical leave to tend to their own health conditions. The program would be funded through

a payroll deduction, costing employers and workers about \$2 a week.

State Sen. Karen Keiser is supporting the companion bill, Senate Bill 5032.

Three states currently have paid family and medical leave laws on the books: California, New Jersey and Rhode Island. New York will join them in 2018.

UNION MEETING NOTICES

AFSCME 88

General membership and stewards meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15. Meeting agendas may be viewed on the AFSCME Local 88 webpage on the Monday prior to the Wednesday meeting.
Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1. Any member in good standing may attend as a non-voting visitor.
Meetings are held at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

AFSCME 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.

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

Executive Board meets 8 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 7931 NE Halsey, Portland. PLEASE NOTE: An Executive Board position will be filled at this meeting.

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.

Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12067 NE Glenn Widing Dr. #108, 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 11105 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 Best Western Plus, Mill Creek Inn, 3125 Ryan Drive SE, Salem.

IBEW 48

RENEW meets 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month in the Executive Boardroom.
Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month in the Executive Boardroom.
Coast Unit meets 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St.
Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Hall.
Sister's in the Brotherhood meets 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Hall. You are welcome to attend the EWMC meeting beforehand.
Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the Dispatch Lobby.
Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month in the Meeting Hall.
Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles.
Washington Unit meet 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at the Longview Meeting Hall, 1145 Commerce Ave, Longview, WA.
Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Hall.
General Membership Meeting meets 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month in Local 48's Portland Meeting Hall and at the Local 48 Longview Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Meetings are at 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland, unless otherwise noted
DEATH ASSESSMENTS: No. 2510, Ned L. Hafer; No. 2511, John L. Fatherree; No. 2512, Herman F. Graves; No. 2513, Larry L. Holthusen; No. 2514, Mickey C. Richmire; No. 2515, Cecil R. Beyers; No. 2516, James E. Yakkal; No. 2517, Christopher C. Kraemer; and No. 2518, Gordon Fitzsimmons. The Jan. 2017 assessment is \$1.50.

IBEW 280

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.
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. Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 33309 Hwy 99#, Tangent.

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

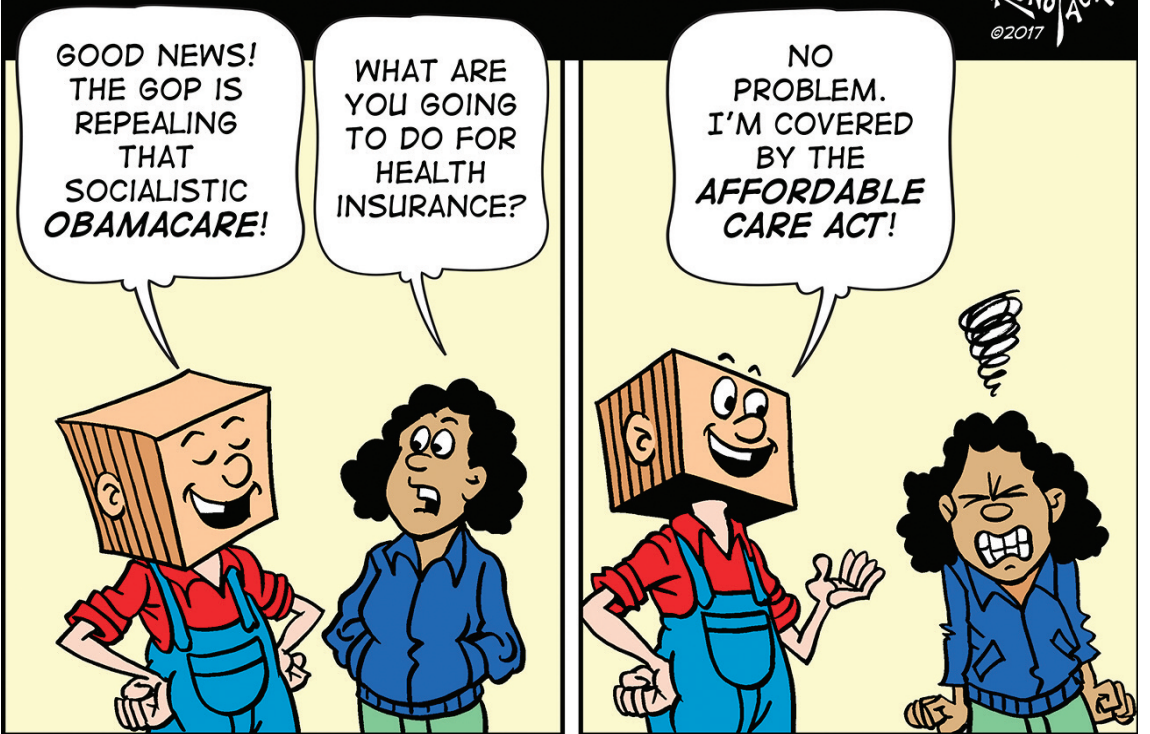
Members meet 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 2, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #200, Portland.

Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.

Mr. Block by Ernest Riebe IWW

HUCK/KONOPACKI LABOR CARTOONS
HUCKKONOPACKICARTOONS.COM - FEB
KONOPACKI
©2017



Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9.
Meetings are at 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle #200, 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.

Laborers 483 Municipal Employees

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

Linoleum Layers 1236

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.
Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6.
Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23.
Meetings are at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Machinists 1005

Executive Board meets Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 4:30 p.m.
Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop steward training class. Shop stewards must attend training class and regular meeting to be compensated. All meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

Machinists 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8.
Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.
Meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

Machinists 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 6.
Regular membership meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8.
Meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

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.

Operating Engineers 701

District 4 members meet 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Oxford Suites, 1050 N. First St., Hermiston.
District 4 members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at Cousin's Restaurant, 2114 W. 6th St., The Dalles.
District 1 & 5 members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at 555 E. First St., Gladstone.
District 1 members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, at the Red Lion, 510 Kelso Dr., Kelso.
District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at North Bend/Coos Bay Labor Center, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.
District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb.

8, at the Courtyard Marriott, 600 Airport Rd., Medford.

District 2 members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Comfort Suites, 969 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: www.iupatlocal10.org

Election of District Council 5 Delegate:

Salem: 6 p.m. Feb. 2, at Best Western - Hood Room; 3125 Ryan Dr SE; Salem.

Portland: 6 p.m. Feb. 15, at Local 10; 11105 NE Sandy Blvd.; Portland.

Eugene: 6 p.m. Feb. 9, at Plumbers & Pipefitters 290 Training Center; 2861 Pierce Parkway; Springfield. PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED DATE.

Sign Painters & Paint Makers 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Plasterers 82

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

Plumbers and Fitters 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin. The following locations will be able to participate remotely in the Regular Business Meeting at 7:30 on the 3rd Friday of every month: Bend, Eugene/Springfield, Eureka, Medford, and Salem.
Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.
Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24. Please contact agent Craig Spjut at 707-496-1767 for location confirmation.
Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse.
Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 4816 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls.
The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall.

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)

Sheet Metal Workers 16

Women of Sheet Metal meet 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at Beulahland, 118 NE 28th Ave., Portland. Children are welcome.
Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS: There will be nominations for Worden and approval of additional union policies at the Feb. 14, 2017 Portland meeting.
Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb.

8. Please call Dennis Dover for location - 541-517-9644.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 1887 Laura St., Springfield. PLEASE NOTE: Meeting to be broadcast with the Portland meeting.

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

CENTRAL LABOR CHAPTERS

Central Oregon

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, at the Social Justice Center, 155 NE Irving, Bend.

Lane County

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

Linn-Benton-Lincoln

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

Marion-Polk-Yamhill

Executive Board meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, followed by a 6 p.m. general meeting at 4735 Liberty Road, S., Salem.

Southern Oregon

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

LABOR COUNCILS

Northwest Oregon

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

Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the Laborers Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCILS

Columbia-Pacific

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vancouver.
Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

Lane, Coos, Curry & Douglas

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

Salem

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

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.

RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

AFSCME

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

Electrical Workers 280

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

Elevator Constructors 23

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at Home Town Buffet, 10542 SE Washington St., Portland.

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.

Machinists

Retired Machinists meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

Plumbers and Fitters 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin. The topic is "The Nature of Addiction."

Corporate interests plot course on the rising 'sea of red' in state capitals

Meeting in private, ALEC activists look to growing Republican dominance in state government to unleash a wave of laws to cut business taxes, restrict unions and expand school privatization.

By Robert Faturechi
ProPublica

Shortly after the November election, with the nation's political attention focused on the Trump transition, an influential advocacy group met outside Washington to discuss how to leverage the extraordinary shift of power to Republicans in the rest of the country.

The American Legislative Exchange Council — a nonprofit better known as ALEC — briefed its members and allied groups on the bright future for its agenda now that Republicans will effectively control 68 of the nation's 99 state legislative bodies, as well as 33 governor's mansions. Among other things, group members said they would push bills to reduce corporate taxes, weaken unions, privatize schooling and influence the ideological debate on college campuses.

"We can pretty much do whatever we want to right now," said Rep. Jim DeCesare, a Republican state legislator in Kentucky, where the party gained the state House for the first time in nearly a century.

DeCesare, who had been minority whip, described plans for "a pretty intense agenda" including a so-called right-to-work law allow-

ing employees who are covered by collective bargaining agreements to opt out of joining labor unions. [It was signed into law Jan. 7.] Another, he said, would be repealing rules that require government contractors to pay employees more than the minimum wage. Neighboring states competing for new businesses, he said, had already gutted such regulations.

"We've got some catching up to do, but we plan to make up a lot of ground in a very short time," DeCesare said. "This is our time to shine."

Another ALEC official, Michael Bowman, told the group that outside advocates, not lawmakers, held the key to success. "Legislators are not the trailblazers of developing policies," Bowman said. "They're actually the retail consumers."

ALEC, founded in 1973, acts as a clearinghouse for business-friendly model bills. Among its major donors are the billionaires Charles and David Koch. Members include corporations and their lobbyists, along with hundreds of legislators who work together to craft "free-market" legislation offered in many states at once. The group has successfully advanced bills imposing voter ID rules and loosening labor and environmental regulations.

Because the group generally al-

lies with Republicans, November's results provide the best chance yet to turn its ideas into law. In Iowa, for example, the party regained dominance in the state Senate, winning a trifecta of both chambers and the governorship for the first time in almost two decades. Republicans expanded their lead in the Pennsylvania Senate to a two-thirds majority, large enough to threaten to override vetoes by Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat. Even in North Carolina, where Democrat Roy Cooper eked out a win for governor, Republicans retained their veto-proof majorities in the legislature,

where lawmakers have pushed through a series of controversial laws, including one that rolled back protections for transgender people using public bathrooms. The number of states where Republicans control both the legislature and the governor's office will rise from 23 to 25. The total number of Republican legislators nationwide also has grown.

The post-election lunch meeting, held Nov. 17 at the organization's Arlington, Virginia, headquarters, included members of ALEC and other conservative groups, with some calling into a private conference line. Ashley Varner, a strategic communications director at ALEC, opened the session by pointing out

that with the power shift in Washington, opportunities at the state level were flying under the radar. "There's a sea of red," Varner said, adding that hundreds of incumbents from both parties had been ousted. "What are we going to do with these new legislatures?"

Inez Feltscher, director of ALEC's education task force, outlined plans to advocate for legislation giving money to parents who take their children out of public schools — stipends they could use for private schooling or other educational expenses. Critics of these "education savings accounts" say they're a drain on public-school funding, while proponents argue they give parents a chance to pick the best situation for their kids.

Feltscher acknowledged another motivation: "To break the monopoly on one of the most important institutions in America." Conservatives have long been at odds with teachers unions over the structure and curriculum of public schools.

Another ALEC target, Feltscher said, would be the state of "free debate on American universities," which conservatives say are largely dominated by left-leaning faculty, courses and speakers. She said lawmakers could use a range of tactics to press administrators to include multiple ideologies during on-campus public policy talks, such as demanding an annual count of campus events that included more than one perspective. Simply requiring measurement and public reporting would apply pressure, she said, but legislators could also take it to "the nuclear level" and threaten to pull funding from schools that are perceived to be limiting discourse.

"There's going to be a lot more aggression on this," Feltscher said.

ALEC executives also forecasted tax cuts and other conservative fiscal reforms in New Hampshire, Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Virginia.

Jonathan Williams, vice president of ALEC's Center for State Fiscal Reform, reminded the group that one of the only Republican majorities lost in November came in

Nevada, where taxes had been raised. Williams acknowledged the presidential campaign was "a little light on policy details" but said he was optimistic the Trump administration would follow the states' lead. "The stars have aligned," Williams said.

Bowman, who is ALEC's vice president of policy, said the change in Washington, D.C., might benefit ALEC's fight to preserve anonymity for donors to politically active nonprofit groups at the state level. With Trump in office, Democrats might now start to see the value of this privacy. "Democrats who are afraid of the Republican administration are beginning to say 'Maybe we need to embrace some First Amendment rights,'" Bowman said.

Contacted for comment, Varner, the ALEC communications director, said the organization's optimism is based not on expanded Republican control, but rather voter discontent with the status quo, regardless of party. DeCesare, the Kentucky lawmaker, responded with an email stating he didn't attend the meeting. Varner, however, confirmed that DeCesare had called into the meeting on the conference line.

Stephen Voss, a University of Kentucky political scientist, said the Republican resurgence will have a major impact on important policies across the country. He expects most of the changes to percolate out of formerly split states where the GOP has now taken total control — like Kentucky — rather than in states with longstanding Republican majorities.

"Those are the states where there's just a lot of pent-up demand, a lot of unhappiness with the status quo," he said. "The people who have been waiting to make those changes can now implement them."

Voss said that shifts in political control after years of stability often produce a period of dramatic policy innovation.

"And what we know about public policy is it spreads," Voss said. "Other states will pick up their innovations, good or bad."

Burns retires

From Page 2

Burns became active in Local 11, serving on its Executive Board, as a shop steward, and on the bargaining committee for the United Labor Union Association, which is comprised of local union office staff.

"Vickie has worked tirelessly to ensure unions know where to go when they have a member in need, whether for food, shelter or just someone to talk with," said Bob Tackett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Northwest

Oregon Labor Council and president of the LCSA board of directors.

In 2010, Burns received the Commitment in Action award from the Oregon Employment and Training Association. The award is presented annually to an individual who makes significant contributions to the field of workforce development.

In 2014, she received the Del Ricks Award for community service at the annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.



James Coon



Raymond Thomas



Cynthia Newton



Chris Frost



Melissa Haggerty



Sydney Montanaro



Scott Sell



The team at
**THOMAS, COON,
NEWTON & FROST**
can help you:

Get Workers' Compensation benefits for on-the-job injuries or illness.

Get Social Security benefits if you can't work.

Recover damages if you are injured by someone's negligence.

Helping injured people for over 25 years.

THOMAS, COON,
NEWTON & FROST
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
820 SW Second Ave, Ste. 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
www.stc-law.com

Workers' Compensation

Construction Injuries

Death Claims

Personal Injury & Product Liability

Medical Malpractice

Social Security Disability

Mesothelioma

Call us today at
503-228-5222

Straight answers.
No cost for consultation.
Our law offices are located on the MAX Light Rail at SW 2nd & Yamhill.

NATIONAL

Trump hotels in Vegas and DC reach union agreements

In late December, Trump International Hotel Las Vegas reached agreement with UNITE HERE Local 226 on a first contract covering 520 food, beverage and housekeeping employees, a month after the National Labor Relations Board found that the hotel had violated federal labor law and ordered it to bargain with the union.

Workers at Trump hotels in New York and Toronto are represented by unions, but the Vegas hotel had fought unionization, paying more than \$500,000 to a “union avoidance” consultant. The new contract runs through May 2021 and provides for wage increases, company-funded pension and health benefits, and a grievance procedure.

Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., UNITE HERE Local 25 reached agreement with the Trump International Hotel at the Old Post Office Pavilion to remain neutral while the hotel’s 130 workers consider whether to unionize, and to voluntarily recognize the union if a majority of the employees sign authorization cards. Trump, sworn in today as president, is co-owner of both hotels.

Cantwell and Murray side with Pharma over public

Washington U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray were among 13 Democrats to vote against an amendment to allow Americans to legally import cheaper medicines from countries like Canada. The amendment failed 52-46. Twelve Republicans and all other Democrats — including Oregon’s Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden — voted for the amendment, which was sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota).

Washington DC City Council passes paid family leave

Washington DC’s City Council has approved the most generous paid-family-leave law in the country. The ordinance, passed in a 9-4 vote, requires private-sector employers to provide paid leave to workers at up to 90 percent of their wages (capped at \$1,000 a week) — up to eight weeks for the birth or adoption

of a child, up to six weeks to tend to sick relatives, and up to two weeks for personal illness. The paid leave will be funded by a city payroll tax of 0.62 percent that will raise an estimated \$246 million a year.

A late-October poll found 80 percent of D.C. voters in favor of the ordinance, and many small businesses were supportive too.

In 2004, California became the first state to offer paid family leave, followed by New Jersey, Rhode Island, and New York. The United States is the only industrialized nation to not offer paid family leave nationwide.

National AFL-CIO endorses Keith Ellison to lead DNC

The Executive Council of the AFL-CIO has voted to endorse Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) to lead the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Several candidates sought the endorsement of the national labor federation, meeting personally with members of the federation’s Political Committee, which ultimately recommended the endorsement.

“Representative Ellison meets the high standard working people expect from leaders of our political parties,” said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “He is a proven leader who will focus on year-round grassroots organizing to deliver for working families across America. Under his leadership, the Democratic Party will embody the values that our members stand for every day.”

Ellison said the AFL-CIO knows the challenges facing America’s working families and how to speak to working Americans of all colors, genders and backgrounds. “I am proud to be on their side, and I am even prouder that the AFL-CIO is on mine. Workers will be central to the Democratic Party,” he said.

Many unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO have leaders as well as rank-and-file members on the DNC. However, the AFL-CIO does not have a direct affiliation with any political party, and membership includes those across the political spectrum. The endorsement of DNC chair is a reflection of the values of AFL-CIO members and the vote among their representatives, Trumka said.



Photo from the Twitter feed of AFL-CIO president Rich Trumka — @RichardTrumka

President-elect Trump meets with AFL-CIO’s Trumka

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump met with national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka on Jan. 13. Trumka arrived at Trump Tower at 10:33 a.m. and left at noon. Neither side publicly divulged what was discussed, but Trumka described it as “a very honest and productive conversation” in a tweet. Trump didn’t tweet about it.

Trump transition officials also attended a meeting the same day with several other union officials, hosted by International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Representatives of United Steel-

workers, the International Association of Machinists, and Communications Workers of America also reportedly attended.

Trumka and other labor leaders have been very critical of Trump, but have also pledged to work with him on issues of agreement, such as renegotiating NAFTA and other trade deals.

Trump has named a NAFTA critic as his trade ambassador: Robert Lighthizer, his nominee as the United States Trade Representative (USTR), was a former deputy USTR under Ronald Reagan.



Providing auditing and accounting services to labor organizations and employee benefit plans since 1941

MKA MILLER KAPLAN ARASE LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS SINCE 1941

Jeffrey Goss / Catherine Gardner
971.255.0546
MillerKaplan.com

Who's on our side?

By Tom Chamberlain Oregon AFL-CIO President



GOP ramping up to dismantle the labor movement

In a few days, the Republican Party will be in control of both houses of Congress and the presidency for the second time in 70 years. The agenda of Republican leadership of the Senate and House is not secret: Repeal Obamacare, leaving 30 million of the most vulnerable without health care. Make no mistake about it, Republican leaders are not just coming for Obamacare, they are coming after all our health care, and Social Security, too. We expect them to tee up, through the budget process later this spring, massive cuts to Medicaid, the privatizations of Medicare, and cuts to Social Security benefits. Any attacks on Medicare or Social Security will be major points of vulnerability for Republicans, and especially for Trump, since he made repeated, explicit promises not to cut either program. How many Americans who voted for Trump want to work until they are 68?

What is occurring in Washington, D.C., is a ramp up to dismantle the American union movement. Federal employees will experience wage freezes, privatization, and the downsizing of their workforce through attrition. The Building Trades face either an attempt to eliminate Davis Bacon (prevailing wage) or the development of strategies to circumvent prevailing wage. Trump's promised \$1 trillion infrastructure plan may be funded by tax credits, allowing corporate America to sidestep prevailing wage laws. Public-sector unions will be watching who will be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court vacancy, knowing that a bad decision on a *Friedrichs*-like case would implement "right-to-work" for public workers nationwide. There are still rumors that "right-to-work" and "paycheck deception," which limits how union workers can make their voices heard in the political process, are targets for federal legislation.

The Koch brothers have wasted little time in implementing a state strategy to undermine workers' rights. Kentucky Republicans, who gained control of all three branches of their government in November, slammed through "right-to-work," paycheck deception, and repealed prevailing wage in a bogus emergency legislative session of two weeks' age. All three bills went into immediate effect.

All three branches of government are under Republican control in Missouri and New Hampshire. Both states face legislation drafted to implement "right-to-work," paycheck deception, and repeal prevailing wage.

At this juncture in our history, our first priority is to work and fight together. When we are divided, we will surely fail. When "right-to-work" was passed in Michigan, first responders were exempted. Just last week, the Michigan Legislature passed "right-to-work" for first responders. This is the time to stand together as a labor movement — and with our community partners. Understanding the power we have collectively, we will educate and activate Oregonians.

Our fight will be statewide: Klamath Falls, Bend, Medford, Salem, Eugene, and Portland. I believe, by and large, our Congressional delegation will stand with all Oregonians. But for those who support an anti-worker agenda, we will hold you accountable.

We are living in an historical moment. Every one of us has an obligation to fight as hard as we can, to get off the couch and activate and agitate. Fighting together, we can stop attacks on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We stopped the Trans-Pacific Partnership dead in its tracks. Fighting together, we have defeated scores of ballot measures that would have undermined workers' rights and the quality of life in Oregon.

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, a 130,000-member-strong federation of labor unions.

WORKERS RIGHTS

Burgerville suspends unionist over a bagel

A vocal leader of the campaign to unionize the Burgerville fast food chain has been suspended without pay since Jan. 6 — ostensibly for failing to pay 70 cents for a bagel and cream cheese.

Jordan Vaandering, who has worked for 14 months at the Burgerville store in Vancouver Plaza, thinks the bagel is a pretext, and that his union activity is the real reason for his suspension. Vaandering, who's incidentally the nephew of Oregon teachers union president Hanna Vaandering, has been active recruiting coworkers to join the Burgerville Workers Union, an affiliate of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The union is calling for affordable employer-provided health-care and a \$5.00 raise for all hourly Burgerville workers, among other demands. Their campaign has been endorsed by the Oregon AFL-CIO and half a



Jordan Vaandering

dozen other labor organizations.

Vaandering says an assistant manager gave him the bagel during a paid break on Jan. 5, and didn't ask him to pay for it. Several hours after Vaandering opened the restaurant the next day, he was confronted by the store's general manager about the "bagel incident" — the manager said he'd been informed by human resources that Vaandering had taken a bagel without paying for it. Vaandering offered to pay, but was refused and sent home five hours before the end of his shift.

That same day, Vaandering filed an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board. It's against the National Labor Relations Act for an employer to discipline a worker for taking part in union activity.

On June 7, the union organized supporters to call the com-

pany, and on Jan. 9, Vaandering, two coworkers, and two IWW members visited company HQ to present a bagel and \$0.70 to a company executive, along with a request that he be returned to work.

The next day, Vaandering was called into a meeting with the store general manager and human resource consultant Lacey Halpern, told he wasn't allowed to take notes or have a witness, and asked for his side of the story. Vaandering says they told him they'd let him know their decision by Jan. 11. He was still waiting for the call as of Jan. 17.

PICKET TO BRING BACK JORDAN

If Burgerville, as expected, fires union activist Jordan Vaandering, the Burgerville Workers Union plans to picket outside the Rose Quarter Burgerville before the Lakers-Blazers game.

- **Time:** Wed., Jan. 25, 6:30-8 p.m.
- **Place:** Burgerville, 1135 NE MLK Jr Blvd., Portland
- **More info:** <http://bit.ly/2jXsuge>

Black history month

TOP 10 REASONS

PACIFIC NW IRONWORKERS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ROCKS!

- #10 We LOVE to make loans - We make it easy!
- #9 Our rates are better - Saves YOU money.
- #8 We are easy to join - Takes less than 5 minutes.
- #7 We are convenient - 100s of ATMs in YOUR area.
- #6 We are insured - YOUR money is safe.
- #5 We are non-profit - YOU are our top priority.
- #4 You're not just a number...we know our members!
- #3 We give back to the community.
- #2 We have fewer & lower fees
- #1 You're union. We're union. - We get it.

NOT A MEMBER YET?

Call us today at
1-877-769-4766
or join online at
ironworkersfcu.org

Proudly Serving Ironworker members and their families in
Affiliated Local Unions 14, 29, 86, 506, 516 and 751

Pacific Northwest
IRONWORKERS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

PORTLAND BRANCH
11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, #400
Portland, OR 97220
Phone: (503) 774-3848

SEATTLE BRANCH
4550 S 134TH Place, Suite 103
Tukwila, WA 98168
Phone: (206) 835-0150

SPOKANE BRANCH
16610 E Euclid
Spokane, WA 99216
Phone: (509) 326-2485



THE OBAMA YEARS

From Page 1

Obama swept into office at the height of a global financial crisis, and had a broad public mandate for “hope and change.” But caution, delay, and his own choices squandered much of that potential. Two years of a Democratic Congress were followed by six years of near-total gridlock, after the GOP retook the House in the 2010 elections and the Senate in the 2014 elections. And Senate Republicans blocked more presidential appointees than ever before in history. Dogged opposition also made every budget a budget battle. “Debt limit,” “sequestration”, and the “fiscal cliff” became words of the day. But it wasn’t the GOP that made Obama appoint Wall Streeters like Larry Summers, Timothy Geithner and Rahm Emanuel to top posts, or take forever to use executive power.

Executive power became the only way to enact an agenda for the last six of his eight years in office — through how he

interpreted and enforced existing laws, and the extent to which he was able to make policy by executive order. But even there, Obama’s record proved to be one of caution and delay: Reforms advocated by organized labor were held up for years only to finally be enacted too late to take effect before he left office. An exception was Obama’s use of executive orders on immigration — after Congress failed to act. In 2012, Obama ordered a halt to deportation of undocumented young adults who’d entered as minors, and in 2014, an executive order allowed undocumented parents of U.S. citizens to apply for work authorization and relief from deportation if they could show they’d been in the country for at least five years.

As Obama heads into retirement, polls say the public mostly likes him personally, but doesn’t think he got much done. Only 32 percent say he kept his campaign promises in general; and only 44 percent say he tried to. Maybe the public was paying attention. Read on.

The stimulus that failed to stimulate

Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) just four weeks after inauguration, but as labor leaders warned, it was too small to turn the economy around. Congress had authorized \$700 billion to bail out banks just months before, but Obama told Congress the stimulus bill must cost no more than \$800 billion, and must include tax cuts he’d promised. If ARRA produced hardly any jobs, that’s because it wasn’t a jobs bill: Tax cuts were two-fifths of its cost, and their impact was barely felt. The average worker got an \$8 a week reduction in income tax withholding. Only about a tenth of ARRA’s price tag went to traditional job-creation efforts like infrastructure spending. Much of the ARRA would be best described as relief spending, like longer and more generous unemployment benefits, increased Medicaid funding, increased food stamp benefits, and one-time \$250 bonuses for Social Security recipients. It helped people in need, but didn’t put them back to work. The ARRA’s \$50 billion in aid to the states prevented teacher layoffs — for a year. When it expired, hundreds of thousands of public employees were laid off, further depressing the recovery. Unemployment was 8.9 percent when Obama signed the ARRA in February 2009. By the end of the year it was 10 percent. Obama ignored calls by organized labor for a second stimulus with more infrastructure spending. And by January 2010, his attention shifted to deficit spending. His Simpson-Bowles commission looked at ways to cut programs like Social Security and Medicare. Their recommendations, politically toxic, were never adopted.



A green retrofit of the Portland federal building was one of just a few local ARRA projects that created jobs.

Obama the insurance reformer

Running in 2008, Obama repeatedly talked of his plan for a “public option,” a government insurance offering that would compete with private insurers in new government-brokered insurance exchanges. But in office, he never once advocated for the public option. So the most basic feature of Obamacare, also known as the Affordable Care Act, is that it requires all otherwise uninsured Americans to buy private insurance on publicly regulated state-level exchanges, or else face a tax penalty. Mid to low income earners get a subsidy. The poorest get Medicaid (except in states that refused federal money after a Supreme Court case.) Insurers can’t impose lifetime caps, or refuse to insure people with “pre-existing conditions,” and must make preventive care and birth control available free of charge to the insured. Children can stay on their parents plans til age 26. Small businesses get a 50 percent tax credit for providing insurance. Big businesses get a tax penalty for not providing insurance. And an array of taxes helps pay for all this, including an extension of the Medicare tax to “unearned” investment income and to high-income earners. Obamacare is mindbogglingly complex, but that’s it, in a nutshell. And labor was largely left out. Neither Obama nor those who crafted the Senate bill that became Obamacare consulted the union movement. As a result, Obamacare is written as if its authors were unaware of the union health and welfare trusts that provide health insurance to as many as 20 million union members, retirees and dependents. If union small employers participate in union health trusts, they don’t get the Obamacare tax credits, but their nonunion competitors do on the exchanges. Obamacare is even set up to penalize some union health trusts for being too generous: The so-called “Cadillac tax,” if it ever takes effect, would charge a 40 percent excise tax whenever premiums exceed \$10,200 a year for individual coverage or \$27,500 for family coverage. [It was scheduled to take effect in 2018, but was delayed by a 2015 act of Congress until 2020.] Unions fought hard to eliminate the Cadillac tax. Obama administration officials fought hard to keep it.

Obama the free trader

As a candidate in 2008, Obama said he’d renegotiate NAFTA. He didn’t mean it even then. As a leaked memo at the time reported, Obama’s senior economic adviser Austan Goolsbee told Canadian consular officials in a private meeting in February 2008 that Obama’s protectionist rhetoric about NAFTA was more reflective of political maneuvering than his policy plans. Once in office, Obama never tried to renegotiate NAFTA. Instead, he got Congress to ratify NAFTA-style trade deals that George W. Bush had negotiated with Korea, Panama and Colombia. He then put enormous effort into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a trade deal that was to be his legacy. TPP was negotiated in extreme secrecy, with labor left out in the cold. In impact, it would have been NAFTA times four, bringing low-wage human rights abusers like Vietnam and Malaysia into a Pacific Rim common market where investors would be protected, but workers not so much. Obama worked very hard to get fast-track legislation approved (whereby Congress ties its own hands and agrees to vote trade agreements up or down quickly with no amendments.) TPP’s failure to win passage — a defeat for Obama — was the biggest victory for NAFTA critics since the derailment of World Trade Organization talks in Seattle in 1999.

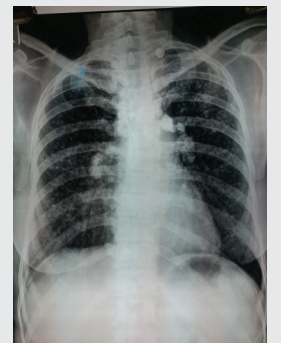


Obama the timid executive

The U.S. government buys half a trillion dollars of goods and services from the private sector each year, so executive orders on procurement policy can have far-reaching effects on corporate behavior. In his first few weeks of taking office, Obama rescinded a George W. Bush executive order that banned all-union project labor agreements on federal construction projects and another that required federal contractors to post notice about how union-represented workers could avoid paying union dues. But otherwise, Obama took his time in using the executive order to help working people. In 2011, it was announced that Obama was considering an executive order to require companies with federal contracts to disclose their election spending, but he backed off when the business lobby opposed it, and took no other significant procurement action in his first four years. In his second term, he issued a raft of pro-worker executive orders. Executive orders in 2014 required federal contractors to pay at least \$10.10 an hour; and prohibited contractors from discriminating against gay or transgender workers, or retaliating against employees who discuss their compensation. But Obama waited so long that many orders don’t take effect until this year, and aren’t likely to continue under Trump. For example, a 2015 order guaranteeing workers under federal contracts up to seven paid sick days a year didn’t take effect until Jan. 1, 2017. Another order requires contractors to tell the government if they’ve been found guilty of egregious violations of safety and labor laws during the previous three years; it took effect last October.

Obama the reluctant enforcer

Presidents appoint and oversee those who interpret and enforce the laws, including workers rights and safety laws that are vital to the wellbeing of working people. Top union policy advisers gave Obama’s team a book’s worth of suggestions that mostly gathered dust the first four years. A number were enacted in his second term, but so late they don’t take effect until Obama’s out of the White House. OSHA’s silica rule is an example: Up to 2.3 million workers in construction, shipyards and other industries breathe in tiny particles that can lead to fatal illnesses. Prevention is straightforward, but OSHA delayed action for decades. Obama officials said in 2009 that a new silica rule would be one of their regulatory priorities, but not until the AFL-CIO and several senators publicly shamed the administration did it go the final mile. The rule finally took effect in June 2016 — but OSHA said it won’t begin enforcing it until 2017 in construction, 2018 in general industry, and 2021 in the fracking industry. Then there’s the overtime threshold for salaried workers, last updated in 2004 under Bush Jr. Millions of low-wage “managers” can be made to work unlimited overtime if they’re salaried and make at least \$23,660 a year. The Obama administration raised that to \$47,476, but waited so long to do so that its fate is in doubt. It was supposed to take effect Dec. 1, but businesses sued to stop it, and it’s held up in the court. Now Trump appointees will be in charge of defending it, yet Trump’s nominee for Labor Secretary vigorously opposed it. The Obama administration did get one important rule change on its watch: In 2011, the administration determined that 2 million home care workers are entitled to the protection of federal minimum wage and overtime laws. The administration wasn’t in a hurry to implement that either, but it went into effect in 2015.



It took public shaming by Senate Democrats before Obama would move to protect workers from silica, which can lead to fatal diseases like silicosis, above.

The NLRB: The Obama-era mouse that roared

Led by Obama appointees, the National Labor Relations Board truly became the mouse that roared during the Obama years. Against unprecedented opposition from business groups and Republicans in Congress, the tiny agency strived mightily to fulfill its mission of protecting the right of private sector workers to organize and bargain collectively. It sped up the timetable for union elections. It added interest payments and adverse tax consequences and look-for-work expenses to backpay awards when companies illegally fire union supporters. It required employers to provide employee email and phone numbers, not just addresses, during union campaigns. It ruled that graduate student employees have the right to unionize. It found that franchisers like McDonald’s can be held responsible for lawbreaking by franchisees. It ruled that workers have at least some right to criticize their employers on social media like Facebook. It even had the audacity to declare illegal a Boeing decision to locate a factory in South Carolina — because it was motivated by a desire to punish union workers for striking.