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MEETING NOTICES

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NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

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Unions and friends help make spirits brighter for members out of work

In late summer 2010, Labor's Community Service Agency's (LCSA) Helping Hands program began receiving an overwhelming increase in referrals for temporary hardship assistance. The reason: massive job loss and long-term unemployment, a lack of available living-wage jobs, shrinking unemployment insurance benefits, and a brittle economy that left many union families facing insurmountable adversity. Referrals continued to increase throughout the fall.

With the holiday season approaching, LCSA's board of directors considered how the agency could bring joy and relief to these families. The need was great, and staff would have to think "outside the box" in order to make a real difference. But how much could be accomplished in such a short amount of time? It would take a unified effort to reach its holiday goals, and the number of willing partners was uncertain.

"We were asking for participation from labor and community organizations on the heels of an important political election, and we knew that funds across-the-board were strapped," said LCSA executive Director Vickie Burns. "All we could do was issue appeals and hope that the response would be enough."

In early November, LCSA's holiday program co-sponsor, the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC), distributed the first request, asking for funds and referrals for a Thanksgiving Dinner Program. A \$40 donation



Janet Tackett (left) and Jill Lukens help a child pick out a toy at the 14th annual "Presents from Partners" holiday party. Unions donated a record 2,000 toys that filled five office suites at the Nase Building in Southeast Portland.

would provide turkey dinner to an out-of-work family of four. The second appeal came right after Thanksgiving. NOLC again asked its affiliates for contributions, this time for a Christmas Dinner Program. Soon after, affiliates were hit with yet another request for funds and toys to benefit LCSA's "Presents from Partners" toy drive. The annual children's toy distribution party was held Dec. 19 to benefit out-of-work labor families first and foremost.

"We forwarded letters to other potential partners and community organizations, made phone calls, and satu-

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Machinists, Woodworkers district lodges consolidate

Machinists District Lodge 24 and Woodworkers District Lodge W1 have merged to create the International Association of Machinists District W24. The merger was effective Jan. 1.

The International Association of Woodworkers has been a division of the Machinists since affiliating at the national level in May 1994. And they're not strangers locally, having worked together on the Oregon Machinist Council and the annual Legislative Conference. Merger talks have been ongoing for several years, but they intensified early in 2010 as membership for both organizations continued to slide.

The new district will combine roughly 60 union contracts under former District Lodge W1 and about the same number under former District Lodge 24, for a total of 120 contracts covering more than 6,000 workers.

Portland-based District Lodge 24 was comprised of Local Lodges 63, 1005, 1432, and 2911. Those locals represent 2,800 workers at companies such as Boeing, Daimler Trucks North America (formerly Freightliner), Johnson Controls, ConMet, Silver Eagle Manufacturing, Crown, Cork and Seal, Cascade General, Gerber Knives, and at various machine and diesel mechanic shops in Oregon and Southwest Washington. [Local 2911 was disbanded in October, with members who work at Gerber Knives absorbed by Local 63.]

District W1 is headquartered in Gladstone and represents approximately 3,400 workers, with three locals in Oregon — W12 in Klamath Falls, W246 in Springfield, and W261 in Central Point; five locals in Washington — W2 in Aberdeen, W38 in Shelton, W130 in Centralia, W157 in Tacoma, and W536 in Longview; and Local Lodge W98 in Arcata, California, and Local Lodge W364 in Lewiston, Idaho. Members work at several Weyerhaeuser plants, including in Springfield, Oregon and Longview, Centralia, Tacoma, and Cosmopolis, Washington; at Collins Products in Klamath Falls; Timber Products in Medford; Georgia-Pacific in Coos Bay; and Sierra Pine in Springfield. W1 also represents loggers and log truck drivers, public workers in Reedsport, Winston, and Elkton, Oregon; and Shelton and Mason County, Washington; health care workers, and auto mechanics.

Under the merger agreement, W1 Directing Business Representative (DBR) Bob Wilson was named president/DBR of the new Machinists District W24. Former District Lodge 24 DBR Bob Petroff is now one of three assistant directing business representatives. The other two are Chip Elliott and Steve Wilson of W1. Elliott was an assistant DBR and Wilson was secretary-treasurer. Dan Sass, secretary-treasurer of District

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YEAR IN REVIEW: A look back at labor stories of 2010

At the Northwest Labor Press, the beginning of a new year is a chance to look back on the old one: to summarize the year's most important labor news and tie up loose ends on stories we reported in 2010.

The year 2010 was a hard one for many Oregon and Washington workers, who endured freezes in pay, cuts in hours, furloughs, and extended bouts of joblessness. Hopefully all of us will see a turnaround in the year to come.

• In January, Oregon voters approved **Ballot Measures 66 and 67** by 54 and 53 percent. The two referrals,

which had tremendous union support, raise state taxes modestly on corporations and high-income taxpayers. In a severe recession, the new revenue is helping prevent worse cuts to education, public safety, and social services.

• Conflict between **Fred Meyer and United Food Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555** mostly subsided in 2010, after the union won several legal battles and secured several multi-employer contracts. The conflict came to a head in October 2009 when managers at a Hillsboro Fred Meyer called police and had Local 555's president

and two staff members arrested for trespass. Local 555 insisted the reps had a legal right to be there; they were talking to members about a petition in support of the contract bargaining team. In the end, not only were the arrestees acquitted of the trespass charges, but the court in December ordered Fred Meyer to pay the union's legal bills. The union also was vindicated by the National Labor Relations Board, which brokered a settlement to an unfair labor practice case; Fred Meyer admitted no wrongdoing, but posted a notice saying its employees have the right to meet union reps on the job, not just in the break

room as the company had argued. Local 555 also settled contract disputes. On Jan. 23, three groups of Portland metro area members ratified new agreements with an employer group that includes Fred Meyer, Safeway, and Albertsons. And in November, Fred Meyer members in non-food departments approved a new Portland-area contract. One continuing flash point remains: A group of non-food workers at a Fred Meyer store in The Dalles, Oregon are still without a first union contract — more than three years after they voted to unionize. The company also remains a villain to some local build-

ing trades unions, because parent company Kroger shut union contractors out of a store-by-store remodeling project in 2009. A union health trust affiliated with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48 dropped Kroger as a prescription benefit manager, and the local continues to discourage members from shopping at Fred Meyer.

• The **Oregon Legislature** met in February and passed new laws banning most employers from using credit checks in hiring, granting union rights

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New health care law starts to affect union health trusts

Members' children can stay covered 'til age 26, and health plans end lifetime coverage limits

By DON McINTOSH
Associate Editor

The Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, signed into law March 23, 2010, by President Barack Obama, is starting to affect health insurance plans that union members and their families are enrolled in.

So far, the two biggest changes are that children will be able to stay on their parents' health plans until they turn 26; and that plans won't be allowed to impose lifetime dollar limits on claims for essential services. Those changes must take effect whenever a union health trust's "plan year" begins—and no later than Sept. 23, 2011. [For example, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 working for Portland-area grocery employers have a union-negotiated health plan whose plan year begins Jan. 1, so the changes took effect then for those members.]

If an employer-paid health plan previously covered employees' children, those children will now be able to stay enrolled until their 26th birthday—even if they're not living with their parents, are not in school, are not claimed as dependents on a tax return, and even if they are married. However, until 2013, health plans may refuse to cover children who can get health coverage through their own employer or a spouse's employer.

Gene Mechanic, a Portland attorney who is advising union health trusts about the new law, says both requirements will cost money. Plan administrators are estimating that covering kids through age 26 will increase overall costs 2 to 5 percent, and eliminating lifetime coverage limits will increase costs 0.5 to 1 percent.

The new legislation also phases out annual coverage limits over the next three years, but plans can request a waiver of that requirement; 222 plans

had received waivers as of Dec. 3, Mechanic said.

Typically, union-affiliated health trusts are funded by an employer contribution that is negotiated as part of a collective bargaining agreement. So the additional expenses brought on by the new requirements could lead health plan trustees to impose a surcharge on employers, or they could dip into reserve funds to cover the added costs. One thing trustees probably won't do to make up for the extra expense is substantially reduce members' health benefits. That's because if trusts do reduce benefits, they would lose their status as "grandfathered" health plans. A grandfathered health plan is basically any employer-paid health plan that existed before the new law passed and that provides a certain minimum level of coverage.

Grandfathered health plans aren't subject to some other new insurance requirements, such as: that preventive care be provided without any co-pay or deductible; that out-of-network emergency care be charged at the same rate as in-network; and that patients have direct access to obstetric and gynecological care without referral from a primary care physician.

Union members may have heard about several other insurance regulations that are part of the new law, but those don't tend to affect union health plans directly. For example, if insur-

ance companies sell individual policies that cover children, they may no longer exclude or deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions. And insurance companies can no longer drop patients after they get sick, a practice known as rescission.

One other change may affect some union health trusts, though probably not in Oregon: As of Jan. 1, at least 85 percent of the premiums collected for large-group insurance policies have to be spent actually paying health care claims; in other words, insurance profit and administrative expenses can't be more than 15 percent. That could result in rebates to union health trusts that purchase group health policies in states where administrative costs have been over 15 percent.

"Union health plans are living with these changes, and figuring out ways to lessen the cost as much as possible," Mechanic said. "What they're more concerned about is what's going to happen down the road."

So far, the changes are small and technical; the bigger, more noticeable changes will all take place three years from now—if the law hasn't been overturned by the Supreme Court or repealed by Congress. Starting Jan. 1, 2014, everyone with earnings below the poverty level will be eligible for Medicaid. The uninsured will be required to buy health insurance through newly-established state exchanges, or

else pay a tax penalty. Households up to four times the poverty line will get some amount of subsidy to purchase the insurance. Small employers will also be able to buy insurance in exchanges. Large employers will pay a penalty if they don't provide insurance. Many of the precise details will be worked out by state governments and federal agencies in the next year or two.

That means a lot of unanswered questions about how the new law will affect a complicated health care market. For example, will employers that currently provide health coverage be more likely to drop it once their employees can get affordable, government-subsidized insurance through the state exchanges? Large employers that don't provide health insurance will pay less than \$2,000 a year penalty; how much will that incentivize them to provide it when employee-only insurance premiums can easily top \$6,000 a year? If more people are insured, and insurance is more standardized, will health insurance premiums decrease?

"I believe that if the law is really implemented the way it was intended to be, it could provide more affordable quality health care across the board," Mechanic said. But he added it's going to require a lot of work to make sure the reform accomplishes this goal, and unions need to be in the room, and at the table.

For union health plans, the law im-

poses short-term costs, but also provides long-term opportunities, Mechanic says. For example, if unions are involved when states set up the exchanges, the exchanges could operate in ways that level the playing field for union employers. States are required to set up exchanges for individuals and small employers, but they could set them up for large employers (including union employers) as well.




Unions could negotiate contracts in which, instead of employers providing health care, employers could pay part or all of the premium for insurance bought through the exchange. It's even conceivable that union health plans, individually or in groups, could open themselves up to all comers, maybe becoming cooperative health insurers that sell insurance to individuals or employers on the exchanges. Unions could play a role as "navigators" helping individuals or employers choose among insurance plans offered on the exchanges.

"All unions need to realize that the act is going to greatly impact them," Mechanic said, "and they need to start thinking about how they'll be impacted and what they can do as the law is being developed."

University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) will address these issues in a Feb. 17-18 training on health care bargaining, to take place in Portland.



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to a new group of in-home care givers, authorizing \$140 million in bonds for renovation and new construction, and reforming the Business Energy Tax Credit.

- **Walmart** was at the top of a list compiled by the Oregon Department of Human Services of employers whose workers received food stamps and/or state-subsidized medical coverage. Walmart, which in 2009 rang up profits of \$14.4 billion on sales of \$405 billion, had 468 Oregon employees getting one or both forms of public assistance in 2009, and 875 in 2008. McDonalds, Taco Bell, Burger King, and Subway also made the top 10. Other names near the top of the 50-employer list included Harry & David, Dollar Tree, Target, Goodwill and temp agency Labor Ready.

- On March 25, Congress passed historic **health insurance reform** after a year of debate, multiple versions, hundreds of town halls and months of procedural hurdles. It's a complicated law, 2,310 pages long. The core element, beginning in 2014, is a de facto requirement that uninsured adults under 65 purchase health insurance in government-regulated state-by-state exchanges, aided by subsidies, and enforced by tax penalties. The state exchanges, administered by government agencies or non-profits, will serve as clearinghouses for private insurance plans, which will be available at five benefit levels. Subsidies, available on a sliding scale, will limit premiums to 2 percent of income for those at 133 percent of the poverty level (\$14,404 for individuals/\$29,326 for a family of four) — rising to 9.5 percent of income for those at 400 percent of the poverty level (\$43,320 for individuals/\$88,200 for a family of four).

- In May, Oregon's new **Worker Freedom Act** survived its first legal challenge by business groups. The nationally watched legislation, which took effect Jan. 1, 2010, gives private-sector workers the right not to attend workplace anti-union meetings. Those mandatory-attendance meetings — which follow scripts provided by anti-union consultants — are employers' most effective tactic in squelching union campaigns. So the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Associated Oregon Industries sued in federal court to stop the law. The judge didn't rule on whether the law illegally pre-empts the National Labor Relations Act, as the business groups argued, but instead dismissed the suit because the business groups had jumped the gun, suing before any business had suffered real impact from the law.

- For hard-hit local **construction workers**, the one notable bright spot of the year was the Oct. 19 announcement that **Intel** will spend close to \$4 billion in new facilities in Hillsboro, starting in 2011. With commercial and industrial construction still in a bust, and unemployment up to 30 percent in some crafts, Intel's announcement is "a really good shot in the arm," said Paul Riggs, executive secretary of the **Columbia-**

... YEAR IN REVIEW: Top labor stories of 2010

Pacific Building Trades Council.

- In August, we reported on efforts by **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 125** to save **PGE's Boardman Power Plant** from closure. Later that month, the investor-owned utility proposed to close the coal-fired electric plant in 2020 rather than spend \$500 million to comply with the Clean Air Act. In December, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission approved the proposal, which commits the company to install \$60 million worth of technology in 2011 and 2014 that will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 50 percent and sulfur dioxide emissions by 75 percent. PGE would then close the plant by the end of 2020.

- The Labor Press continued to report the aftermath of a June 2009 mass firing of 17 pro-union workers by **BrucePac**. Workers at BrucePac, a cooked meat processor with plants in Silverton and Woodburn, Oregon, wanted to join **Laborers Local 296**, but nearly every worker who attended an early-stage union meeting was fired several weeks later. Local 296 filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). As is often the case, the NLRB chose not to pursue charges in 13 of those firings, since there was no "smoking gun" employer admission that workers were fired *because of* their union sympathies. But four cases did go to trial, in February 2010; in April, a judge dropped one worker's case, but ordered BrucePac to reinstate three other workers, with back pay. One had found a better job by then, but two workers were reinstated Aug. 31, 2010. They are continuing to work at BrucePac. But their supervisor was fired. His slip-up — telling a friend that he selected pro-union workers for termination — lost BrucePac the case. Workers

have also filed charges with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). Seven complaints against BrucePac have been filed with BOLI since July 2009, alleging sexual harassment, sex discrimination, age discrimination, and other abuses. Investigators dismissed two charges for lack of evidence; two are still being investigated; one was transferred to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for investigation; and two are moving forward with hearings after investigators found substantial evidence that violations occurred. Meanwhile, the workers' union campaign continues, with pro-union workers meeting regularly to discuss plans, said Local 296 dispatcher Dagoberto Aranda.

- National AFL-CIO President **Richard Trumka** rallied with Portland union activists Aug. 23-24, encouraging them to stay politically active. Trumka sat alongside Oregon gubernatorial candidate John Kitzhaber answering union members' questions at an indoor rally that drew 500 people to the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8 hall in Portland.

- The **Northwest Labor Press** celebrated its 110th anniversary with a special 32-page Labor Day edition Sept. 3. Portland unions started the Labor Press in 1900 because of the lack of coverage of labor activities by the commercial press. Over the years the newspaper's name has changed from Portland Labor Press, to Oregon Labor Press, to Oregon/Washington Labor Press, to Northwest Labor Press. But it's mission has remained the same, to report on stories about organized labor that the commercial press ignores.

- Portland Jobs With Justice named **Portland French School** "Scrooge of the Year" for the outrageous and per-

sonal anti-union campaign waged by the private school's principal, Elimane Mbengue. Patricia Raclot, a teacher who was fired because she supported a campaign to join **American Federation of Teachers (AFT-Oregon)**, turned down an offer of two years salary to settle her case against the school. Even though her work visa expired, Raclot has remained in Portland, hoping for vindication. AFT-Oregon locals are passing the hat at meetings to give her support. AFT awaits a judge's decision in the case; final arguments were submitted Nov. 10. Meanwhile, bargaining began Dec. 20 for a group of Portland French School assistants at the school who did vote "Union, Oui!" The teachers, however, failed to show majority support for the union after an intensive anti-union campaign that involved illegal threats and intimidation. If the government rules that the school broke the law in that campaign, it could order a re-run election.

- The heat is on at **TriMet** among members of **Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757**, over employer proposals to reduce cost-of-living increases and weaken the employer commitment

to full family health benefits. The old contract, covering 2,000 active members plus retirees, expired November 2009. Bargaining reached an impasse in July 2010, after which the contract is supposed to go to an arbitrator for a final decision. But TriMet decided to impose some of its terms in the meantime, and some unfair labor practice charges filed by the union must first be adjudicated before the arbitrator can consider which side's offer is more reasonable. Since September, anger over TriMet's imposition of terms has spilled out in a series of protests at TriMet board meetings and outside the house of general manager Neil McFarlane.

- Seven-union, 1,800-member **District Council of Trade Unions** ratified a new contract in October with the City of Portland, with improved protections against contracting out, and cost-of-living raises in future years.

- In the **November general election**, support from Oregon labor helped elect John Kitzhaber governor, Tom Hughes as Metro president, and helped four incumbent Democrats return to Congress. It also brought a divided Oregon House of Representatives for the first time in history, with 30 Republicans and 30 Democrats. In Southwest Washington, labor-backed Denny Heck lost a race for Congress. Washington voters agreed with unions in rejecting a ballot measure to privatize the state's workers' compensation system.



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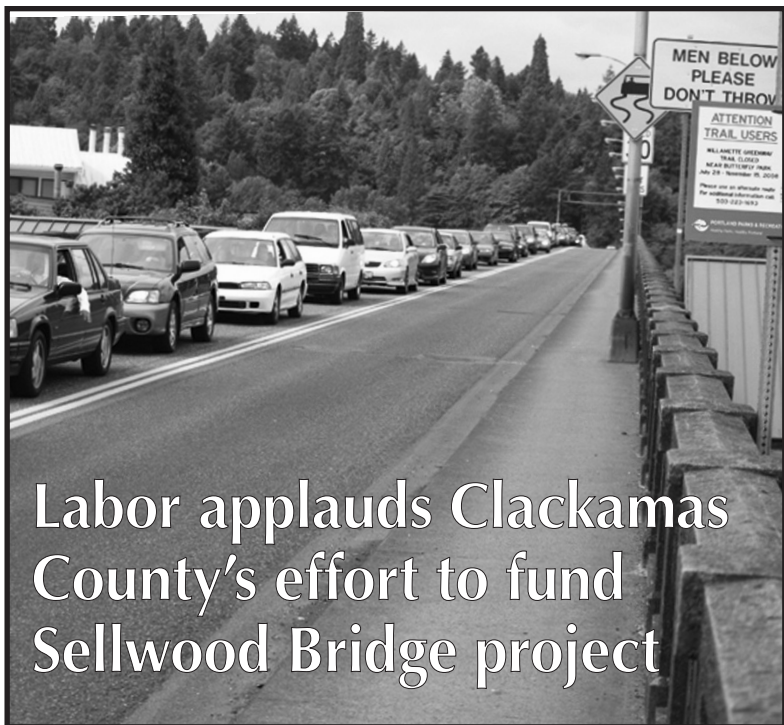
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Labor applauds Clackamas County's effort to fund Sellwood Bridge project

Organized labor applauded the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners' unanimous vote Dec. 9 to increase vehicle registration fees by \$5 in order to pay for its share of the cost of replacing the crumbling Sellwood Bridge.

Union officials scoffed at some opponents of the fee hike, who have begun a petition drive to refer it to Clackamas County voters. Some residents also have hinted at starting a recall campaign against some of the commissioners.

"We support our elected officials who are acting in good faith to do the right thing," said John Mohlis, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, pointing to the 85-year-old bridge's poor "sufficiency rating" of 2 out of a possible score of 100, and the pressing need for construction jobs.

"We want to see this project move forward," Mohlis added. "We ask union members not to sign any petition that would slow this project or put it at risk."

Construction is set to begin in July

2012, with a new bridge opening in 2016.

The Clackamas County auto registration fee doesn't go into effect Jan. 1, 2012, and will be capped at \$22 million. A side resolution requires the money to be used only for replacing the bridge itself, while also calling for "locally sourced" labor and materials.

The county vehicle registration fee is allowed under the Jobs and Transportation Act (House Bill 2011) that was passed during the 2009 Legislature.

Multnomah County already approved a \$19 annual vehicle registration fee to raise its \$127 million share of the project — which is estimated at \$290 million to \$330 million, depending on what is done to the interchange on the west side of the bridge. The city of Portland has committed up to \$100 million, the Oregon Department of Transportation \$30 million, with additional money coming from the Federal Highway Administration.

The Sellwood Bridge sits in the city of Portland in Multnomah County

— about one mile from Clackamas County. The bridge serves as a vital connection over the Willamette River, and is the only connection in the 12-mile stretch from Oregon City to Portland. Of the 30,000 cars that cross the bridge every day, 21,000 of them (72 percent) are going to or coming from Clackamas County.

Commission Chair Lynn Peterson put safety and jobs at the top of the list of her reasons for supporting the vehicle registration hike.

"We are all concerned about the safety of the bridge and we are all concerned about using our money wisely," she said. "We are also responsible for ensuring a safe transportation system, and citizens have the right to feel safe as they travel in Clackamas

County and throughout the region."

In response to concerns from some that Clackamas County shouldn't have to help pay for a bridge in a different county, Commissioner Jim Bernard listed several ways in which Multnomah County and all Oregon citizens help fund needed programs and services available in Clackamas County.

"I hope our citizens don't have to use some of these services," he said, "but if they do, we have schools, courts, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, jails and lots of other programs that we can't afford to pay for on our own."

"Aside from the urgent need to replace the bridge for safety reasons, there is also an opportunity to spur the county's economy both immediately

with the construction phase and into the future by providing a viable transportation path into prime undeveloped commercial and industrial property in the county," said Paul Riggs, executive secretary-treasurer of the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council.

Riggs was among several union members who testified in favor of the registration fee hike over the course of three public hearings held by the Clackamas County Board.

Opponents involved in the petition drive must collect 6,252 signatures of registered voters (4 percent of Clackamas County voters in the November election) by March 10 in order to have the issue placed on the May 2011 special election ballot.

Cowlitz Tribe closer to building new casino

VANCOUVER — The Department of the Interior's approval last month of the Cowlitz Tribe's application to take 152 acres in Clark County into trust was good news for Portland area construction unions.

That's because back in 2005 the Cowlitz Tribe signed a project labor agreement with the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council assuring that the project would be built union. But before work could begin, the tribe had to get approval from several government agencies. The Interior Department's announcement Dec. 27 cleared a major hurdle in that quest.

Six years ago, the Cowlitz, which gained federal recognition as a tribe in

2000, planned to spend \$510 million building a 134,000-square-foot casino, a 250-room hotel, restaurant, convention and entertainment center at the La Center exit off Interstate 5 — which is about 16 miles north of the Interstate Bridge. Construction alone was expected to create some 4,000 jobs, with an annual payroll of \$185 million. The complex projected employing 3,000 workers.

The scope of the project has been scaled back due to the poor economy. Instead, the tribe says it will build in phases, starting with the casino and 5,000-seat convention venue that can be used for music and entertainment.

"This project will allow the

Cowlitz Tribe to create hundreds of jobs and invest in other forms of economic development. It will also allow the tribe to begin the restoration of its homelands," Larry Echo Hawk, assistant secretary-Indian affairs at the Department of Interior, said in a press release.

Cowlitz Tribe Chairman William Iyall said barring further legal delays, construction will start as soon as the tribe secures financing. Construction is expected to take two years.

The tribe has partnered with the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut, which runs gambling operations on the East Coast.

'Solution to Resolution' topic of LERA breakfast

"The Solution to Resolution" will be the topic of discussion at the Jan. 25 breakfast program sponsored by the Oregon Labor Employment Relations Association. Labor attorney Mike Tedesco and management attorney Todd Lyon will answer questions and offer advice on how to prepare each side for a final settlement.

The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. at Clackamas Community College in Wilsonville, 29353 Town Center Loop East. Cost is \$35 — \$25 if you pay for a membership to LERA.

Questions and registrations can be directed by e-mail to info@oregonlera.org, or call Jim Bailey at 503-819-4071.

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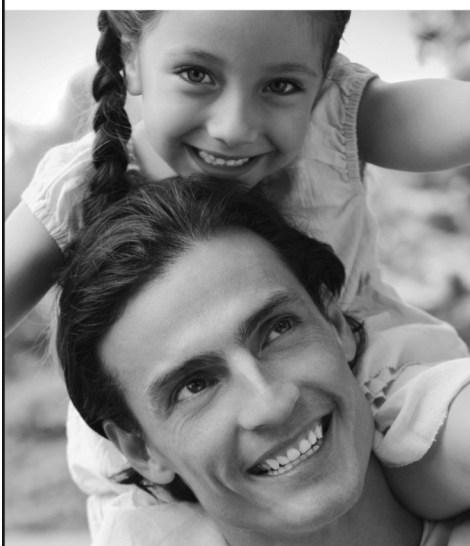
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Washington State Labor Council leaders pass the baton

By DON McINTOSH
Associate Editor

SEATTLE — Rick Bender and Al Link have fought for Washington workers for 16 years — at the head of the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC). On Jan. 5, they passed the mantle to Jeff Johnson and Lynne Dodson.

WSLC is a state-level body of the AFL-CIO labor union federation. Its

leaders are in charge of unifying and mobilizing the clout of 500-plus local unions with a combined membership of 400,000.

Parallels are striking among these four leaders. Early in their tenure at WSLC, President Bender and Secretary-Treasurer Link had to contend with an election sweep by anti-union Republicans; President Johnson and Secretary-Treasurer Dodson began office fac-

ing another Republican sweep. The new leaders are the grandchildren of Pennsylvania coal miners; both are also labor academics and have been anti-war activists. Bender and Link are the sons of labor leaders; both rode the draft to Vietnam.

All four have an enduring belief in unions as an indispensable protection for workers — in the workplace and in politics.



JIM JOHNSON



LYNNE DODSON

...IAM, Woodworkers districts merge

(From Page 1)

Lodge 24, will retain that position with Machinists District W24.

The governing body for the new district is a delegate council, which will meet at least twice a year. An executive board, consisting of the five officers mentioned above, also includes four trustees: John Hall of Local 63, Ray Simonis of Local 1005, Mike Heuer of W536, and Gary Lokan of W246.

Machinists District W24 is chartered to cover Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Alaska, and

Hawaii.

The Machinists Hall off Powell Boulevard in Southeast Portland is being appraised and will be put up for sale. The union staff — and Machinists Credit Union — will relocate to the Woodworkers' headquarters in Gladstone. That building will undergo modifications to accommodate the District 24 staff, so the move isn't anticipated until April.

DBR Wilson said Machinists District W24 will focus on organizing. Over the past 18 months W1 won six of eight organizing campaigns.

"We are organizing because it helps us at negotiations," he said.

"Everyone fails together if we aren't organized. If we are, we rise together."

Assistant DBR Petroff said business agents will maintain their current assignments servicing members, but will spend up to half their time organizing.

"A combination of the staffs and the local leaderships is a great way to maximize the effectiveness of our organizing efforts," Petroff said.

"In the long run, we will be spending less on administration," DBR Wilson noted. "But we won't sacrifice representation."

Rick Bender, 61, was a state lawmaker who became a labor leader. His father was school board president, business manager at Cement Masons Local 528, and eventually head of the Seattle Building Trades Council and the King County Labor Council. The younger Bender apprenticed as a cement mason and laborer, and attended University of Washington. In 1966, he drew a low draft number, and enlisted voluntarily. He spent time at the U.S. Army's Long Binh supply depot in Vietnam, and returned home in 1972. That year, he was recruited to run for state house, and beat a three-term Republican incumbent by 149 votes. Thus began a legislative ca-

reer that lasted until 1991.

In 1987, by then a state senator, Bender was approached to run for secretary-treasurer of the Seattle Building Trades Council, the job his father had once held; he outpolled three others to win the office. His rise within organized labor culminated in his 1993 election as WSLC president.

Al Link, 67, got his start in labor in 1961, when he went to work at the Kaiser Aluminum smelter north of Spokane. His father worked there, and had been president of Steelworkers Local 329. Like Bender, Link had volun-

(Turn to Page 8)



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Official Notices

BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY, TOBACCO WORKERS AND GRAIN MILLERS 114

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, in the meeting room, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland.

BOILERMAKERS 500

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, at 2515 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

CEMENT MASONS 555

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

CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 31, at UA 290 Training Center, 2161 SE 1st St., Redmond.

COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 11 and Jan. 18, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, in the Executive Boardroom.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, in the Meeting Hall.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, in the Dispatch Lobby.

Vancouver Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver.

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, in the Executive Boardroom.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 19 and Feb. 2, in the Executive Boardroom.

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, in the Meeting Hall.

General Membership Meeting meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, in the Meeting Hall. Doors open at 5:30pm for sandwiches.

Your Business Manager Meeting, Saturday, Jan. 29, in the Meeting Hall. Call Kierstan at 503-889-3662 for an appointment.

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

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: There are no death assessments for January.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

FIRE FIGHTERS 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

GLASS WORKERS 740

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE.

INSULATORS 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12. Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14.

Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

IRON WORKERS 29

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3 at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #200, Portland.

IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

LABORERS 483

Municipal Employees Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

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

LABORERS 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave., Portland.

LANE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 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. 27, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

MARION-POLK-YAMHILL LABOR COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, followed by a 7 p.m. general meeting at 2110 State St., Salem.

METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 13. Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25.

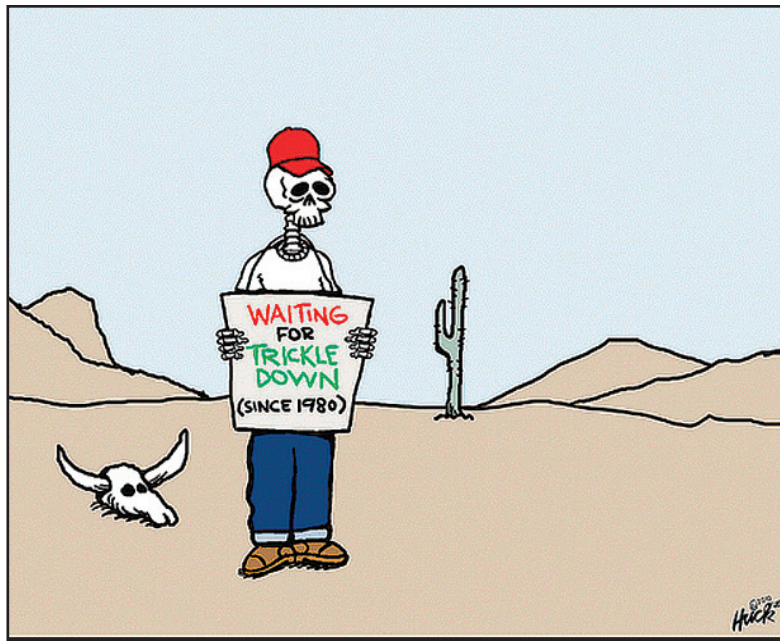
Meetings are at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

MID-COLUMBIA LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 3313 W. 2nd, The Dalles.

MILLWRIGHTS & MACHINERY ERECTORS 711

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, preceded by



a 9 a.m. Executive Committee meeting, at the Carpenters Local 247 Hall, 2205 N. Lombard St., Portland.

MOLDERS 139-B

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

PAINTERS & DRYWALL FINISHERS 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, at the Insulators Hall, 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Please note new website: www.iupatlocal10.org.

PORTLAND CITY & METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEES 189

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11. General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS 49

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13. Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3.

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

SALEM BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford. PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at 1887 Laura St., Springfield. PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE.

Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

SIGN PAINTERS & PAINT MAKERS 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

SOUTHERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 517 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay. PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 4816 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, at 950 Industrial Cir., White City.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, at the Eureka Training Center, 634 California St., Eureka, Calif.

UNITED STEELWORKERS 1097

Members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, preceded by a 3 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office building, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

Home foreclosure workshop Jan. 21 at Machinists Hall

Union members facing foreclosure on their homes can attend a free workshop Jan. 21 at the Machinists Hall in Southeast Portland.

The workshop, "Getting Traction," is presented by Good Grief America, a nonprofit organization based in Central Point, Oregon. Last October, some 70 people attended a workshop at the Machinists Hall co-sponsored by that union and Labor's Community Service Agency.

"Past attendees have reported that all who are pushing back are getting positive results," said Nancie Koerber who, along with Mark Thomas, founded Good Grief America. The couple is sharing their experiences in dealing with foreclosure. They do not give legal or tax advice, Thomas said, but focus more on providing moral support and help direct homeowners who are feeling lost in the shuffle.

"Notices of Default filed in Multnomah County are staggering," Koerber said, "which means there are many more foreclosures coming that aren't visible yet."

The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 21. The Machinists Hall is located at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

Pre-registration is required. To do so, call 541-690-8334 or go online to www.goodgriefamerica.ning.com.

Retiree Meeting Notices

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, followed by an 11 a.m. General Membership meeting, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE. All retirees are welcome to attend.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees, wives and friends meet 12:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at Gresham Manor, 2895 SE Powell Valley Rd, Gresham (from Burnside turn left onto Powell Valley Rd.; Gresham Manor will be on your left - if you get to Palmsblad Rd., you have gone too far) for lunch.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees and wives meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at Kirkland Union Manor.

IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 12 noon Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., Portland for a catered lunch.

MILLWRIGHTS 711

Retirees meet noon Wednesday, Jan. 19, at Hometown Buffet, (by Mall 205) 10452A SE Washington, Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to

11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 10, at 1125 SE Madison, #100G, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954 ext. 226.

SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at Lung Fung's Restaurant, 2025 N. Lombard, Portland.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Unions split on new U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement

Officials from the Auto Workers and UFCW say the deal will create union jobs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — The United Auto Workers (UAW) and United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) may be in the minority

among top U.S. unions in backing the revised U.S.-Korea Trade Agreement. The AFL-CIO and United Steelworkers Union — among others — say the new pact negotiated by President Barack Obama falls short.

Ironically, the split could help the trade deal pass Capitol Hill, most likely during the new 112th Congress that opened this month.

UAW said the new pact will help U.S. car and

part exports to Korea, while UFCW hailed the deal for opening the Korean beef market. Thousands of its members work in meat-processing plants. UFCW called the pact “a small but not insignificant step forward” in battling for fair trade.

Obama announced the revised deal in early December. It keeps U.S. tariffs on Korean cars and trucks for years, while giving more entry for U.S. cars and machinery into the Korean market, he

said. If lawmakers approve legislation to implement the pact — they can’t vote on the pact itself and can’t amend it — it would be the biggest U.S. trade deal since the jobs-losing North American Free Trade Agreement of 1993.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and Steelworkers President Leo Gerard said that despite the Koreans’ concessions on cars and trucks, the revised pact still doesn’t protect U.S. workers.

“Labor has consistently argued the investment and government procurement provisions in the Korea deal will encourage off-shoring,” Trumka explained. “Despite progress in improving the labor chapter in 2007, it is clear that in both the United States and South Korea, workers continue to face repeated challenges to their exercise of fundamental human rights on the job — especially freedom of association and the right to organize and bargain collectively. This deal does nothing to improve or strengthen” labor provisions inserted by former President George W. Bush, he added.

Gerard said the Steelworkers were included in the talks (along with the UAW) with the Obama Administration. Gerard praised the Administration for moving away from Bush’s original FTA, but said the union’s Executive Board “carefully reviewed” the revised pact, deciding it fell short in allowing outsourcing of U.S. jobs and in letting Korea import goods from China for transshipment to the U.S., among other failings.

“The auto sector is of vital importance to our members who make the glass, tires, steel, plastics and countless other products that are part of the supply chain in the auto and auto parts sector,” Gerard explained. The union worked with Obama to prepare “a negotiating approach in the auto sector that we could support. Regrettably, the South Koreans showed little willingness to move off of their positions at those talks.”

Gerard said the final agreement “will result in increased access to the U.S. market for Korean producers with insufficient assurance the closed South Korean market will sufficiently open up to our auto exports and other manufactured goods, such as steel. Provisions were not included in the FTA to reduce the flood of products that could be shipped from China and other countries to Korea to be assembled into South Korean exports that will benefit from the terms of the FTA. The lack of strong rule of origin provisions ... will directly and adversely impact USW members in a number of industrial sectors.”

Communications Workers of America also weighed in, saying the deal fails on worker rights and gives multi-national corporations too much leeway.

“This agreement gives investment and legal protections to large multi-national corporations, which shift jobs offshore in search of the lowest labor and environmental costs and highest profits. With no counter balance, multi-national corporations whipsaw workers and nations to prevent and eliminate bargaining rights,” the union said.



THE FINEST VEHICLES IN THE WORLD MADE BY UAW MEMBERS

Now more than ever: Buy union-made cars and trucks The UAW's 2011 Vehicles Guide



JIM WEST

These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canadian Auto Workers (CAW).

Because of the integration of United States and Canadian vehicle production, all the vehicles listed that are made in Canada include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

However, those marked with an asterisk (*) are produced in the United States and another country. The light-duty (LD) crew cab versions of the vehicles marked with a double asterisk (**) are manufactured only in Mexico; other models are made in the United States. When purchasing one of these models, check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with “1,” “4” or “5” identifies a U.S.-made vehicle; “2” identifies a Canadian-made vehicle.

Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.

UAW CARS

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Dodge Caliber
Dodge Viper
Ford Focus
Ford Mustang

Ford Taurus
Lincoln MKS
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Chevrolet Traverse
Dodge Durango
Dodge Nitro
Ford Escape/Hybrid
Ford Expedition
Ford Explorer
Ford Explorer Sport Trac
GMC Acadia
GMC Yukon/Hybrid
Jeep Compass
Jeep Grand Cherokee
Jeep Liberty
Jeep Patriot
Jeep Wrangler
Lincoln Navigator
Mazda Tribute/Hybrid
Mercury Mariner/Hybrid
Mercury Mountaineer
Mitsubishi Endeavor

CAW VANS

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Chevrolet Silverado**
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To see other UAW-Made products check out the UAW's consumer buying guide: www.uaw.org



WSLC President Rick Bender (right) shares a laugh with Secretary-Treasurer Al Link at the state labor federation's convention in 2009. Both union officials retired at the end of 2010.

...WSLC passes the baton

(From Page 5)

teered from an early age on door-to-door union political campaigns: His father was Spokane Democratic Party chairman, and his mother was political director of the Spokane Labor Council. Link was drafted and spent 1967 and 1968 in Vietnam in an army engineering group. He returned to the Kaiser mill, became active in the union, and served many terms as vice president before running for president in 1992. Link became WSLC secretary-treasurer in 1994.

Of their years together at WSLC, both Bender and Link say the high point was 1993, when the union movement won numerous victories in the State Legislature — such as beefed-up workers' compensation and unemployment benefits, and expanded rights for public employees to unionize. The low point came the following year, when Republicans swept to power at the state and national levels. That 1994 election ended the 30-year career of a labor ally — Eastern Washington Congressman Tom Foley, who was Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Still, WSLC helped return Democrats to power in Olympia a few years later, and won some victories at the ballot box, most notably a 1998 measure that raised the minimum wage and tied future increases to the consumer price index. That made Washington the first state to index annual minimum wage increases to inflation; 10 other states have followed, including Oregon.

A retirement party to honor Bender and Link will be held Jan. 8 at the Seattle Airport Doubletree Hotel. Their successors were sworn in Jan. 5.

Jeff Johnson, 59, has been on the WSLC staff for 24 years. He first taught labor economics and labor history to apprentices at IBEW Local 3 in New York, after earning a master's degree in political economics from the New

School of Social Research. Then he spent two years as a labor studies professor at the State University of New York-Empire State College. He moved to Olympia and went to work for WSLC as research and organizing director and lobbyist, battling in the State Capitol to promote and defend workers' rights. In 1988, he helped write a ballot measure that raised the minimum wage from \$2.30 to \$4.25 and extended it to farm workers. And in 1998, he laid the groundwork for the ballot measure that indexed the minimum wage to inflation. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 300,000 workers get a raise every year because of it.

Lynne Dodson, 49, is new to WSLC. A psychology professor at Seattle Central Community College, Dodson decided in 1997 to get involved with her union, American Federation of Teachers Local 1789, after she saw a co-worker retire after 25 years with nothing but an "emeritus" award. Dodson grew up in Inchelium, Washington, on the Colville Indian Reservation, where her mother, a teacher, had been active in her union. Dodson, WSLC's first female executive officer, has a passion for social justice and a PhD in social welfare from the University of Washington.

President Johnson and Secretary-Treasurer Dodson have an ambitious vision for WSLC. They want to build up the capacity to educate members, to counter the ideology that put Wall Street first and left working America behind. They want to make organized labor more appealing to younger workers, rebuild labor's communications infrastructure, and rekindle a union culture based on the principle of solidarity. And they want to strengthen labor's alliance with other movements, showing Washingtonians that unions aren't just about defending their own members — they're about building power to win economic and social justice for all working people.

...Donations pour in for holiday events

(From Page 1)

rated the labor community with announcements at every meeting," Burns said.

Within days of the initial appeal, donations arrived for holiday dinners. Marc Levy, president of United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, provided special-use funds as a cornerstone for the dinner efforts. Monetary contributions came pouring in, some on behalf of local unions, some from members and staff. LCSA's workforce development partner, Worksystems, Inc., passed the hat, too.

"All were made with a determination to help labor's struggling families," Burns said.

In December, the toy drive took shape. Union organizations, members, and families brought in toys galore. Others thought it best to leave the shopping to someone else, and helped out with cash donations.

Madison's Restaurant offered the Nase Building event hall, with holiday décor, staffing, and beverages included, at a rock-bottom rate. Brad Nase followed suit, lending an empty suite of offices to store and set up toys for Santa's workshop. The local Dominos Pizza gave a bulk rate of \$5 per pie, and Terry Lansing, secretary-treasurer of Bakers Local 114, donated two gigantic union-made cakes for dessert. To top it all off, Darice and Jay Robinson of Hollywood Impress Printing provided 300 hand-packed goody bags for Santa to distribute at the party, and Tim Foster of IBEW Local 48 offered up free Christmas trees from his own tree farm.



A father and son decide what toy to pick during "Presents from Partners" holiday party Dec. 19 hosted by Labor's Community Service Agency and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. All told, 73 union families (219 kids) received toys, visited Santa Claus, and enjoyed pizza and cake.

When the toys were sorted and arranged for the Dec. 19 party, they filled five office rooms. The final count was over 2,000 toys for boys, girls, tweens, teens, and toddlers.

On the day of the event, dozens of volunteer "elves" and "reindeer" welcomed appreciative families. They offered activity books and helped kids chose from Santa's "stocking stuff." They guided families to the event hall, helped with seating and serving, brought families to visit and take free pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus, then led kids to Santa's workshop, helping them choose four presents each.

Leftover toys were donated to the Department of Human Services offices in downtown Portland for foster children and kids removed from their par-

ents and homes, to women's shelters, and to disabled children.

All told, LCSA distributed Holiday Dinner Program gift cards to 65 families across 15 local unions. Seventy-three families (219 kids, 342 people, from 26 local unions) were lifted up through the "Presents from Partners" program. Additionally, LCSA had enough funds to sponsor two holiday luncheons for dislocated workers at local WorkSource offices.

"The outpouring of support this holiday season was a gift from and for working people and organized labor," Burns said. "It was a combined effort of unions, community partners, and local businesses (too numerous to list) a display of solidarity, an inspiration, and a resounding success."



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Open Forum

Rioting in streets won't help cause

To The Editor:

In regard to the column written by Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain in the Dec. 17 edition of the Labor Press, I would like to make a few comments:

Next year I will have been a union member for 50 years. I am retired now. I've also been a registered Democrat all my life.

I believe in unions because they help the little people, but I think Mr. Chamberlain is way off base by hinting that people here should cause the kind of trouble that those nuts over in the U.K. and Europe are causing.

Rioting in the streets does not help any cause, in my opinion.

John Schell
Bricklayers Local 1, Retired
Portland

Thank you, Clackamas County

To the Editor:

As the head of an organization which represents 15,000 construction workers in the area, I recently attended a series of three public hearings at Clackamas County for a \$5 vehicle registration fee to help pay for the replacement of the Sellwood Bridge. A now decrepit structure built in 1925, the bridge forms a critical link in the region's transportation system and serves as an economic lifeline to many businesses in North Clackamas County and is critical for the future development of the area.

Aside from the urgent need to replace the bridge for safety reasons, there is also an opportunity to spur the

county's economy — both immediately with the construction phase and into the future by providing a viable transportation path into prime undeveloped commercial and industrial property in the county.

The hearings drew a crowd typical of the times, with those against pointing out the bridge is outside Clackamas County and would add to existing auto registration fees. Those in favor of replacement were quick to show the bridge lies only a mile outside the county line, but most of the traffic on it is to or from Clackamas County and the economic benefits to the whole county far outweighed the small cost. The price

Actions of Kulongoski, Nesbitt irresponsible

To The Editor:

AFSCME's Ken Allen is absolutely right about Gov. Kulongoski's attack on public workers as he heads out the door. It is very irresponsible, and it is especially appalling that Kulongoski's sidekick in this attack is Tim Nesbitt, former president of the Oregon AFL-CIO and former officer of the Service

Employees International Union. Dues-paying public workers paid Nesbitt's salary for many years. What a shameful betrayal. I guess he misheard labor's anthem all those years and was singing "Solidarity, whatever."

Michael Funke
United Steelworkers
Bend

Top Laborers official responds to 9/11 bill

(Statement of Terry O'Sullivan, general president of the Laborers' International Union of North America, following the passage and signing of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.)

"President Obama's signature caps off an incredible effort to make sure the men and women who helped America during some of her darkest hours, and sacrificed so much in the process, receive the respect and support they deserve.

"Over 3,000 Laborers Union members were involved in the response and clean-up at the site of the World Trade Center. Many now suffer daily and face life-threatening illnesses due to exposure to toxins at Ground Zero. Helping them get the treatment they need is the right thing to do, and we are grateful to the leaders in Congress in both parties who worked until the last minute to make sure this bill became law.

"This bill has been a priority of Laborers Union members for years. In recent weeks, they made call after call,

and sent thousands of e-mails, to members of Congress in a successful effort to overcome an indefensible obstruction campaign mounted by a handful of Senate Republicans. By keeping a spotlight on this important issue, they helped ensure success when many predicted failure.

"By helping these 9/11 heroes, we have shown that America will help those who help their country. This victory should show all of us why we must continue fighting to support those who build our country."

NLRB proposes rule to inform more workers of their rights on the job

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) voted 3-1 on Dec. 22 to propose a rule requiring businesses to post permanent workers' rights notices.

If approved, the permanent notices would inform workers of their rights to organize and bargain collectively, and to be free of illegal employer interference. The notices also would give examples of labor law-breaking that companies should avoid.

Companies with federal contracts now must post that notice with those details, the NLRB said. And the NLRB noted that employers must already post notices regarding federal wage, job safety and anti-discrimination laws.

"The intended effects of this action are to increase knowledge of the

NLRA (National Labor Relations Act) among employees, to better enable the exercise of rights under the statute, and to promote statutory compliance by employers and unions," the Board said.

"Private-sector employers, including labor organizations, whose workplaces fall under the NLRA would be required to post the employee rights notice where other workplace notices are typically posted. If an employer communicates with employees primarily by e-mail or other electronic means, the notice would be posted electronically as well," the NLRB added.

Employers who knowingly refuse to post the notices would be guilty of an unfair labor practice, but would face no

penalties.

The Board's proposal is far from the last word on the issue. The NLRB opened the rule for public comment until Feb. 22. The dissenter on the decision, former Republican Senate Labor Committee staffer Brian Hayes, said the agency "lacked the statutory authority" to even propose the notice-posting rule.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka called the proposal "a common-sense policy needed in today's workplace. Every working person deserves to know his or her rights ... It is necessary in the face of widespread misunderstanding about the law and many workers' justified fear of exercising their rights under it."

of a cup of coffee a year, as one person put it.

Torn between two responsibilities, commissioners voted 4-0 in favor and added a resolution that, among other things, caps the amount to be contributed (\$22 million), confines the purpose (Sellwood Bridge replacement only), and requires labor and materials to be as locally sourced as legally possible.

The Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council supports the decision by the commissioners to pass the vehicle registration fee and congratulates them for the attending resolution limiting the cost and intent while creating thousand of jobs.

Paul Riggs
Secretary-Treasurer
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GREED AT A GLANCE

Could anything possibly be more all-American than Pasadena's annual New Year's Day Tournament of Roses parade? This Southern California city has been parading on New Year's since 1890, and over 50 million Americans watched this past edition. What these viewers didn't see: Pasadena's staggeringly wide gap between the rich and everyone else. By one measure, Occidental College's Peter Dreier noted, Pasadena has just tied San Francisco as "California's most unequal city." Pasadena's wealthiest 5 percent — essentially everybody making over \$250,000 — now take home almost a quarter of the city's income. Their bidding up the cost of shelter has sent rents throughout the city soaring. Just under 70 percent of Pasadena families making between \$35,000 and \$50,000 are currently paying over 30 percent of their income on housing ...

Pasadena has another New Year's claim to fame. The city, back in 1902, invented the college football bowl game. Nearly three dozen of these exhibitions now dot America's holiday landscape.

Why so many? These games pay off big — for bowl game CEOs. Most of these execs, a new study shows, make over \$300,000 for running ostensibly "non-profit" operations. The top exec for one obscure game, the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl, made \$320,492 in 2008, a total that equaled 11 percent of the game's revenues. If the CEO of Wal-Mart took in 11 percent of his company's revenues, notes a new Time report, "he'd be making \$44 billion."

Wal-Mart's current CEO does not, of course, make \$44 billion a year. But that exec, Mike Duke, does make an impressive piece of change, \$19.2 million in the company's latest fiscal year. What's Duke doing to earn his ample take-home? He's moving furiously fast on his pledge to slow the retail chain's rising expenses — by cutting Wal-Mart wages. Starting this January, all new Wal-Mart hires will no longer earn the \$1 an hour premium Wal-Mart employees have traditionally earned for working on Sundays. Duke's move, by the end of this year, will have most Wal-Mart workers no longer eligible for the Sunday pre-

mium, since employee turnover at the retail giant averages 60 percent a year ...

Mike Duke has some stiff competition in the CEO scrooge race from over at Disneyland, where just over 2,000 bellmen, dishwashers, room attendants, and cooks at Disney hotels have been without a contract since January 2008. The biggest bone of contention at the bargaining table: Disney wants workers to start shelling out as much as \$535 a month more for health care. For workers like Narciso Guevara, a 10-year Disney veteran who makes \$1,910 a month, that added outlay would be simply unaffordable. Walt Disney CEO Bob Iger, for his part, averaged over \$2.4 million a month in 2009. In a bid to dramatize that contrast, Disney workers are battling in an unusual new venue. They're urging film industry folks to "vote their conscience" in this year's Academy Awards balloting and deny Disney's Toy Story 3 the nod as the year's top picture.

(From Too Much, an online weekly publication of the Institute for Policy Studies; editor@toomuchonline.org.)



Carrier retires from Painters Union

A retirement party was held Dec. 16 for Tim Carrier, longtime business representative of Painters and Allied Trades District Council No. 5. In the photo above, Carrier (center) receives a plaque of appreciation from Oregon AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Byrd (right) and AFL-CIO Political Legislative Director Duke Shepard. Carrier was the "unofficial" political coordinator for the union and was involved in numerous campaigns in Oregon and Southwest Washington throughout his career. Carrier, 55, joined Painters Local 360 in 1978 after going to work for Thompson Metal Fab. Always active in the union, he was hired as an organizer in February 1991 by the former District Council No. 55 (it merged into District Council 5). In addition to organizing, Carrier also was an instructor in the apprenticeship program. He was elected as a full-time business rep in the mid-1990s, serving Local 360 and later Local 10, following the merger of those two locals. Over the years he was elected to virtually every office of Local 360 — from president on down. He was a trustee to the joint apprenticeship training council and District Council's health and welfare trusts; and was an at-large member of the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board. He also served as a delegate to several central labor and building trades councils. "This union has cared for me and my family," Carrier said. "They have found me work, they secured health and welfare for me and my family and they have secured a decent pension for me to retire. Thank you for letting me serve as your business rep." Carrier's successor as business rep for District Council 5 is Jeff Brooke.

City of Lake Oswego workers join Oregon AFSCME

By a margin of 57 to 43 percent, the independent Lake Oswego Municipal Employees Association (LOMEA) voted Nov. 10 to affiliate with Oregon AFSCME Council 75.

The bargaining unit of 165 people includes most non-management and non-police employees in the city.

The Lake Oswego workers are the sixth group of city employees within Clackamas County to affiliate with the union, joining those from Canby, Gladstone, Milwaukie, Oregon

City, and West Linn.

Talks between AFSCME and LOMEA have been ongoing since December 2009, and included "11 months and many meetings," said AFSCME Organizing Director Sue Lee-Allen. "We are excited to have them join us, and they are excited about becoming part of AFSCME."

LOMEA and the City of Lake Oswego inked a new three-year contract in January 2010.

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Washington judge nixes effort to stop minimum wage hike

SEATTLE — A Kittitas County judge Dec. 29 rejected an effort by corporate lobbying groups to halt a 12-cent increase to Washington state's minimum wage that went into affect Jan. 1.

Superior Court Judge Scott Sparks ruled against the summary judgment request from the Washington Farm Bureau, Washington Restaurant Association, Washington Food Industry Association, and Washington Retailers Association that sued the state in November over the decision to raise the minimum wage to \$8.67 an hour on Jan. 1. They sided with Republican State Attorney General Rob McKenna who opined that the lowest legal wage should not increase in years following a drop in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The Washington State Labor Council joined with the Washington Asso-

ciation of Churches, the Lutheran Public Policy Office, Washington Community Action Network, and minimum wage workers from UNITE HERE! and the United Farm Workers union to intervene on behalf of the state's position that the minimum wage ought to go up on Jan. 1, per the language and formula that the WSLC wrote in 1998's Initiative 688. The judge denied the plaintiff's request for summary judgment and stated that the law was clear as it was written — that the minimum wage was only to be increased whenever there was a positive rate of change of the CPI-W from one year to the next.

"This means about 140,000 workers received a raise Jan. 1, including a number of our members in the hospitality, service, food service, and agricultural industries," said incoming WSLC President Jeff Johnson, who attended the hearing in Ellensburg. "This is our first success in 2011 for Washington's working families. May there be many more."

(From the WSLC Reports Today website at www.wslc.org.)

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Introducing **BUSTED!** a new regular feature

Every month for the last 11 years, the Northwest Labor Press has requested and received two sets of documents from National Labor Re-

lations Board Subregion 36. That office is supposed to protect the union rights of workers in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Information in documents about union elections mostly ends up in our monthly "Local Motion" feature. And information from documents about unfair labor practices — as violations of the National Labor Relations Act are called — sometimes tips us off to workplace conflicts that end up reported in this paper.

But most of the unfair labor practice charges have gone unreported. Our small staff and limited space are not up to the task of reporting the nearly 200 charges a year that are being filed by workers and unions in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

So we've decided to publish a sampler of the more interesting and

outrageous cases, in order that our readers may see what we see: rampant day-to-day employer violations of labor law, workers fired for exercising their rights, and managers threatening, spying on, and punishing pro-union employees. Our hope

is that this will give Labor Press readers a fuller picture of what's going on — and that they will sometimes reach out to help their fellow workers — and let employers know they can't operate in the dark forever.

BUSTED!

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

Best Buy fires pro-union workers, one by one

At **Best Buy** stores in Oregon, a group of 24 home theater system installers tried in late 2009 to join **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48**. But the big-box electronics retailer brought in anti-union lawyers and consultants. The result: A day before the scheduled union vote, Local 48 acknowledged it had lost the majority, and withdrew its election request. Seven months later, on June 6, 2010, Best Buy fired Joseph Van Hoosen, an installer who had actively campaigned for the union. Sean Ellis was next, fired on June 22. Brian Sullivan was the third, fired Sept. 3. All three supported the union, and were fired for what they say are phony reasons. Last month they filed charges against Best Buy, and are represented by Lake Oswego trial lawyer Roger Hennagin.

Union members need not apply

Why spend money crushing a union campaign when you can just avoid hiring pro-union workers in the first place? **Johnson Crushers International**, a nonunion Eugene mining equipment manufacturer with about 200 workers, is accused by **United Steelworkers** of breaking the law by refusing to hire or consider hiring two welders because of their union past.

Boss grabs contract out of steward's hands

UNITE HERE Local 9 shop steward Melissa Goff works room service at the **Portland Hilton Hotel & Executive Tower**. On Nov. 1, she saw Sonny Superana, a steward from another union, in the employee break room reading his **Operating Engineers Local 701** contract. He lent it to her so she could compare it to her Local 9 contract. Later, manager Florian Kunkel saw the Local 701 contract and demanded to know where she got it. That's confidential information, he told her, and she had no business reading it. When she refused to hand it over, he grabbed it out of her hands. "I was in shock," Goff tells the Labor Press. "He's twice as big as me, and he's the boss. I knew it wasn't right, but wasn't 100 percent sure." The NLRB should have an easy time with this one. Workers have the right under federal law to talk, compare notes, and share contracts if they want to, and no manager can order them to stay divided.

Managers panic: Stewards talking to members!

Avamere nursing home in Hillsboro has ordered stewards not to post materials or talk with employees in the break room, only in the conference room. They would need to negotiate that change with **Service Employees International Union Local 503**, the union charges.


Vacation any time ... except most of the year

Oregon Child Development Coalition, a network of child care centers, announced a new vacation policy: Nobody can take any for nine months — from September to June. Previously, the "black-out" dates were two months. But they didn't bargain the new policy with **Laborers Local 320**, and thus broke the law, the union charges.

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