



NORTHWEST

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Portland, Oregon

At Clackamas Town Center

AFSCME 9-1-1 dispatchers first to respond to mall shooting

By DON LOVING

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012, is a day that Jeff Campbell and his co-workers at the Clackamas County Department of Communications Center will never forget. The center, colloquially known as C-COM, was thrust into the national spotlight when Jacob Tyler Roberts opened fire inside the Clackamas Town Center shopping mall, killing two people and seriously injuring another, before taking his own life.

The first call came in at 3:29 p.m.

"It's not all that unusual for someone to call in to say they heard a shot fired, or at least thought they heard a gunshot somewhere," says Campbell, a veteran C-COM 9-1-1 dispatcher and longtime member of Oregon AFSCME Local 350. "But then immediately there was a second call, and a third. You can see calls build on the screen for the same event, so it didn't take long for all of us on the floor to know what was happening: there was an 'active shooter' at the Clackamas Town Center."

For 10 minutes, calls came fast and furious ... from people running out of the mall, from people in the mall, people in stores, people in hiding, and then, quickly, from people tending to victims.

"We were quickly triaging calls," said Campbell. "We asked, 'Did you see anything, or did you just hear the gunshots?' 'Are you hiding?' 'Are you barricaded?' 'Do you believe you're safe?' If they felt safe, we encouraged them to stay put and wait for emergency personnel."

It's the kind of situation no one wants to be a part of, but Campbell says he and his colleagues were prepared for the task.

"It's a credit to our union that we were able to respond as we



Jeff Campbell, a member of AFSCME Local 350 at his Clackamas County 9-1-1 dispatch desk.

did," says Campbell. "That fact is undeniable. It was fortunate the event happened near a shift change, so we even had some extra people on hand. But we've fought tooth and nail over staffing here at our center (for years). Adequate staffing levels at any 9-1-1 center are a perpetual issue, but we're in pretty good shape here because of our union."

As the event unfolded, Campbell says it took about an hour before dispatchers could figuratively take a breath. C-COM typically

receives 200 to 300 calls per day; they fielded over 100 calls in the first 10 minutes after the shooting. For the day they totaled 546 "emergency" calls, another 600 that were classified as "non-emergency" plus 72 classified as "fire" calls, many of those also attributable to the Town Center situation.

"Of course, while this was going on, we were still receiving other, 'regular' 9-1-1 calls," said Campbell. "We had to dispatch those as well. I'm proud of all of us here at C-COM. I believe we handled the situation professionally, and we handled it well."

Campbell says dispatchers have had some limited "tactical dispatch training" geared toward an event of the magnitude of the Town Center shooting, but for the most part, he and his colleagues relied on their regular training.

"It's pretty much the same thing, just on a bigger level," he said. "Again, the union deserves credit on that point. (Union leaders) were dogged over the years in demanding training. Our contract includes required trainings, and we even have a training coordinator in our bargaining unit. We have a good relationship with management on the training issue today, but that's due to the union's insistence on the topic in previous years."

Campbell, who's been a 9-1-1 dispatcher for about 17 years, has been in his share of prickly situations. He says Clackamas County dispatchers receive a "wide gamut" of call types, including their share of Mt. Hood-related search and rescue operations.

"But this event goes right to the top," he said. "It's the situation you never want to have to deal with. But we did, and again, we did

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2012 — A YEAR OF SUCCESSES, SETBACKS FOR LABOR

2012 was a year mixing successes and setbacks for organized labor, both nationally and locally.

President Barack Obama was re-elected with union backing, but immediately after the votes were in, union leaders felt a need to mobilize to push him, and Congressional Democrats, not to mess with Social Security or Medicare as part of a "fiscal cliff" compromise.

Labor failed in its effort to recall Wisconsin's Republican Governor Scott Walker — who made war on public employee union rights in 2011. But three months after Walker beat back recall with 53 percent of the vote, a state judge struck down parts of the law.

And in December, a lame duck Legislature passed a law, with little public notice, making Michigan the 24th "right-to-work" state, or as one pro-union legislator put it, "a right-to-free-

load" state. Right-to-work laws make union dues strictly optional, even though unions are bound by law to represent all workers in a workplace.

In Chicago, a weeklong strike by 26,000 public school teachers in September dealt a partial blow to a corporate reform agenda for schools. Later, voters in Idaho and South Dakota rejected anti-teacher reforms.

But at bankrupt Hostess Brands, management responded to a weeklong protest strike in November by members of the Bakers Union by closing the 85-year-old company for good, putting the company's assets up for sale and laying off close to 18,000 workers.

In Oregon, unions lost some hard-fought campaigns, and won others:

- Doshia Salon Spa, an Aveda-branded salon chain that unionized in 2011, fired several union supporters in 2012, and campaigned to decertify the

union; predicting certain loss, Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7901 called it quits after failing to secure a first-time union contract.

- At TriMet, an arbitrator picked management's offer over the union's, leading the transit agency to demand workers pay up to \$7,080 for retroactive health insurance premiums. But Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 challenged that in court, and won several partial legal victories in a set of cases that are still pending.

- At Cascade Steel Rolling Mills in McMinnville, about 300 members of United Steel Workers Local 8378 got annual raises of up to 2.5 percent after a 12-day strike, but also paid more for health coverage.

New union members:

- In March, 1,912 University of Oregon faculty unionized with American Association of University Professors.

- In July, 500 Portland security officers joined Service Employees Local 49 at four companies that agreed to "card check" union recognition: Securitas, ABM, G4S, and AlliedBarton.

- In November, TriMet Lift workers at a long nonunion unit of contractor First Transit voted 111-31 to join ATU Local 757.

But at BrucePac, a Willamette Valley cooked meat and poultry processor with 284 workers, a three-year-long campaign to join the Laborers Union went down by more than 3-to-1 in a July union election.

And in November, a group of 600 support staff at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend voted 334 to 212 to go nonunion Nov. 1. Workers voted narrowly in January 2011 to join Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 49, but never got a union contract in the course of more than 40 formal

negotiating sessions.

Portland City Council made some policy changes that will benefit working people:

- In September, it approved a model "community benefits agreement" that commits to build city projects with union labor, and to use minority workers and contractors.

- And in November, it voted to issue 50 taxi permits to Union Cab — a newly-formed driver-owned co-op that is affiliated with Communications Workers of America Local 7901.

The recession seemed to end for many local building trades workers as work boomed at Intel's giant new manufacturing facility and in projects building a "cloud" of computer data centers in the high desert of Central Oregon.

In July, Coquille Valley Hospital

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Glaziers Local 740 awards pins to longtime union members

Glass Workers Local 740 honored longtime members with pins Dec. 19 at a retirees' luncheon in Northeast Portland.

In a special presentation, Bill Vonderohe (pictured) received a 50-year gold card, a watch, and special plaque. Vonderohe has been an officer of the union since 1967, most recently as the local's recording secretary. He chairs the retirees' club as well.

Karl Werner was on hand to receive a 55-year pin, and Robert Johnson and Robin Knutson took home 45-year pins. Thirty-five year pins were presented

to Alan Brown, Frank Fath, Eddy Gardner and Charles Voepel. Martin Vasquez was not present. Also not attending were 40-year members Timothy Triden and Tim Washington; 50-

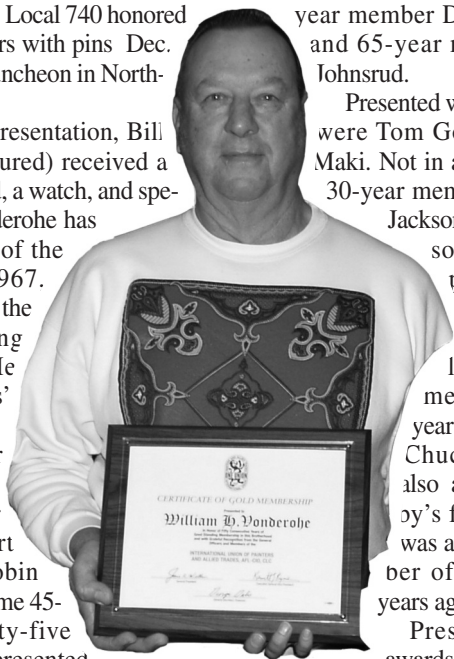
year member Donald Hansen, and 65-year member James Johnsrud.

Presented with 30-year pins were Tom Golden and Eric Maki. Not in attendance were 30-year members Lawrence Jackson, Henry Johanson, Bryon Temple, and Jerry Thomas.

The local's longest-serving member, with 67 years — 85-year-old Chuck Boothby — also attended. Boothby's father, William, was a founding member of the local 101 years ago.

Presenting the awards were Local 740 President Alan Brown and Business Representative Jerry Fisher.

Membership pins of 5 to 25 years will be presented at the Local's regular membership meeting in January.



Retirees of Glass Workers Local 740 gathered for a holiday luncheon and membership pin ceremony Dec. 19 in Portland. Among those attending was Chuck Boothby (seated), the local's longest-serving member with 67 years.

NW labor history association puts out call for papers on CIO

The Pacific Northwest Labor History Association (PNLHA) has put out a call for presentations, workshops, and papers for its conference May 3-5 in Portland.

PNLHA is a non-profit association dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of workers in the Pacific Northwest, which includes Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Members are trade unionists, students, academics, and others who share an interest in the history and heritage of workers in the region.

The theme of this year's conference, its 45th, is "Labor Under Attack: Learning from the Past and Preparing for the Future."

The association is seeking proposals related to the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Congress of Indus-

trial Organizations (CIO) and its connection to workers, politics, and community activist groups.

In its call for papers PNLHA encourages participatory methods for program presentations, including panel discussions, oral histories, and the arts.

The deadline for proposals is Tuesday, Jan. 15.

For more information, or to submit a proposal, contact Laurie Mercier at lmecier@vancouver.wsu.edu.

The conference will be held at University Place Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Portland. A bloc of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees.

The Oregon Historical Society will host a reception and registration on Friday, May 3.

...AFSCME 9-1-1 dispatchers

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it well."

On the floor with Campbell at the time of the Clackamas Town Center shooting were fellow Local 350 members Julie Anderson, Suzanne Baughman, Jaime Scheneman Cooper, Devon Halleman, Andrew Mickelson, Michael Smith, and Beth Spreadborough, as well as supervisors Jodi Edmeier and Teresa Raihala-Sethe (both former members). Local 350 members Karey Ammons, Holle Burbach and Local 350 President Fred Yungbluth came in voluntarily after hearing about the situation, and members Lori Gillingham,

Kory Oman, Megan Pointer, and Ben Postlewait all dealt with the continuing aftermath as they came on the next shift.

Campbell says C-COM Director Bob Cozzie arrived within minutes of hearing about the situation on the news, as did operations manager Mark Spross, who happened to be driving by the Town Center at the time.

"We had a lot of support from management as well as our union brothers and sisters," said Campbell.

(Editor's Note: Don Loving is communications director of Oregon AF-SCME Council 75.)

...2012 — A YEAR IN REVIEW

(From Page 1)

opened a new facility in Coos County. The AFL-CIO's Housing Investment Trust (HIT) financed \$22 million of the \$30 million construction project, and some 225 union construction workers were employed under a project labor agreement with general contractor Neenan Architecture.

Early in 2012, construction unions held several informational pickets at the Port of Vancouver, where an out-of-state, nonunion contractor was employing foreign and out-of-state workers to build an export terminal expansion for United Grain.

Postal worker unions held several rallies throughout the year to protest the

postmaster general's plan to shutter half of all mail processing facilities in the United States and end Saturday mail delivery.

In Oregon politics, the Clackamas County board of commissioners in January unanimously passed a resolution prioritizing the use of local source hiring of workers and materials that provide family wage jobs whenever it puts out for bid public construction projects and/or personal and professional service contracts.

In the November election, a union-sponsored ballot initiative diverting Oregon's corporate kicker tax refund to schools passed by a wide margin. Labor also helped reject Measure 84, an

attempt to phase out inheritance taxes on large estates.

Union members knocked on over 115,000 doors and made over 315,000 phone calls in the Oregon AFL-CIO's election program, where labor-backed Democrats picked up four seats in the Oregon House, retaking the majority there while holding on to 16-14 majority in the Oregon Senate.

Meanwhile, in Washington, labor-endorsed Democrat Jay Inslee won the governor's race, but Democrats held the state senate by only 26-23, and in December, two Democrats announced a power-sharing deal to turn the chamber over to Republicans.



James Coon



Raymond Thomas



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Chris Frost



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Charley Gee



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Oregon Supreme Court ruling expands union grievance rights

SALEM — Workers can't be stripped of union grievance rights just because they're pursuing outside legal action, said the Oregon Supreme Court in a Nov. 27 ruling, and any collective bargaining agreement language that says otherwise is invalid and unenforceable.

The court's decision ends an eight-year legal case that began after a professor at Portland State University's Graduate School of Education complained to her department head that a colleague had been sexually harassed. When the professor later learned that her year-to-year employment contract would not be renewed for the following year, she turned to her union, American Association of University Professors (AAUP), and filed a grievance accusing PSU of discriminatory retaliation. But PSU refused to process the grievance — once it learned the professor was pursuing related discrimination claims with the state Bureau of Labor and Industries and the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Under a clause in the union contract, the university had no obligation to continue the grievance process if a member tried to resolve the same matter in an outside agency or court. But AAUP asked the state Employment Relations Board (ERB) to declare that the clause itself was illegal, and ERB

agreed. PSU challenged the ERB ruling at the Oregon Court of Appeals, and won. But AAUP appealed that ruling to the Oregon Supreme Court.

Under state and federal law, employers are prohibited from discriminating against employees for filing complaints about unlawful employment practices. The Oregon Supreme Court ruled that when the university denied the professor access to the grievance process — because she had filed an outside civil rights complaint — it was discriminating against her for exercising her rights.

"The clause at issue in this case imposes a form of employer retaliation for protected conduct that reasonably would impede or deter an employee

from pursuing his or her statutory rights," wrote Supreme Court Justice Robert Durham. "The resulting harm is neither theoretical nor trivial, but qualifies as a substantive difference in treatment."

Attorney Elizabeth Joffe, who represented AAUP in the case, said unions tend to oppose such clauses, whereas employers like them because they prevent workers from having "two bites at the apple," and they can reduce employers' legal expenses.

But for workers, the clauses create a dilemma. EEOC, for example, doesn't pursue discrimination complaints if workers have waited more than 300 days to file, but union grievances can take longer than that to resolve. Mean-

while, workers know that unions will represent them for no charge in the grievance process, whereas even when attorneys take discrimination cases on a contingency fee basis, workers may have to pay a retainer to cover costs.

In the professor's case, she delayed filing her outside case while the grievance was under way, which resulted in her complaint being dismissed as untimely. Later, when PSU was ordered to resume the grievance process, AAUP was able to complete its investigation into the facts of the grievance, and the union opted not to pursue the grievance further. The professor moved on and got a job at another university, and the union bargained the objectionable clause out of its next contract.

Now, the Oregon Supreme Court's decision means union members throughout Oregon will have the right to pursue both an internal grievance process (if their union contract provides for one) and an external remedy. The decision's immediate application is to public sector union members. But Joffe, the attorney for AAUP, said it will affect private sector union rights as well, since lower courts, guided by the higher court's decision, would strike down any such clause in private sector union contracts if they're challenged in court.

"I think it's a very significant decision, because a lot of contracts have this language," Joffe said. "It's important that unions know they need to get it out of their contracts."

Michigan Legislature rams through right-to-work bills

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan became the 24th state to enact a so-called "right to work" law after Republican lawmakers rammed two bills through the lame-duck Legislature just before Christmas.

Republicans control both chambers of the Legislature, and the governor is a former venture capitalist and CEO. They passed the bills in six days with-

out any public hearings. One bill covers almost all public workers, and one covers all private sector workers. Only police and fire unions are exempt.

Michigan is home of the United Auto Workers and has one of the highest union density levels in the country with roughly 17.5 percent of all workers members of a union.

The term "right to work" is a mis-

nomer. It has nothing to do with the right of a person to have a job. Right-to-work laws make it illegal for employees and employers to negotiate a union contract (closed shop) that requires all employees who benefit from the collective bargaining agreement to pay their fair share of the costs of negotiating and administering it.

Proponents of right-to-work, includ-

ing Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, insist their action is only about "freedom of choice," saying no worker should be forced to pay dues in order to have a job.

That being the case, why did Republican lawmakers treat police and fire personnel with such disdain by exempting them from the law?

In fact, federal law already guarantees that no one can be forced to join a union, and no one can be required to pay union dues that fund political causes they oppose, explained Gordon Lafer, an associate professor at the University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center, in a report for Economic Policy Institute.

"By making it harder for workers' organizations to sustain themselves financially, right-to-work laws aim to weaken unions' bargaining strength," Lafer wrote. "When unions are weaker, wages and benefits decline for all workers, because nonunion employers face less competitive pressure to meet union wage standards."

The quick legislative action in Michigan came on the heels of a No-

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Official Notices

BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY, TOBACCO WORKERS AND GRAIN MILLERS 114

Executive Board meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 201, Portland. Ballots to decide recommended Amendments to By-Laws were mailed December 28th, 2012, to all members in good standing as of December 3rd, 2012. Ballots will be counted Tuesday, Jan. 15th, 2013.

BOILERMAKERS 500

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

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

CEMENT MASONS 555

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

CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at the Central Oregon Social Justice Center, 155 NW Irving Ave., Bend. **NOTE NEW LOCATION.**

COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

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

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, in the Executive Boardroom. Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 in the Dispatch Lobby.

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, in the Meeting Hall.

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

Washington Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, in the Executive Boardroom.

Volunteer Organizing Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, in the Executive Boardroom.

Women of 48 meets 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, visit IBEW48.com for location.

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

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: The following deaths have been declared, No. 2334, Leslie Brummund; No. 2335, Lee E. Schrom; No. 2336, Eldon Kellas; and No. 2337, Thomas B. Teafatiller. The Jan. 2013 assessment is \$1.50.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

FIRE FIGHTERS 452

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

FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

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

GLASS WORKERS 740

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

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

INSULATORS 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9. Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11. Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10. Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24.

Meetings are at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

LABORERS 483

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

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

LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

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

LANE COUNTY

LABOR COUNCIL

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

LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BUILDING TRADES

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

LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

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

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Union Office, 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN

LABOR COUNCIL

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

MARION-POLK-YAMHILL

LABOR COUNCIL

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

METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 10. Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22.

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

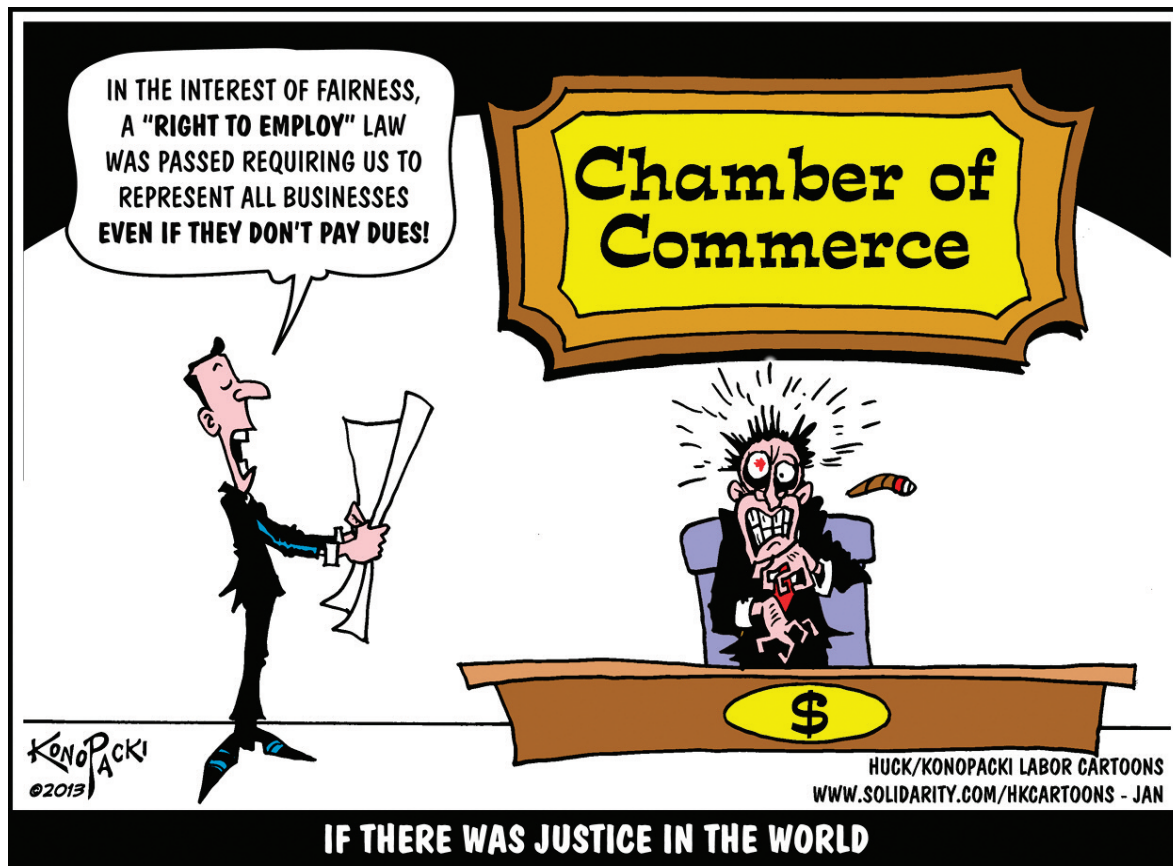
MID-COLUMBIA

LABOR COUNCIL

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

MOLDERS 139B

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, 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. 28, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

PAINTERS & DRYWALL

FINISHERS 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

PLEASE NOTE: Dues increase of 70 cents effective January 1, 2013. www.iupatlocal10.org.

PORTLAND CITY & METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEES

189

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8. General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22.

ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS

49

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10. Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7.

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

SALEM BUILDING TRADES

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

SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Sheet Metal Local 16 Hall, 1887 Laura St., Springfield.

Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

Women of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 (WOSM) meets 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at Beulahland, 118 NE 29th Ave., Portland. Children are welcome.

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

SIGN PAINTERS &

PAINT MAKERS 1094

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

SOUTHERN OREGON

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

LABOR COUNCIL

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

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

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

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

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

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 517 Railroad St., Brookings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNITED STEELWORKERS 1097

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

Retiree Meeting Notices

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED

AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, followed by an 11 a.m. General Membership meeting, in the LCSA board room, at 1125 SE Madison, #103B, Portland.

All retirees are welcome to attend.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48.

Retirees, wives and friends meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Bob's Red Mill for lunch at the Deli, 5000 SE International Way, Milwaukie. For more information, please call Glenn Hodgkinson at 503-656-0028.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees meet at noon Tuesday, Jan.

8, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet at noon, Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the Union Office, 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., Portland for a catered lunch.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR

RETIRES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 14, at 1125 SE Madison #103B, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E

Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954 ext. 226.

SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 18925 NW Tannesbourne Dr., Beaverton.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

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

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

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Congress OKs trade agreements with Russia, Moldova

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — Amid the uproar over the “fiscal cliff” talks, Congress overwhelmingly approved legislation implementing yet two more trade pacts, this time with

Russia and Moldova.

Lawmakers attached some human rights conditions to the Russia pact.

The 365-43 House vote and 92-4 Senate vote sent the legislation to Pres-

ident Barack Obama, who pushed for it and promised to sign it. U.S. exports to Russia now total \$11 billion yearly, and Congressional advocates of the pacts predict that figure would double in five years. They were silent about the pacts’ impact on jobs.

Nobody in Congress openly opposed the trade pacts with the two low-wage countries, but several former foes emphasized the human rights conditions placed on Russia. The Russian government of President Vladimir Putin has been cracking down on opponents.

Even Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), an outspoken critic of past “free trade” pacts that cost U.S. workers jobs, supported the Russia pact.

“The Russia Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) legislation is an important step forward in American trade policy because it learns from some of the mistakes of China PNTR, enhances compliance and accountability measures to ensure Russia meets its commitments, and addresses human rights,” Brown wrote in a column for The Hill.

The Machinists were the most notable union foes of Russia PNTR.

In a letter to lawmakers in July, union President Thomas Buffenbarger wrote:

“Russia’s labor code fails to secure fundamental labor rights, and its application is worse: Human rights leaders have been brutally assaulted and union communications censored. In addition,

journalists, lawyers, and human rights activists have been jailed without due process, and even killed.

“If Russia receives PNTR status and joins the World Trade Organization (WTO), it will be a repeat of our devastating experience with China. Since China joined the WTO, our trade deficit with China has ballooned to nearly \$300 billion. For American workers this has meant the loss of 1.9 million manufacturing jobs and stagnant wages.”

Buffenbarger’s union, which repre-

sents thousands of aerospace workers, added that Russia, like China, “focused on the growth of its heavily subsidized aerospace industry” and demands transfers of U.S. technology in return for access to its market.

The human rights conditions bar any Russian the U.S. lists as a gross violator of human rights. For Russia, the conditions replace the Jackson-Vanik amendment to U.S. trade law, which tied trade to freedom for Soviet Jews. Jewish groups supported Russian PNTR repeal, with the conditions.

Local Motion

November 2012

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

Voting in union elections

| Date | Workplace (Location) Union | Yes | No | |
|-------|---|-----|-----|---|
| 11/1 | St. Charles Medical Center (Bend) SEIU Local 49 DECERT | 212 | 334 | 👍 |
| 11/5 | Jasper’s Food/Doozy’s lottery deli (Wilsonville) Bakers Local 114 | 3 | 1 | 👍 |
| 11/7 | Central Oregon Intergov. Council (Redmond) ATU Local 757 | 25 | 22 | 👍 |
| 11/11 | First Transit (Portland) ATU Local 757 | 111 | 31 | 👍 |

Requesting a union election

No unionization elections were requested in November 2012 for Oregon or SW Washington

LEGEND

👍 : workers will be union-represented 👎 : workers will be on their own

DECERT : A decertification election occurs when some union-represented workers declare that the union no longer has majority support. A ‘yes’ vote is a vote for the union.

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IN MEMORIAM

BILL FITZGERALD, a retired field representative of the national AFL-CIO, died peacefully of age-related causes at his home in Tualatin, Oregon, on Dec. 23. He was 86.



Fitzgerald worked in the garment industry, where he became involved in the labor movement. In 1963, he became a field representative for the national AFL-CIO. During his 20-year career he helped organize union campaigns throughout the Pacific Northwest, Montana and California, and lobbied the Oregon Legislature on behalf of organized labor.

WILLIAM EBERHART FITZGERALD was born the youngest of four children on June 30, 1926, in Vernonia, Oregon. The family later moved to Forest Grove, where Fitzgerald was a star athlete on the high school football, basketball and baseball teams.

During World War II, Fitzgerald served as a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne Division and took part in the 1945 invasion and liberation of the Philippines and subsequent occupation of Japan and Okinawa.

He married his first wife, Nova, in 1946. They had a daughter, son and two children adopted from Korea. Their son, Randy, died of pneumonia at the age of two. The family moved to Canby in 1960. The marriage ended in divorce in 1973. In 1974, Fitzgerald married Mary Louise (Maria) Albi. That marriage ended in divorce in 1994. In 1995, he married Eleanor

Hulsman (Hermens), his high school sweetheart.

Fitzgerald is survived by his wife; daughters Sheree Fitzgerald of Mililani, Hawaii, and Denise Camus of Sun City, Ariz.; stepdaughter Giuliana Albi of Valencia, Calif.; son Bud Fitzgerald of Eugene; and eight grandchildren.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Hilltop Methodist Church or Kiwanis Kids Camp.



RICHARD MARTIN, a 38-year member of Machinists Lodge 63, passed away Dec. 8 after a long battle with cancer. He was 64.

Martin joined the Machinists Union in October 1974, completing his apprenticeship training at Bingham-Willamette.

Martin was hired at Boeing of Portland in 1985. He was working as a program coordinator for the IAM/Boeing Joint Programs at the time of his death.

Martin served Lodge 63 as its recording secretary for more than 20 years and was a volunteer for many charity activities.

RICHARD JAY MARTIN was born July 17, 1948, in Dell Rapids, South Dakota. He lived in New Castle, Wyoming, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, before settling in Portland.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving from 1968 to 1971.

Martin is survived by his wife Sheryl; daughter Shelley Heidegger; sons Patrick and Brian; 5 grandchildren; mother, Sally Giacchero; a sister; two brothers; and several in-laws, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service was held Dec. 20 at the Family Worship Center, Gresham, Oregon.

Newberg employees form AFSCME local

Public works employees at the City of Newberg overwhelmingly ratified their first contract. The 30 employees are members of Oregon AFSCME Local 1569.

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 Staff Representative Justin St. James said highlights of the two-year agreement include just-cause and a fair grievance procedure, neither of which existed in the city previously; no changes in health care, retirement or deferred compensation plans; the unfreezing of

salary steps; and cost-of-living increases of 2.5 percent the first year and 2 percent plus a cash bonus in the second year of the contract.

"For a first contract campaign, the local showed enormous solidarity and supported the bargaining team at every turn," St. James said.

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ILWU working without contract at Northwest grain terminals

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

Last February, after a long and ferocious fight, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) made deep concessions in a first-time union contract with EGT, the stand-alone operator of a new grain export terminal in Longview, Washington. Now that company's unionized competitors — who negotiate together in the employer group known as the Pacific Northwest Grain Handler's Association (PNGHA) — want similar employer-friendly terms in their labor contract with the union. All of the elevators are owned by huge multinational corporations, many of them foreign based.

So in September, when bargaining began between ILWU and PNGHA over a new Northwest Grainhandler's Agreement, PNGHA demanded more than 750 concessions, said ILWU spokesperson Jennifer Sargent in a press statement. It would have been like gutting the old contract and starting over.

The talks ended Dec. 12 with no

agreement, and ILWU reported that members voted to reject PNGHA's final offer Dec. 21 and 22 by 93.8 percent. At that point, three PNGHA employers announced they would impose their terms: Louis Dreyfus Commodities, a Dutch company that owns grain elevators in Seattle and Portland; Marubeni Corp., a Japanese company that owns Columbia Grain in Portland; and Mitsui & Co., a Japanese company that owns United Grain in Vancouver, Wash.

That provoked a strange kind of standoff. Beginning Dec. 27, union longshore workers at these terminals continued to show up for work, but without a union contract. They're free to strike at any time, but the employers are also free to replace them, and they're reportedly prepared to do so, with strikebreakers and nonunion tugboats reportedly at the ready.

"The men and women of the ILWU have been exporting grain from these Northwest elevators since 1934 and intend to continue working despite the substandard provisions of the em-

ployer's last offer," the ILWU said in a press release. "We are reviewing the multinational employers' letter and we're disappointed that they haven't accepted the union's invitation to continue negotiating to reach a fair agreement with local workers."

Meanwhile a fourth employer that was a part of PNGHA — TEMCO (a joint venture between CHS and Cargill) — indicated to the union that it's comfortable with the previous agreement, and reportedly is maintaining the old contract terms at its terminals in Tacoma and Portland. TEMCO is no longer bargaining with PNGHA, PNGHA spokesperson Pat McCormick told the Labor Press.

Nearly 3,000 longshore workers are directly affected by the contract dispute, including members of ILWU Local 8 in Portland; Local 4 in Vancouver, Washington; Local 19 in Seattle; and Local 23 in Tacoma. Members of those locals historically work under the Northwest Grainhandler's Agreement when they're dispatched to load grain ships, and under a separate contract with the Pacific Maritime Association when they're dispatched to load and unload container ships.

Neither side has said exactly what's preventing an agreement, but both say the dispute is about work rules, not

wages or benefits. PNGHA said in a press statement that longshore workers earn \$34 to \$36 an hour under its offer, with an additional \$30 an hour for benefits.

Workers also make \$34 an hour under the EGT contract in Longview. But McCormick said other provisions in the EGT contract give it substantial cost advantages, jeopardizing competitors' market share.

"The reason this organization has bargained on behalf of a range of terminals is to avoid those kinds of competitive distortions," McCormick said.

The EGT contract permits mandatory 12-hour shifts, limits control room operations to managers, and gives management broad latitude to make new rules, change methods, and discipline employees, without requiring input from workers. It also circumvents the union hiring hall, allowing the company to make permanent hires and requiring the union to maintain a separate list of "pre-qualified" workers who can be hired and fired at management's discretion. And it provides stiff sanctions for strikes and other on-the-job protest actions. EGT's contract also allows it to use fewer employees to load ships, PNGHA said, and to use elevator employees to assist in ship-loading. It gives the company greater flexibility in

start/stop times; permits pay to be calculated in smaller time increments; and allows non-bargaining-unit personnel to perform certain work.

McCormick said PNGHA members would also be willing to accept the same terms EGT got in Longview — or those Kalama Export Company got in a subsequent contract.

Nearly half of U.S. wheat exports and more than a quarter of all U.S. grain exports move through Columbia River and Puget Sound grain terminals.

The ILWU newspaper The Dispatcher reported that the Port of Vancouver handled 16 percent of all U.S. wheat exports in 2011, some 3.6 million tons.

... Michigan right to work

(From Page 3)

member ballot measure sponsored by organized labor that would have amended the state's constitution making right-to-work laws unconstitutional. Business-backed groups spent \$31.5 million to defeat the measure.

Michigan state Rep. Brandon Dillon, D-Grand Rapids, called the ensuing right-to-work bills "petty retribution" for the ballot measure, and he blasted Republicans for fast-tracking them through the Legislature.

"Good ideas get debated and bad ones get rammed through with police protection in a lame-duck Legislature," Dillon said.

But state Republicans didn't have a lot of time. At the close of the 2012 Legislature, Republicans held 64 seats in the Michigan House to the Democrats' 46. The right-to-work bills passed 58-51 and 58-52, respectively, with six Republicans joining all the Democrats in opposition.

In the November general election, Democrats picked up five seats in the House. It wasn't enough to wrangle control of the chamber in 2013, but it likely would have changed the vote tally to 57 against right-to-work becoming law.

No seats in the GOP-controlled Senate (26-12) were up in 2012. Lawmakers in that chamber passed the private-sector right-to-work bill 22-16. Senate Democrats disrupted the vote for several hours by proposing nearly two dozen amendments and delivering lengthy speeches prior to the vote. All 12 Democrats walked out before the vote was taken on the bill impacting public-sector workers. It passed 22-4.

Gov. Snyder, who is in the middle of a four-year term, signed the legisla-

tion just a few hours after it passed the House.

The law takes effect in March 2013.

GOP passes another union-busting bill

Before adjourning for the year, the Michigan Legislature also passed a new emergency manager bill, replacing one that voters repealed in November.

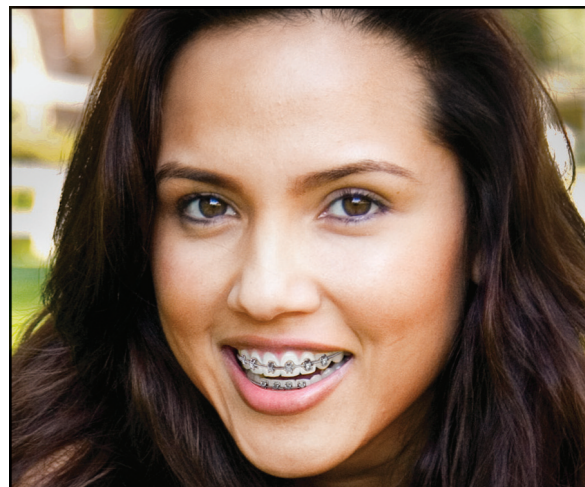
Organized labor strongly supported the repeal measure.

The new law contains key provisions from the old law, but includes more choices for local school districts and communities deemed by the state to be in a financial emergency. They will have the option to choose mediation, a state-supervised financial consent agreement, an emergency manager or Chapter 9 bankruptcy. Under the old law, bankruptcy was only an option if an emergency manager determined it was the only viable option.

Emergency managers have the ability to reject, modify or terminate collective bargaining agreements. Cities and school district governing boards could remove the emergency manager after one year by a two-thirds vote. After an emergency manager leaves, local officials would be barred from altering the manager's spending plans, labor contracts and ordinances for two years.

Lawmakers attached an appropriation of \$780,000 to pay the salaries of emergency managers and another \$5 million for the Treasury Department to pay lawyers, financial consultants, and others to work on bankruptcy plans.

The appropriation was a tactical move by Republicans to make the new law repeal-proof under the state constitution.



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