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MEETING NOTICES

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## Foster kids' holiday party gets boost from UA Local 290

A \$1,000 donation by Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 to the Child Welfare Division in East Multnomah County helped foster kids enjoy a holiday party Dec. 16. "We could not make this happen without the donation from Local 290," said Deborah Bruun, (pictured above left with Local 290 Business Manager John Endicott). Bruun is a social service specialist who, along with co-worker Stacey Mahler, help to organize the annual event. The Oregon Department of Human Services used to fund the party for more than 250 kids, parents and foster parents, but budget cuts in the late 1990s put an end to it. Social service workers thought the event was so vital for the children that they began raising money on their own time. "This is an East County tradition. Kids look forward to this every year," Bruun said. In addition to the fundraising, some 40 to 50 state workers volunteer to decorate and help run the party, which includes craftmaking and cookie decorating rooms (pictured above right), cartoon drawings, pizza, gifts, and a visit from Santa Claus. "The kids really enjoy this," said Endicott, who toured the DHS facility in Southeast Portland on Dec. 16. "It really makes you feel good to give back to the community. This is very special."



## Labor maps out goals for 2009 Legislature

By DON McINTOSH  
Associate Editor

Oregon lawmakers face a daunting challenge when the 2009 legislative session begins Jan. 12.

Because the state budget depends heavily on personal and corporate income taxes, job losses and business failures are taking a bite. The state general fund budget of about \$7 billion a year could take a hit of \$340 million. That will make it harder for government to deliver education, criminal justice and social services.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski and state legislators will be looking for new sources of revenue and making budget cuts, all while trying to reboot the economy.

Union leaders will be in Salem for those debates. They'll be testifying when the Legislature discusses health care reform and measures to combat global warming. And they'll be calling on the expanded Democratic majority to deliver on a pro-labor agenda.

Unlike the federal government, which can borrow to fund spending, states mostly have to pay as they go. A sales tax, regressive and unpopular, is almost certainly off the table this year, but lawmakers are expecting to consider raising tobacco, alcohol, and gas taxes.

And they may look at higher taxes on the well-off and on businesses, two groups that have seen their overall tax burden shrink in recent years. One proposal would create a new top bracket on Oregonians earning more than \$250,000 a year. Another would raise Oregon's corporate minimum income tax, which is currently \$10 a year and hasn't been increased since 1929.

"The budget is going to be the backdrop against which everything is played out this session," said State Sen. Diane Rosenbaum, a longtime union activist and state legislator. "But it also gives us the opportunity to make significant changes."

Gov. Kulongoski is proposing to raise the corporate minimum to \$25 for the smallest companies, an amount which would rise to \$5,000 a year for companies that have annual sales of over \$25 million. That would raise about \$42 million a year, which he wants to use to increase need-based scholarships for students at Oregon universities and community colleges.

Kulongoski also wants a 2-cent increase in the gas tax, and increased registration and title fees — enough to raise \$500 million a year, which he proposes to use to modernize Oregon's transportation system, thereby creating 6,700 jobs. Most if not all of the public works projects are subject to state prevailing wage requirements.

Lawmakers may also decide to end the practice — which exists in no other state — of mailing refunds to taxpayers when revenues exceed projections. Instead, the so-called "kicker" would go toward a rainy-day fund to fund schools and other priorities in times of recession.

A plan to provide comprehensive health coverage to all Oregonians is still years away from enactment, but this year, health reform advocates will push to expand coverage to about one-third of Oregon's 600,000 uninsured. That could take some pressure off union negotiators, who have trouble winning raises when employer-paid health care costs keep going up.

As outlined in a proposal from the governor, close to 200,000 children and low-income adults would be added to the Oregon Health Plan, which spreads

## Labor welcomes Solis choice as U.S. labor secretary

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Union leaders welcomed the choice of five-term congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-Calif.) as labor secretary in the incoming Obama Administration.

If confirmed, Solis, 51, would manage a federal department with more than 17,000 employees and an annual budget exceeding \$59 billion that oversees workplace safety, wage and hour laws, job training and unemployment benefits.

Solis, a veteran legislator from Los Angeles and a resident of El Monte, would also be the third Hispanic in Obama's Cabinet, with New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson named Commerce Secretary, and Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar as Interior Secretary.

One labor source said Solis' name was put forward by Service Employees

International Union President Andy Stern, whose union — along with the Change To Win coalition — endorsed Obama's presidential candidacy long before the AFL-CIO did. SEIU is the largest union in Change to Win, and Stern at one point was on Obama's short list for labor secretary.

But leaders ranging from Change to Win Chair Anna Burger to AFL-CIO President John Sweeney welcomed the Solis appointment. So did former House Minority Whip David Bonior (D-Mich.), now chair of the pro-labor American Rights At Work organization.

Bonior, citing his work with Solis since she entered Congress in 2001, called her "a terrific leader who I know first hand will work tirelessly on behalf of America's working families."

Solis sits on the board of directors of

American Rights At Work.

Sweeney said the AFL-CIO is "thrilled at the prospect of having Solis as our nation's next labor secretary. We're confident that she will return the department to one of its core missions — to defend workers' basic rights in our nation's workplaces. She's proven to be a passionate leader and advocate for all working families."

The national AFL-CIO pointed out that as a congresswoman, Solis has voted with labor 97 percent of the time on issues it deems important to workers.

Burger said Solis — the daughter of Mexican and Nicaraguan immigrants who were blue-collar, union workers — "has never forgotten where she came from, and how she got to where she is today."

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# Arctic blast doesn't hamper holiday events in Portland

Despite bone-chilling winds and a foot of snow, Portland-area union members and union employers forged ahead with their scheduled holiday gift-giving events.

An estimated 120 children from inner-North and Northeast Portland had their pick of two to three toys at the 12th annual Presents from Partners holiday gift-giving program sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and Labor's Community Service Agency, AFL-CIO. The event typically attracts several hundred children to the Genesis Community Center in Northeast Portland, but the inclement weather prevented many families from attending.

"We were going to cancel it, but then we thought: 'What if some kids show up and no one is there?'," said Glenn Shuck, executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency. "We showed up — and so did the kids; actually more than we expected."

The agency received over 400 toys during this year's drive. Toys are donated by union locals, the BULL Session Golf Tournament, and Saturn of Beaverton. Cash donations are used to purchase gifts — with a focus on U.S.-made and union-made items.

Genesis Community Center opened its doors the following Saturday (Dec. 27), hoping to distribute the remainder of the toys to children who didn't make it on Dec. 20.

Additionally, members of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 employed at Pioneer Waterproofing Co. in Portland joined owner Mike Crawford in putting together bicycles for kids in need. Assembly day was scheduled for Dec. 20, but because of the snow and ice, volunteers began putting bikes together and delivering them in advance — as weather permitted.

Crawford has been donating bikes and helmets to the Clackamas County Fire Department's "Operation Santa Claus" for many years. Since its inception the volunteers have built and distributed over 1,300 bikes.



## UA 290 members bring gifts to kids at Eugene Relief Nursery

Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 donated pajamas, slippers and blankets to the Eugene Relief Nursery this holiday season. On Dec. 11, Local 290 Business Rep Lou Christian (center) and other members of the union purchased and dropped off the much-needed items — enough for 132 kids enrolled in the Early Childhood Program. Over \$3,000 was spent this year. Accepting the donation were Suzanne Arlie (left), president of the Relief Nursery Board of Directors, and Irene Alltucker, executive director of the Relief Nursery. Relief Nursery, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency that helps low-income families with children between birth and six years of age who are at risk for child abuse and neglect. Members of the statewide Local 290 began the fundraising drive more than 10 years ago after a very busy work year. They wanted to share in their good fortune — and one way they did was by donating items to the children at the Relief Nursery. They have continued the philanthropic gesture, even in today's more difficult economic climate. The Relief Nursery is located at 1720 West 25th Ave., Eugene. The phone number is 541-343-9706.



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## Wal-Mart workers in Quebec vote for UFCW

HULL, Quebec (PAI) — The United Food and Commercial Workers' Canadian division won again against Wal-Mart in Quebec. The province's labor board ruled on Dec. 17 the union successfully won recognition to represent 150 workers at the Wal-Mart store in Hull, just across the river from Canada's capital, Ottawa.

"After nine times, the message from Wal-Mart workers in Canada to

Wal-Mart executives in Bentonville, Ark., couldn't be louder or clearer: Canadian Wal-Mart workers want to be union members," UFCW Canada President Wayne Hanley said. "Hopefully, this decision will help Wal-Mart to understand Canada is a place where labor rights are human rights, and where people take their rights very seriously. Hopefully, Wal-Mart won't squander another chance to prove its

critics wrong, and it will take this opportunity to show the world that it believes in human rights by sitting down with these Hull workers to negotiate a contract in good faith."

In the past cases, including in Quebec, Wal-Mart closed stores or departments that voted to unionize. That included a meat-cutting department in Texas, and the first store UFCW organized in Jonquiere, Quebec.

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# ...Workers' rights reforms have chance in '09 Legislature

(From Page 1)

federal Medicaid dollars around to cover more people than the minimum required by the federal government. Funding for the additions would come from a 60-cents-a-pack cigarette tax increase and from a "provider tax" of 4 percent of gross revenues on hospitals and 1.5 percent on insurers. Those state-generated funds would be matched 2-to-1 by the federal government.

The governor is also asking the Legislature to authorize Oregon's participation in a regional "cap-and-trade" program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Large greenhouse gas emitters would have to buy permits or reduce emissions when the program goes into effect in 2012. This year, a proposed bill would require reporting of greenhouse gas emissions statewide, and create a task force to help the state work out the rules of the cap and trade system, which would be presented to the 2011 Legislature for approval.

The Oregon AFL-CIO favors other methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and is on record opposing cap-and-trade. Still, the federation will lobby to limit the harms and maximize the benefits for workers of such a program.

The AFL-CIO also will be calling for a closer look at tax credits for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements — auditing them to see what kind of jobs they've created, and passing minimum jobs requirements for the credits to be taken.

"We believe when you're giving tax credits to companies, taxpayers should be assured that's going to create good-paying middle-class jobs," explained AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain.

Some workers' rights reforms may have a better chance of passage this year. Two years ago, several such reforms passed the House only to die in the Senate, where "business" Democrats held sway. This year, the Senate will have three new Democrats who are considered solid labor allies: Rosenbaum, Jackie Dingfelder and Suzanne Bonamici. And all three will be in a position to

advance legislation because they'll be chairing committees: Rosenbaum at Commerce and Workforce Development; Dingfelder at Environment & Natural Resources; and Bonamici at Consumer Protection and Public Affairs.

One of the Oregon AFL-CIO's priorities this year is the Worker Freedom Act. The bill would make it illegal for an employer to discipline a worker for refusing to attend a workplace anti-union meeting. Such meetings are a standard tactic by employers trying to prevent a union from getting majority support.

Another priority for the AFL-CIO, and for public employee unions, is a change in the definition of supervisor in Oregon's public employee collective bargaining law. In 1995, a Republican-led Legislature delivered a blow to public employee unionization by passing Senate Bill 750. One provision of SB 750 — disallowing police and fire unions from bargaining over workplace safety — was undone by the 2007 Legislature. This year, labor will take aim at another provision of SB 750: Its expansion of the definition of supervisor, which led to thousands of public employees losing their right to join a union.

Lawmakers may also consider expanding unemployment insurance coverage to part-time workers, and improving the formula used to calculate benefits.

And supporters will try again to establish a modest paid family leave pro-

gram. Funded by a small payroll tax, the program would give a stipend to workers who now are eligible for unpaid family leave, which they can take to care for a newborn child or sick relative. A similar proposal was debated near the end of the 2007 legislative session but failed to win passage.

For the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council (OSBCTC), priority number one will be increasing public investment — to keep people employed and get people back to work. Executive Secretary Bob Shiprack said the building trades will work to build support for infrastructure and transportation proposals. The governor is proposing several packages of that kind, and Senate President Peter Courtney is working on a proposal for bonding authority to do an additional \$350 million of improvements on college campuses and other facilities.

OSBCTC will also get behind state support for renewable energy projects. And it will back a bill to mandate permitting and inspection on private renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that are certified to receive the state's Business Energy Tax Credit — to ensure the work is done properly.

And the building trades will push to expand prevailing wage laws. One bill would require companies to pay construction workers the prevailing wage on capital improvement projects that are approved to receive three years or more of state Enterprise Zone property tax

abatements.

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)-Oregon, which represents nurses, teachers, and classified school employees, will push several ideas. One is a bill that would set a minimum ratio of nurses to patients, and require hospitals to publicly disclose their staffing ratios.

AFT will also try to make progress in its campaign to halt the shift toward use of part-time college faculty who have few or no benefits. The cause could get a boost in the House Education Committee, which will be chaired by newcomer Michael Dembrow, a long-time AFT leader.

Union opponents of privatization will rally in a coalition seeking greater transparency and accountability for government contracts. One bill to be introduced

would ensure that all government contracts be made available online in databases accessible by the public. Another would require a cost-benefit analysis before state or local governments (including school districts) could contract out things like janitorial or cafeteria services. And they wouldn't be allowed to contract out for reasons of cost savings if those savings are only achievable because of lower wages and benefits.

The Oregon AFL-CIO and the Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) at the University of Oregon are planning a Jan. 24 legislative conference at the Sheet Metal Training Center in Northeast Portland. Legislators, elected officials and labor leaders will discuss their agendas for the 2009 session.

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# Official Notices

## Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland. Officers and Executive Board members will be sworn in at this meeting.

## Boilermakers 500

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

## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 1

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

## Carpenters 1388

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 276 Warner-Milne Rd., Oregon City.

## Carpenters 1715

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, preceded by a 5 p.m. Executive board meeting at 612 E. McLoughlin, Vancouver, Wash.

## Cement Masons 555

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

## Clark, Skamania & W. Klickitat Counties Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

## Columbia-Pacific Building Trades

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 6 and Jan. 13, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

## Electrical Workers 48

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 7 and Jan. 21, in the Executive Boardroom.  
 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, in the Executive Boardroom.  
 Sound and Communication Unit meets 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, in the Meeting Hall.  
 Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, in the Dispatch Lobby.  
 Vancouver Meeting, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver.  
 Wasco Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Lyle Taproom, 600 State Street, Lyle, WA.  
 Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.  
 Electrical Women of Local 48 meets 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, at 5th Quadrant, 3901b N. Williams, Portland.  
 Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, in the Meeting Hall.  
 Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, in the Executive Boardroom.  
 General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, in the Meeting Hall. Show-up early for sandwiches. Doors open at 5:30pm.  
 Meetings are at 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland, unless otherwise noted.

## Electrical Workers 280

Executive Board meets 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent, OR.  
 Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.  
 Eugene Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the LU 290 Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.  
 Salem Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent, OR.

## Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

## Exterior & Interior Specialists 2154

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 207, Portland.

## Fire Fighters 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

## Fire Fighters 1660

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

## Glass Workers 740

**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES DUE TO THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.**  
 Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.  
 Portland area members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.  
 Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.  
 Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

## Insulators 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7. Members meet 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9. Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## Iron Workers 29

The January meeting has been canceled.

## Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir. #300, Portland.

## Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 16, at Old Country Buffet, 7809-B Vancouver Plaza Dr., Vancouver, Wash.

## Laborers 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave., Portland.

## Laborers 483 Municipal Employees

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

## Laborers/Vancouver 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, preceded by a 6:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the Vancouver Labor Center, 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vanc., Wash.

## Lane County Labor Council

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

## Lane, Coos, Curry & Douglas Building Trades

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Pkwy., Springfield.

## Linn-Benton-Lincoln Labor Council

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

## Linoleum Layers 1236

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5. Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22. Meetings are at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## Marion-Polk-Yamhill Labor Council

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, followed by a 7 p.m. general meeting at SEIU Local 503, 1730 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

## Metal Trades Council

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8. Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27. Meetings are at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

## Mid-Columbia Labor Council

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 3313 W. 2nd, The Dalles.

## Millwrights & Machinery Erectors 711

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, preceded by a 9 a.m. Executive Committee meeting, at the Carpenters Local 247 Hall, 2205 N. Lombard St., Portland.

## Molders 139

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

## Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Asbestos Hall at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR. Members will receive a free T-shirt or sweatshirt for attending a qualified number of membership meetings.

## Pile Drivers, Divers & Shipwrights 2416

Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

## Portland City & Metropolitan Employees 189

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13. General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27. Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

## Roofers & Waterproofers 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.** Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8. Meetings are at 5032 SE 26TH Ave., Portland (503 232-4807).

## Salem Building & Construction Trades Council

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

## Sheet Metal Workers 16

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.  
 Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.  
 Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Local 16 Hall, 4748 Franklin Blvd., Eugene.

Medford area members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.  
 Coos Bay area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

## Sign Painters & Paint Makers 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

## Southern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the Southern Oregon Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

## Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

## United Association 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.  
 Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.  
 Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.  
 Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 417 Railroad St., Brookings.  
 Coos Bay area members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 4816 S., 6th St., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at 950 Industrial Circle, White City.

Roseburg area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Roseburg Labor Temple, 742 SE Roberts, Roseburg.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Eureka Training Center, 832 E St., Eureka, Calif.

## United Steelworkers 1097

Members meet 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, preceded by a 5:45 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

## United Steelworkers 8378

Members meet 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the A-Dec Building at the Fairgrounds in McMinnville.

## Teamsters, Blazers team up to raise funds for Kidney Foundation

Teamsters Joint Council No. 37 is teaming up with the Portland Trailblazers to raise funds for the National Kidney Foundation.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, \$4 from every ticket sold will go to the Teamsters Joint Council No. 37 Kidney Fundraiser. The union has been raising funds for the National Kidney Foundation for the past 39 years.

Union members will receive discounts on tickets for the game, which pits the Trailblazers against the New York Knicks in a 3 p.m. tip-off.

To order tickets, go to <http://tickets.trailblazers.com/deals>, and enter promotion code UNION, or call Phil Horn at the Trailblazers office at 503-963-3965.

# Retiree Meeting Notices

**ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER**  
 Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave., Portland. All retirees are welcome to attend.

### CARPENTERS

Retired Carpenters meet for lunch 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at Hometown Buffet, (by Mall 205) 10452 SE Washington, Portland.

### ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees, wives and friends meet for lunch 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Hometown Buffet, 10452 SE Washington St., (Mall 205). A brief business meeting will follow. Suggestions for trips are welcome.

### ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Retirees meet between 11:45 a.m. and noon Monday, Jan. 12, at The Old

Country Buffet on Lancaster in Salem, which is next to Michael's Craft Store. If you have any questions, please give Don Ball a call at 541-327-3388.

### ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees meet 12 noon Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Kirkland Union Manor, 3530 SE 84th, Portland.

### IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 12 noon Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Ironworkers Hall, 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir. #200, Portland.

### MACHINISTS

Retired Machinists meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland, for a brief business meeting, followed by a no-host lunch at a restaurant to be determined at the meeting.

### NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 100G, Portland.

### OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 503-239-9858, ext. 124.

### SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Nicolas Pizzeria, 4826 N. Lombard, Portland. All retirees are invited to attend.

### TRANSIT 757

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

### UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Portland.

Rusty Pipes meet 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

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

**Senate GOP memo reveals:**

# Foes of Big 3 auto loan bill schemed to bust union

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — An internal memorandum from GOP Senate staffers to their bosses shows the motive for Republican opposition to the \$14 billion “bridge loan” plan for two of the nation’s three domestic auto companies — GM and Chrysler — was not to target the firms, but to bash unions, specifically the United Auto Workers (UAW).

The “Action Alert — Auto Bail Out” memo, published by the online magazine MSNBC Countdown with Keith Olbermann, and also discussed in the Los Angeles Times, ratifies union President Ron Gettelfinger’s Dec. 12 statement about the Republicans’ motives, a day after the bridge loan bill failed to pass in the Senate because of a Republican-lead filibuster.

That Dec. 11 Senate vote left UAW and the two automakers dependent on the loan to tide them through into 2009, until the new Congress and the Obama Administration could evaluate the auto firms’ restructuring plans — and how many workers’ jobs would remain.

The memo was sent at 9:12 a.m., Dec. 10 to Senate Republicans, the day before the 52-35 vote that killed the bridge loans. Democrats needed 60 votes to cut off the GOP filibuster against the bridge loans. The names of the senders and recipients of the memo were blacked out in the copy Countdown obtained.

The memo calls defeating the auto firms’ bridge loans the GOP’s “first shot against organized labor.” The Senate GOP blocked the loans by demand-

ing UAW’s 150,000 members take immediate pay cuts of at least 50 percent to make their pay equal to that of nonunion foreign-owned “transplants,” auto plants in the South. The leaders of the opposition were Southern Republican Sens. Mitch McConnell (Kentucky), Richard Shelby (Ala.), Robert Corker (Tennessee) and Tom Coburn (Oklahoma).

The memo’s text:

**“From: Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 9:12 AM**

**“To: Subject: Action Alert -- Auto Bailout**

*“Today at noon, Senators Ensign, Shelby, Coburn and DeMint will hold a press conference in the Senate Radio/TV Gallery. They would appreciate our support through messaging and attending the press conference, if possible. The message they want us to deliver is:*

*“1. This is the democrats’ first opportunity to payoff organized labor after the election. This is a precursor to card check and other items. Republicans should stand firm and take their first shot against organized labor, instead of taking their first blow from it.*

*“2. This rush to judgment is the same thing that happened with the TARP. Members did not have an opportunity to read or digest the legislation and therefore could not understand the consequences of it. We should not rush to pass this because Detroit says*

*the sky is falling.*

*“The sooner you can have press releases and documents like this in the hands of members and the press, the better. Please contact me if you need additional information. Again, the hardest thing for the democrats to do is get 60 votes. If we can hold the Republicans, we can beat this.”*

The reference to TARP is the official name for the \$700 billion bank bailout — the Troubled Assets Relief Program. The lower-casing of the “d” in Democrats and the word “payoff” were the memo’s own punctuation and word.

Of the 35 senators who voted to keep the Republican filibuster against the auto company bridge loans going

— thus killing the bill — 31 were Republicans. They included the other two mentioned in the memo: James DeMint (S.C.) and John Ensign (Nevada). Shelby, DeMint, Corker and McConnell, the minority leader, all have “transplant” car plants in their states.

Of the four Democrats opposing the bridge loans, Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nevada) had to switch his vote to opposition for parliamentary reasons. The other three foes were Sens. Max Baucus and Jon Tester (Montana) and Blanche Lincoln (Arkansas). Twelve senators — four Democrats and eight Republicans — did not vote. One Democratic-held seat, Barack Obama’s, was vacant at the time of the vote.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Vera Larson**, who for the past 25 years organized monthly outings for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48’s Retirees Club, passed away Dec. 14, just three weeks short of her 94th birthday.

Larson worked as a food server for a number of years, including at The Prime Rib Restaurant in Northeast Portland. She was a member of the Culinary Workers Union.

She was always part of the union family. Her first husband, Theodore Schleinig, was a glazier and member of Glass Workers Local 740. He died in 1966. She married John E. Larson, an electrician and member of Local 48, in 1967.

Larson also was an active member of Rose City Park United Methodist Church, the Portland Northeast Republican Women’s Club, Dolphin Yacht Club, and Northwest Outboard Trailer Sailors. She has held leadership roles in each of these organizations.

Vera Larson was born Jan. 4, 1915, in Bradley, South Dakota. Her family moved to the West when Vera was seven, stopping first in Seattle and moving five months later to Portland. She spent two years in Alaska, living in a camper with her first husband as he worked rebuilding Anchorage following a huge earthquake in 1964.

Larson is survived by three daughters, Marilyn Schultz of Lake Oswego; Shirleen Lawson of Portland, and Camille Schleinig of Delta Junction, Alaska; seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4 (her birthday), at Rose City Cemetery and Funeral Home, 5625 NE Fremont.

Remembrances can be sent to Rose City Park United Methodist Church.

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# Oregon Energy Planning Council formed

**Bob Shiprack will be part of group charged with forecasting state's energy needs, supply, and to map transition to renewable energy future**

SALEM — Bob Shiprack, chair of the Energy Facility Siting Council, has been appointed an ex-officio member of the newly created Oregon Energy Planning Council.

Shiprack is executive director of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

The new 11-member Oregon Energy Planning Council was created late last month by Executive Order of Gov. Ted Kulongoski. The council is charged with providing proactive analysis, advice and assistance on energy planning. It will issue an energy planning report to the governor and the Legislature before Dec. 31, 2010, that will include information on Ore-

gon's current energy use and supply. The report will also include analysis of future energy needs, challenges to price and supply stability for Oregon citizens and businesses, analysis of any energy supply gaps, alternatives to meet Oregon's energy needs and short, medium and long range energy plans for meeting Oregon's energy demands.

"Demands on Oregon's energy supply are going to increase in the future, whether it's from a growing population or a growing economy," Kulongoski said. "We have set Oregon on a path to a renewable energy future but also need to make sure we address stability and supply concerns as we help us chart that course."

The 11 members of the Oregon Energy Planning Council are: Chair Ron Adams, Oregon State University College of Engineering; Mark Maher, Western Energy Coordinating Council; Stephen Grover, ECO Northwest; Marty Sedler, Intel; Bob Jenks, Citi-

zens' Utility Board; Rachel Shimshak, Renewable Northwest Project; Steve Wright, Bonneville Power Administration; Gregg Kantor, NW Natural; Peggy Fowler, PGE; Pat Reiten, PacifiCorp; and Mark Edlen, Gerding Edlen.

In addition to Shiprack, officials from nine boards and commissions (Agriculture, Forestry, Economic Development, Environmental Quality, Fish and Wildlife, Transportation, Public Utilities, Oregon Global Warming, the Oregon Investment Council, and Land, Conservation & Development) will serve as ex-officio members to the new council.

The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 12, 2009.

## ...Labor welcomes Solis nomination for labor secretary

(From Page 1)

Oregon AFL-CIO, said the appointment "represents the first positive step toward change that will benefit average, hard-working Americans who are the backbone of our nation's struggling economy and a return to shared prosperity nationwide."

"Historically, it has only been when workers are protected, trained and fairly compensated, that our nation prospers," Chamberlain said.

(Editor's Note: Press Associates Inc. contributed to this report.)

## Labor Law Conference slated Feb. 27

The 13th annual Oregon Labor Law Conference will be held Friday, Feb. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the IBEW Local 48 union hall, 15937 NE Airport Way.

The event is sponsored by Local 48, the Oregon AFL-CIO, the Oregon State and Columbia-Pacific Building Trades Councils, and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

The conference organizer is Norm Malbin, in-house attorney for Local 48.

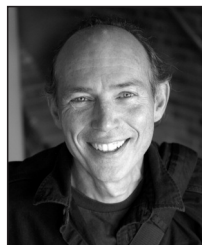
The conference is for business managers, business agents and officers. The goal is to provide information that will help them do their job better and to help avoid legal liability.

The number of participants is limited to 230. Registration is \$85 and includes lunch and all materials. The deadline to register is Jan. 30.

For more information, call Kristi Straight at 503-889-3660 or Malbin at 503-889-3669.



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# Workers' Compensation Division adopts final rule for medical fees

SALEM — The Oregon Workers' Compensation Division has issued a final rule that forbids insurance companies from unilaterally taking discounts on health providers' workers' comp bills unless the provider agrees upfront to such a discount.

The new rules took effect Jan. 1, 2009.

The new rules replace temporary rules on medical fees the division issued in July and address concerns and questions about the role of preferred provider organizations (PPOs) in workers' compensation.

The Workers' Comp Division issued the emergency ruling after a Fortune 500 PPO — Maryland-based Coventry — threatened to leave the state if it couldn't bill injured workers' cases at its discounted PPO rates with health care providers.

Doctors, union officials and several lawmakers sounded off against the emergency ruling, saying it resulted in sweeping changes to a no-fault system that had already undergone a wide-spread, controversial overhaul in 1990.

Union officials also were outraged that the emergency order came with little or no input from the two main players in the workers' comp system — labor and management.

Prior to the emergency order, a workers' comp insurer paid medical bills in one of three ways: At the provider's normal fee; at the amount set by law under the Oregon medical fee schedule (if it is less than the normal fee); or at the rate contracted with a provider enrolled in a state-certified managed care organization. MCO rates typically are lower than both the medical fee schedule and the provider's normal rate.

MCOs were allowed into Oregon's workers' comp system as part of the 1990 overhaul. The state regulates MCOs to ensure that injured workers are getting good care. PPOs are not regulated.

Only four MCOs are certified to serve injured workers. They are Providence MCO, Kaiser Foundation, Oregon Health Systems Inc., and Care-Mark Comp, which is owned by Legacy Health and Adventist Medical Center.

"PPOs exist solely to reduce fees paid to providers," said Diana Godwin, an attorney representing physical therapists opposing the permanent ruling. Godwin and other health care providers said that doctors would quit taking injured workers as patients if the temporary rule was made permanent.

Union leaders said that if the emergency rule was made permanent it would entice employers to leave MCO insurers in search of cheaper premiums through PPO networks, thus forcing medical providers out of the workers' comp system.

After numerous public hearings, the Workers' Compensation Division reversed its temporary rule on PPOs.

The permanent rule prohibits PPO discounts for medical services performed by health care providers who treat injured workers, but allows individual providers to choose to offer discounts as part of standardized agreements with insurers or self-insured employers. Network discounts continue to be allowed for prescription drugs and hospital services.

"We have received very positive feedback from medical providers, workers, and others with a stake in the workers' compensation system about these new rules," said John Shilts, administrator of the Workers' Compensation Division. "We feel they will help ensure Oregon's injured workers continue to have access to quality medical care."

For more on the new ruling, go to [www.wcd.oregon.gov](http://www.wcd.oregon.gov).



## Doernbecher Christmas tree lighting

Dynalectric employees from left Scott Calanca, Thomas Riehl, and Ryan Balfour braved frigid temperatures a week before Christmas to hang lights on a 60-foot-tall Christmas tree at the main entrance of Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Southwest Portland. Dynalectric employees — members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48 — have provided the lighting and conducted a Christmas gift drive for children at Doernbecher for the past 11 years. Dynalectric's Project Manager Jim Lee orchestrated the project, including getting a local construction equipment rental company Star Rentals to assist with a boom-lift to reach the top of the tree. As the crew was finishing the lighting of the tree, they were approached by a parent bringing her child to the hospital. "Thank you very much for doing this," the woman said. "You have made Christmas for my child today. Nothing says welcome like a lighted tree!"

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# Auto industry loans come with unfair conditions for workers

By **JAMES PARKS**  
AFL-CIO

After letting the auto industry hang for weeks following the refusal by Republican senators to approve a loan to help automakers get through the end of the year — and a day after Chrysler said it will shut down all 30 of its North American plants for at least one month, putting 46,000 employees out of work — President Bush announced his administration's offer to automakers a week before Christmas. Bush says he'll give automakers \$17.4 billion in emergency bridge loans. Some \$13.4 billion was made available starting in December — \$9.4 billion for GM and \$4 billion for Chrysler. Ford Motor Co. has said it does not need immediate help.

But the loans include some unfair burdens on workers, according to the United Auto Workers (UAW). Union President Ron Gettelfinger says workers are pleased that the Bush Administration has acted to provide the urgently needed emergency bridge loans but that the workers should not be singled out for unfair conditions.

"The [bridge loans] will keep the doors of America's factories open, keep Americans working and prevent the devastating economic consequences for millions of Americans and thousands of businesses that would have resulted from a liquidation of operations by one or more auto companies,"

Gettelfinger said. "All stakeholders — management, directors, bondholders, suppliers, dealers, workers — will have to participate in shared sacrifices to help the industry move forward."

Pointing out that autoworkers already have made concessions and sacrifices, Gettelfinger said that "while we appreciate that President Bush has taken the emergency action needed to help America's auto companies weather the current financial crisis, we are disappointed that he has added unfair conditions singling out workers."

"We will work with the Obama Administration and the new Congress to ensure that these unfair conditions are removed."

Bush said the rescue package gives the automakers three months to come up with restructuring plans to become viable companies. If they fail to produce a plan by March 31, the automakers will be required to repay the loans immediately.

The Bush loans will force union workers to accept the terms of a pay cut amendment introduced by Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), which would have required the UAW to accept deep concessions.

The Bush-imposed terms require that U.S. auto companies pay wages similar to those of transplant auto manufacturers by Dec. 31, 2009.

Bush is demanding that the UAW

lower wages and pensions to the level of Japanese wages and pensions (though since they have very few retirees, their pension number is basically zero). Alternately, they could lower this number by basically picking the pocket of a bunch of retirees by taking away pension money those retirees already earned while they were still working. But one or the other will have to happen.

The Bush loans leave some room for the Obama Administration to modify the terms. The automakers may deviate from the financial targets, provided that the companies report why they did so.

Some of the auto plants could be shut down into February, according to published reports. Ford will shut 10 North American assembly plants for an extra week in January, and GM will temporarily close 20 factories — many for the entire month of January — to cut vehicle production.

When Senate Republicans blocked the \$14 billion emergency bridge loan needed to keep the auto industry operating, they knew it could cost between 3 million and 5 million jobs.

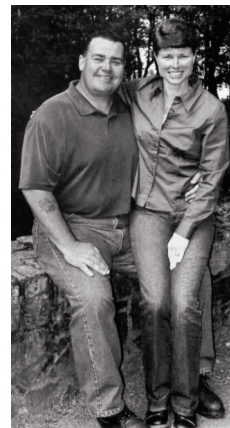
Experts predict that if even one of the Big Three automakers goes under, some 3.3 million jobs will be lost and the entire supply chain for all carmakers, including foreign-owned plants in the United States, will be seriously disrupted.

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