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MEETING NOTICES

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NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

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Legislative conference for union members

State Sen. Betsy Johnson, (D-Scappoose), (center wearing scarf) talks with union members during lunch at the Oregon AFL-CIO Legislative Conference Feb. 5 at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 hall in Northeast Portland. The conference, which drew nearly 100 union members, reviewed labor's legislative priorities, shared ideas on how unions can work together across sectors to create change, and provided activists access to labor-friendly lawmakers and elected officials. Speakers included Attorney General John Kroger, State Treasurer Ted Wheeler, Secretary of State Kate Brown, and Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian.

Union pension fund invests \$22M in Coquille hospital

Project will be financed by the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust and built by union workers

COQUILLE — Union pension funds will be used to help build a new \$30 million hospital in Coquille.

The AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust (HIT) is investing \$22 million to construct a 60,000-square-foot, three-story building adjacent to Coquille Valley Hospital. The new facility has been designated a "critical access hospital" because of the need for medical care in the timber and farming community located 81 miles southwest of Eugene.

The new hospital will be roughly double the size of the existing structure. It will have 18 beds with private rooms and house primary medical departments, including surgery, obstetrics,

therapy, laboratory, a pharmacy, an emergency room, and room for expansion of out patient programs. A 9,000-square-foot covered parking structure also is in the blueprint.

The construction project will be 100 percent union-built under a project labor agreement between the Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades Council and The Neenan Company, a Colorado-based design/build firm. It is expected to create approximately 225 construction jobs.

The project couldn't come at a better time, as unemployment in the union construction trades in the region sits at nearly 40 percent, according to Pat Smith, secretary-treasurer of the Building Trades Council.

"Our members appreciate that the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust will invest in this project and provide

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RALLY FOR JOBS

The steps of the State Capitol • Noon • March 7th, 2011

Training will start at 11:00am in Basement A of the Public Service Building
255 Capitol St. NE, Salem (Across from the Capitol)

Fact: Oregon's unemployment rate has been over 10% since 2008.

Fact: Last year Oregon's underemployment rate was estimated at over 20%.

Fact: Job creation is a non-partisan issue.

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This legislative session it *must* happen.

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For more information, please contact Chris Hewitt: Chris@orafcio.org or (503) 287-3114

King's dream of economic justice is yet to be realized

Decades after his death, nearly every American political movement would like to claim Martin Luther King Jr. as its own. The labor movement may do so with some credibility. Among members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the Baptist minister is a kind of patron saint: He was martyred by an assassin's bullet in Memphis, where he had campaigned in support of a strike by black sanitation workers.

In fact, King had a long relationship with organized labor. He sought union support for civil rights campaigns, challenged labor to fight discrimination in its ranks, and came out time after time to defend striking union members.

Michael Honey, a professor of labor and ethnic studies and American history at University of Washington, Tacoma, has written three books on King's relationship to labor and the cause of economic justice. The latest, published January 2011, is "All Labor Has Dignity," an edited collection of King's speeches about economic justice. The book got its start when Honey found half a dozen never-before-published "labor speeches" in a file at King Center in Atlanta.

King has for too long been pigeonholed as a civil rights leader, Honey says, when in truth the mature King might be better understood as a human rights leader. In a 1967 speech to the Teamsters, King described the 1964 Civil Rights Act

and the 1965 Voting Rights Act as the first phase of the freedom struggle, in which blacks won what should have been theirs to begin with as American citizens.

"He never saw that as an end," Honey said. "He saw it as a beginning."

It's clear reading "All Labor Has Dignity" that King's agenda for economic justice remains unfinished.

The following excerpt is from King's speech to the Fourth Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO, meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, Dec. 11, 1961.

"Less than a century ago the laborer had no rights, little or no respect, and led a life which was socially submerged and barren. He was hired and fired by economic despots whose power over him decreed his life or death...."

Victor Hugo, literary genius of that day, commented bitterly that there was always more misery in the lower classes than there was humanity in the upper classes. The inspiring answer to this intolerable and dehumanizing existence was economic organization through trade unions. The worker became determined not to wait for charitable impulses to grow in his employer. He constructed the means by which a fairer sharing of the fruits of his toil had to be given to him or the wheels of industry, which he alone turned, would halt and wealth for

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Caves to business lobby

OSHA pulls rule on reporting ergonomics injuries

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

OSHA — the federal agency in charge of making workplaces safer — announced Jan. 25 that it will hold off asking employers to record musculoskeletal disorders like carpal tunnel on a form they already fill out for work-related injuries. OSHA (which stands for Occupational Safety and Health Administration) said it was taking the action to “seek greater input from small businesses on the impact of the proposal.”

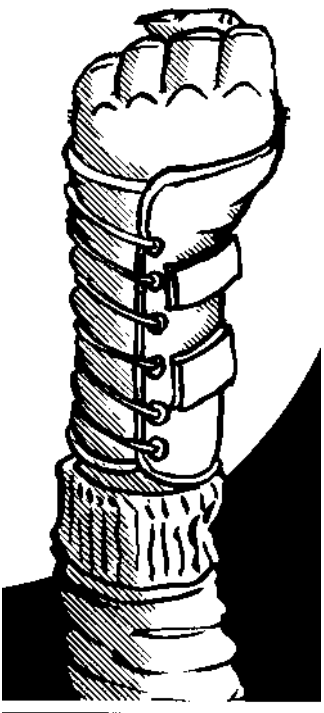
But small business groups already weighed in extensively with hearing testimony and written comments. They were critical of the change, even though it doesn’t affect small businesses for the most part. OSHA spokesperson Diana Petterson says less than 15 percent of small businesses are required to fill out the form. Businesses with under 10 employees — and businesses in low-hazard industries or office environments — aren’t required to fill out the form.

Peg Seminario, director of the Safety and Health Department of the national AFL-CIO labor federation, says there’s no merit to business groups’ claim that reporting musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) would be burdensome. She says the groups’ real fear is that if they start counting MSDs, they may at some later stage have to spend money to prevent them.

MSDs — which can be caused by repetitive motion or overexertion — afflict the muscles, nerves, tendons, ligaments, joints, cartilage and spinal discs of millions of workers. Examples include carpal tunnel syndrome, sciatica, tendinitis, herniated spinal discs, and lower back pain. MSDs accounted for 28 percent of all reported workplace injuries and illnesses in 2009, according to an annual survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Organized labor has fought for decades to get employers to take MSDs seriously, but business groups have resisted government intervention.

This latest fight is about OSHA’s



Form 300, a log that is filled out by employers whenever a work-related injury or illness causes a worker to seek medical treatment, lose work time or restrict the kinds of tasks they can perform. For decades, the log included a box indicating that the injury was caused by “cumulative trauma.” But the box didn’t

distinguish between hearing loss and musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). In January 2001, OSHA gave noise-related illness and MSDs their own separate columns. Then the newly-installed administration of George W. Bush stepped in and eliminated the MSD column.

The administration of Barack Obama has taken its time reversing that move. OSHA proposed to restore the MSD column, held a March 2010 hearing, took comment, finalized a draft rule change, and sent it in July 2010 to the Office of Management and Budget for review. Now OSHA says it’s temporarily withdrawing the change from OMB review until it can have “an active dialogue between the agency and the small business community.”

“We were stunned,” said the AFL-CIO’s Seminario. “This is basically a tool to use in the workplace to identify which of these injuries are MSDs, which hopefully will focus attention by employers on how to prevent them. If they’re responding this way to a small rule with a minimal impact, we’re quite concerned how they’ll respond to rules that have a bigger impact.”

Seminario said the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other groups have been vocally opposing this rule and others for many months — with ideological, not substantive objections.

The Chamber argues that MSDs aren’t well enough defined, that they rely on workers’ unverifiable claims of pain and discomfort, and that it’s too hard to determine the precise cause, including whether an MSD is work-related or pre-existing.

OSHA’s announcement that it’s withdrawing the proposed rule change came one week after President Obama issued an executive order that all federal regulatory agencies must review new and existing rules to make sure they’re the least burdensome.

“I am directing federal agencies to do more to account for — and reduce — the burdens regulations may place on small businesses,” Obama wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed piece explaining the order.

To put all this in context: OSHA has been studying MSDs for 31 years. MSDs are often brought about by workspaces that are not designed with ergonomic considerations in mind. The White House is in charge of executive branch agencies like OSHA. In November 2000, just as President Bill Clinton wrapped up his eight years in office, OSHA announced a new rule that would have required employers to implement ergonomics programs if they had musculoskeletal injuries in a workplace. But the U.S. Chamber of

Commerce declared it a top priority to repeal the rule, and a Republican-led Congress obliged, overturning the rule in March 2001, before it took effect.

In short, the Obama Administration has not sought to require employers to do anything about MSDs, and now it’s backing off requiring employers even to report them ... at least until OSHA has a chance to hear some more from small business groups about the impact of adding a check box to an existing form.

To get more small business feedback on the proposal to add an MSD column to Form 300, OSHA and the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Office of Advocacy will be jointly hosting a meeting, details of which will be announced by the end of February.

“After this small business meeting,” said Petterson, the OSHA spokesperson, “OSHA will review the comments and concerns regarding the proposed rule, prior to submitting it back to the OMB.”

(Editor’s Note: Oregon and Washington are two of 25 states that develop and operate their own job safety and health programs. Federal OSHA approves and monitors all state plans. Neither state has an ergonomics standard or separate reporting requirement for musculoskeletal disorders.)

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...New hospital in Coquille will be built by union workers

(From Page 1)

considerable construction work for local area union members," Smith said. "We commend Coquille Valley Hospital and The Neenan Company for choosing to build this new hospital responsibly."

The Building Trades Council credo has always been to "build responsibly." Several years ago it turned its focus on elected officials, encouraging them to pledge to look for "responsible contractors that pay a living wage with fringe benefits" when using tax dollars on new construction or renovation.

Smith said labor immediately reached out to hospital executives after learning of their plans to build a new fa-

cility. The discussion initially was about project labor agreements, but evolved into financing. "One thing led to another and everything fell into place," Smith said.

Coquille Valley Hospital spokeswoman Jenny Silva said the hospital probably wouldn't have been built without the AFL-CIO Housing and Investment Trust involvement. "It might still have happened, but it would have been way down the road."

Coquille Valley Hospital opened in 1969. The Coquille Valley Hospital District was certified under federal law as a Medicare critical access hospital in 2003. Silva said the new medical facility is not a new wing or expansion of the

existing 25-bed hospital. She said once the new hospital is completed, the old one will be used for medical and health related services and/or education.

The project has resulted in several "firsts" for the involved parties. It is HIT's first investment in Oregon and its first time utilizing Build America Bonds. The bond program was introduced in 2009 as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to stimulate the economy. It expired at the end

of 2010. It also is the first project labor agreement ever signed by the Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades Council or The Neenan Company.

AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust Investment Officer Chris Shaw called the project a "win-win because it will bring needed medical care to the community, while creating jobs and stimulating the local economy."

Shaw said the union construction jobs generated by the hospital project

puts the HIT on track to achieve its goal of creating 10,000 union construction jobs by this spring. To date, the HIT has committed over \$695 million for 29 projects representing nearly 9,000 construction jobs and \$1.5 billion of development.

The Coquille hospital is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2012.

(Editor's Note: Nurses at Coquille Valley Hospital are represented by Oregon Nurses Association.)

Unions call for boycott of Columbian newspaper

VANCOUVER — The Southwest Washington Central Labor Council and the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council passed resolutions placing the Columbian newspaper on their respective "Do Not Patronize" lists.

The daily newspaper covers the greater Vancouver/Southwest Washington area.

"They don't report the news of the entire community," said Shannon Walker, president of the labor council and a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555. "The Columbian continues to publish articles that are biased against and inflammatory toward working-class people, union members, and public employees."

The resolution calls for a boycott starting this month and continuing through July 31, 2011. In August, the labor council will revisit the issue to determine whether or not the newspaper has expanded its coverage "to represent all of the community." If it has, the boycott will be withdrawn.

Meantime, the labor council and

building trades council are asking union members to cancel their subscriptions and to not advertise in the newspaper. They also ask union members to write letters to the editor and publisher explaining why they are canceling.

"If you're not a subscriber, write or call them and tell them why you don't subscribe," Walker said.

Ed Barnes, a retired business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48, said he canceled his subscription after 60 years reading the newspaper. "I delivered that newspaper as a kid, and I've sat on their community advisory board," he said.

Barnes advised union officials to spread the word of the labor action via newsletters, websites, and at meetings.

The Portland-based Northwest Oregon Labor Council will vote on the resolution at its monthly meeting Feb. 28.

Walker said she is forwarding copies of the resolution to local politicians.

To cancel a subscription, call 360-694-2312. Send letters to the editor to lou.branaccacio@columbian.com.

National Labor College launches 3 new bachelor's degree programs for unionists

SILVER SPRING, Md. —The National Labor College, which is sponsored by the AFL-CIO and is the nation's only regionally-accredited higher education institution devoted exclusively to educating union members, will launch three new online bachelor's degree programs in Construction Management, Emergency Readiness and Response Management, and Business Administration.

The new programs offer union members the convenience of online study. And with special union member rates and scholarships, NLC students can complete their degree for less than \$10,000 in two years. Plus, learning from work experience and apprenticeships can earn union members credits towards completing their degrees.

NLC's bachelor's degree in Business Administration is based upon the ethical treatment of all members of so-

ciety, sustainable business practices, and the idea that all organizations should contribute to the health of the community. The program is unique in that it has required courses that explore the labor movement's contributions to American society and economic prosperity.

The NLC offers the only bachelor's degree in Construction Management with required courses that explore the labor movement's preeminent role in the construction industry. The degree is geared for members of building and construction trades unions who are interested in becoming construction managers.

The NLC also is the only higher education institution offering a bachelor of science degree in Emergency Readiness and Response Management that includes required courses examining the nation's safety and security from a

labor perspective. The program is specifically designed for rank-and-file union members in fire services, EMS, law enforcement, public safety, Homeland Security, and other related unions. Areas of study include the rise of modern terrorism, domestic terrorism, the Homeland Security organization, and labor and civil liberties issues.

"Our new online degree programs are designed to help union members and members of their families advance in their current jobs or move into growth areas for new, good jobs," said Dr. Paula Peinovich, president of the NLC. "The college is proud to add these new programs to our current offerings in Labor Studies and to be part of the solution to our country's current unemployment crisis."

For more information on The National Labor College, go to <http://www.nlc.edu>.



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Official Notices

AUTO MECHANICS 1005

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16.
 Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop stewards' training session.
 ALL MEMBERS are invited to shop stewards' training. Stewards must attend steward meeting to be compensated.
 All meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.
PLEASE NOTE: Rochelle Conrad will be available from 8 a.m. to noon during the regular Lodge meeting to answer any questions you may have about Health and Welfare and Pension plans.

BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY, TOBACCO WORKERS AND GRAIN MILLERS 114

Executive Board meets 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, followed by a 10 a.m. General Membership meeting at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland. **PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE.**

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

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

CEMENT MASONS 555

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

CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28, at UA 290 Training Center, 2161 SE 1st St., Redmond.

COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 22 and March 1, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, in the Executive Boardroom
 General Membership Meeting meets 6:30pm Wednesday, Feb. 23, in the Meeting Hall. Doors open at 5:30pm for sandwiches.
 Your Business Manager Meeting, Saturday, Feb. 26, in the Meeting Hall. Call Kierstan at 503-889-3662 for an appointment.
 Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28, in the Meeting Hall.
 Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 2 and March 16, in the Executive Boardroom.
 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in the Executive Boardroom.
 Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles.
 Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in the Meeting Hall.
 Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in the Dispatch Lobby.
 Vancouver Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver.
 Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.
 Meetings are at 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland, unless otherwise noted.
DEATH ASSESSMENTS: The following deaths have been declared - No. 2255, Scott Blackmore; No. 2256, James E. Reeves; No. 2257, Kenneth W. Lickar; No. 2258, William R. Stevenson; and No. 2259, Roger L. Funston. Death Assessments are \$1.50 per month per active member.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at 92969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.
 Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.
 Eugene Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the LU 290 Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.
 Salem Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Salem Heights Community Center, 3505 Liberty Rd. S

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

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

Whitaker Way, Portland.
PLEASE NOTE: Local 23 will mail ballots to members 25 days after the February meeting to vote for delegates to attend the August IUEC convention.

FIRE FIGHTERS 452

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

GLASS WORKERS 740

Executive Board members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, March 3, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.
 Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 3, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.
 Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, March 7, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.
 Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE.

INSULATORS 36

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

IRON WORKERS 29

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 3, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #200, Portland.

IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, #200, Portland.

LABORERS 483

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. stewards' meeting, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

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

LANE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

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

LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BUILDING TRADES

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

LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, preceded by a 7 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Union Office, 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is a SPECIAL CALL meeting to discuss the allocation of the April 1, 2011 increase.
 Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, March 7, at the Union Office 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.
 Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at the Union Office, 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is a SPECIAL CALL meeting to vote on the allocation of the April 1, 2011 increase.

MACHINISTS 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 9. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, March 12, preceded by a 9 a.m. stewards' meeting. **PLEASE NOTE:** Elections will be held at this meeting for two (2) Executive Board positions. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

MACHINISTS 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at noon Wednesday, March 9.
 Regular membership meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9.
 Shop stewards' training session 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19.
 Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

MARION-POLK-YAMHILL LABOR COUNCIL

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

METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22. Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 10. Meeting are at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

MID-COLUMBIA LABOR COUNCIL

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

MOLDERS 139B

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY EMPLOYEES 88

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at the AFSCME union office.
 General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, preceded by 6 p.m. stewards meeting.
 Meetings are held at 6025 E. Burnside St., Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28, at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES 11

Membership meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at Laborers/Teamster Hall, 2212 Andresen Rd, Vancouver. The purpose of the meeting: Conduct the general business of the local and accept nominations for open Officers & Executive Board seats: Vice President *, Secretary-Treasurer*, Recording Secretary, Sgt-at-Arms, 4 Executive Board Seats, 1 Trustee.
 Nominations may be made by mail, email or at the meeting; acceptance at meeting or by prior written or electronic medium. Elections will be in April, if necessary. *Delegate to Int'l Convention.

PAINTERS & DRYWALL FINISHERS 10

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.
PLEASE NOTE: Special event: State of the Union Party at Katie's Backyard Sports Bar, 11307 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, on Friday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. Food will be provided. See our web site at www.iupatlocal10.org.

PLASTERERS 82

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, March 3. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10. Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave, Portland. (Phone: 503 232-4807)

SALEM BUILDING TRADES

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

SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.
 Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.
 Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.
 Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Sheet Metal Local 16 Hall, 1887 Laura St., Springfield.
 Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

SIGN PAINTERS & PAINT MAKERS 1094

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

SOUTHERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 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, Feb. 18, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.
 Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St.
 Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.
 Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 29, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 417 Railroad St., Brookings.
 Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.
 Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.
 Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 4816 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls.
 Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at 950 Industrial Circle, White City.
 Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.
 The Dalles area meetings resume in Sept.
 Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, at the Eureka Training Center, 634 California St. Eureka, CA.

STEELWORKERS 1097

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, preceded by a 4 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office building, Westport.

Workers' Rights panel to hear about postal service crisis

The Portland-area Workers' Rights Board, a project of Jobs with Justice, will hear testimony from U.S. Postal Service customers, mailers, letter carriers, clerks, and industry experts about customer service, closures, financial woes, working conditions and ideas for positive change, Monday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 NE 14th Avenue, at Knott St.
 A panel of elected officials, a minister, academic, small business and a public interest research group will listen to the testimony and make recommendations to the public, postal management and Congress.
 For more info, call 503-752-5112.

Retiree Meeting Notices

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

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

BAKERS 114

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at Izzy's Restaurant, 1307 NE 102nd Ave # T, Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees, wives and friends will meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12725 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas Promenade. For more information, please call Glenn Hodgkinson at 503-656-0028.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Retirees and wives meet 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 2, at Denny's Restaurant, 15815 SE 82nd, Clackamas.

INSULATORS 36

Retiree breakfast 9 a.m. Thursday, March 3, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

IRON WORKERS 29

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 9, at the Union Hall meeting room, 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle #200, Portland for a catered lunch.

MACHINISTS

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, March 14, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council

board room, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 15, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954 ext. 226.

TRANSIT 757

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Rusty Pipes meet 2 p.m. Thursday, March 3, at UA 290 Hall, Springfield.
 Salem retirees meet 12 noon, Wednesday, March 9, at Almost Home Restaurant, 3310 Market St., NE, Salem.
 Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, March 17, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Union rep Rodgers is Super Bowl MVP

By JAMES PARKS

Two high-profile union members were in the spotlight this month.

On Super Bowl Sunday, Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers, the Packers' team rep for the NFL Players Association (NFLPA), took home the Super Bowl MVP award. The same day New England Patriot alternate rep Tom Brady was named Offensive Player of the Year for the 2010 season.

It is rare for two such high-profile players to serve as team reps, but both Rodgers and Brady are strong supporters of the union. When he was introduced as the Packers' new team rep last October, Rodgers made it clear that the union is important to him and his team-



AARON RODGERS

mates. He spoke out about how the prospect of a lockout in the 2011 season would hurt the community as well as the players.

"I think that's one thing we're trying to remember through this whole thing that's coming down here ... This lockout is bigger than just the players. It's bigger than the players vs. the owners. This is a deal that affects more than just 53 of us [the Packers' players]."

Team owners opted out of the collective bargaining agreement with the NFLPA two years before it was due to expire, saying it isn't working for them. But they refuse to provide audited fi-

nancial information to explain what is wrong in a business that generated \$9 billion in 2009, during the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

On top of that \$9 billion and whatever they made in this football season, the owners will rake in another \$4 billion next season even if there are no games because CBS and the other networks that air NFL games have agreed to pay that amount to the NFL even if there is a lockout. In other words, because of CBS and the other networks, the owners have lockout insurance.

This Super Bowl also had another strong union tie. Both Green Bay and Pittsburgh are blue-collar manufacturing cities with rich union histories and where manufacturing is still a major industry.



Hoffmann retires from Laborers

Bill Hoffmann, a 32-year member of Laborers Local 296, retired Jan. 1. Hoffmann worked in the trade for 16 years, starting as a hod carrier. Local 296 hired him as a business agent in 1994, and in 1997 he became an organizer. He took a job with the international in 2001, working at the Laborers Northwest Regional Organizing Coalition. Hoffmann, 57, was active in his union and his community, which included a run for the Reynolds School Board. He says he has no ambitions to run for public office for now. "I just want to golf and fish," he told the Labor Press. His greatest disappointment, he said, was not seeing organized labor get back together under one big tent before he retired. "We need to all be working together," he said.

Time to register for MDA Labor Bowl March 13

The 22nd Annual Labor Bowl Challenge to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) will be held Sunday, March 13, at Hollywood Bowl, 4030 NE Halsey St., Portland.

Thirty lanes have been reserved. To date, 14 teams from five union locals have registered to bowl. This year's goal is to have 18 unions represented at the event.

Money is raised by pledges and a silent auction. Since its inception, Portland-area labor unions have collected \$311,828.75 for MDA. Money goes to buy wheelchairs and braces for children, as well as research and summer camps.

Registration starts at noon, with bowling under way at 1 p.m.

For more information, call Jim Cook, president of Letter Carriers Branch 82, at 503-493-5903. To donate items to the auction, call Debbie Burbank at 971-404-5384.

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Transit Union plans more rallies at TriMet Board

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 is continuing its informational picketing prior to TriMet Board meetings.

The next gathering is Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th Ave., Portland. Following the action, the union is asking everyone to attend the Board meeting.

"I encourage you sign up to address the Board. Let your opinions be heard,"

said Local 757 President Jonathan Hunt. "The Board needs to know their lack of action is affecting real live people."

The sides met with a state mediator Jan. 28 and Feb. 2, with little progress made. They have been engaged in a labor dispute since the old contract expired Nov. 30, 2009. State law prohibits transit workers from striking and requires that all contract disputes be settled by binding arbitration.

ATU has filed two unfair labor practice (ULP) complaints. One alleges that TriMet changed its bargaining position when petitioning for arbitration in July 2010. The other is for unilaterally changing health insurance costs, a move the union says was in retaliation for filing the first ULP.

The ULPs aren't scheduled to be heard until May.

The union has asked Gov. John Kitzhaber to intervene.

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Who's On Our Side?

By Tom Chamberlain



Imagine a job where a worker's shift is 14 hours long, seven days a week. No sick leave, no health care, vacation or workers' compensation. Oh, I forgot to mention: You also have to pay your employer as much as \$580 a week for the privilege of working for their company. Of course, we all know such employment relations could never happen in America. Right?!

These are the working conditions more than 400 Portland cab drivers experience every day. They are forced to pay the company up to \$580 a week for dispatch and advertising, whether the driver works or not. Want to go on vacation? Pay the taxi company the \$1,160 dispatch fee during your two-week vacation while your taxi cab sits idle. On a good month, a cab driver earns about \$4,000 plus tips — after paying the taxi company \$2,320 and setting aside a little tip to their dispatcher for sending fares their way.

On a bad month, cabbies pay the same fees and lose money. This is a system designed to make profits for the company while the cabby shoulders all the risk — paying company fees and maintenance and gas on the cabs most of them are required to own.

Taxi companies get away with this form of indentured servitude because they classify cab drivers as independent contractors. But cabbies work for one company and the company has di-

rection and control of the cabbies' work activities. Recently, the Oregon Employment Department audited taxi companies and ruled that cabbies do not meet federal criteria for independent contractor status and are therefore entitled to Oregon unemployment insurance benefits. Translation: the taxi companies now have to pay the unemployment tax like any other employer.

At this point many of you are wondering why the cabbies don't rise up and fight the taxi companies. Fear is the main reason; many cabbies are recent immigrants from Eastern Africa trying to learn English, make a living and settle in to their new home. Those individuals who do speak out often find themselves without a job. It's no surprise that when the taxi companies circulated a petition to support Oregon Senate Bill 257 to exempt cabbies from unemployment insurance, the cabbies signed it. This same tactic was used decades ago to exempt cabbies from Oregon workers' compensation.

I would be unfair if I didn't mention that Radio Cab is different. It is a co-op: the drivers own the company, they determine the fees (currently \$200 versus \$580 a week), they determine how the company operates, what benefits are provided, etc. Most cabbies want to work for Radio Cab but can't because their fleet is limited and preference is given to veterans.

Recently, I met with Communication Workers of America Local 7901 President Madelyn Elder and a group of courageous cabbies who are fighting for their rights. Based upon a co-op model, they have developed a business plan and found financial backing to start a new cab company in Portland — Union Cab.

The fate of Union Cab is now in the hands of the City of Portland, which will make a final decision whether or not they can operate in Portland, and how many cabs they can operate.

At this point, the CWA cabbies are forced to stay in the shadows, still fearful of company reprisals, remaining silent on legislation that would eliminate their benefits. Instead, we will be standing with CWA fighting to ensure they are treated with dignity and respect and ensure that no one rolls back their unemployment insurance benefits in Salem.

Who is on your side, Portland cabbies? CWA 7901. By choosing to support co-op cab companies and, once they're formed, Union Cab, you can be too.

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

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SEIU #49 scores Oregon's biggest private-sector win in decades

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

BEND — Oregon's biggest private sector union organizing victory in decades came through this month at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, and it was a close one. In a Jan. 5 election, support workers at the hospital voted 255 to 251 to join Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 49, but that didn't include 34 uncounted ballots cast by workers whose eligibility to join the union was in dispute. After the two sides reached agreement on the challenges, the National Labor Relations Board counted 22 of those ballots Feb. 2, and the final tally was 267 to 261.

Several other unions have campaigned at the hospital over the years. But the tide seemed to turn in the last year or so after changes in management practice.

Ken Daniels, who works at St. Charles sterilizing hospital equipment, was the worker who made the first

phone call to Local 49. Daniels spent many years at a local sawmill as a member of the Woodworkers Union, but the mill closed, and eventually he took a job at the hospital. Daniels said things were different when he began at St. Charles 20 years ago: A nun, Sister Catherine Hellmann, was CEO of the Catholic-owned hospital, until 2000.

"Sister Catherine looked after the little people," Daniels said. "After she left, things deteriorated."

In two of the last three years, workers got no raises even as upper managers got bonuses. A dozen housekeeping jobs were outsourced.

"People were afraid to speak up," Daniels said. "Some housekeepers complained, and management told them if they didn't like it, they had a two-inch-high stack of job applications."

After Daniels called Local 49, the union assigned organizers and helped turn out community support as workers organized themselves and got a cam-

paign rolling.

Joanne Kennedy, inpatient pharmacy technician with 30 years at St. Charles, said job security concerns were a primary factor motivating support for the

union.

"We're the only hospital in the area, so if you're in a medical career and you don't work here, you have to leave the area," Kennedy said. And with no griev-

ance procedure, and conditions worsening in many departments — pay cuts, dozens of layoffs, shortstaffing, workload increases — Kennedy said union-

Turn to Page 8)

Local Motion

January 2011

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

Voting in union elections

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Yes	No	
1/5	St. Charles Medical Center (Bend) SEIU Local 49	267	261	👍
1/6	First Student school bus drivers (Grants Pass) Teamsters 962 DECERT	53	53	👎
1/11	Portland Housing Bureau (Portland) Oregon AFSCME	23	10	👍
1/19	SI Funeral Services vault division (Clackamas) Teamsters Local 206	3	0	👍
1/28	Port of Portland airport police (Portland) PoPPEA AFSCME (incumbent) No Union	33	22	0

Unionizing by majority sign-up

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
1/14	Philomath Rural Fire District (Philomath) Garrettson Goldberg Fenrich Makler	5
1/27	City of Joseph (Joseph) Laborers Local 121	6
1/24	Tri-City Water & Sanitary Authority (Myrtle Creek) IBEW Local 659	6

Requesting a union election

Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
West Valley Fire District (Willamina) Employees of WVFD	7
Pioneer Memorial Hospital RNs (Prineville) Oregon Nurses Association DECERT	38
Waste Management (Newberg) Teamsters Local 324	25
Valley Medical College (Salem) Teamsters Local 324	21
Morris Glass & Construction glaziers (Astoria) IUPAT District Council 5	5
AMR EMTs and paramedics (Grants Pass) Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757	51

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- 👎 workers will be on their own
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...Dr. King: History is a great teacher

(From Page 1)

no one would be available....

History is a great teacher.... By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for its industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who today attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them....

Negroes in the United States read this history of labor and find that it mirrors their own experience. We are confronted by powerful forces telling us to rely on the goodwill and understanding of those who profit by exploiting us. They deplore our discontent, they resent our will to organize so that we may

guarantee that humanity will prevail and equality will be exacted. They are shocked that action organizations, sit-ins, civil disobedience, and protests are becoming our everyday tools, just as strikes, demonstrations, and union organization became yours to ensure that bargaining power genuinely existed on both sides of the table. We want to rely on the goodwill of those who would oppose us. Indeed, we have brought forward the method of nonviolence to give an example of unilateral goodwill in an effort to evoke it in those who have not yet felt it in their hearts. But we know that if we are not simultaneously organizing our strength, we will have no means to move forward. If we do not advance, the crushing burden of

centuries of neglect and economic deprivation will destroy our will, our spirits, and our hopes. In this way, labor's historic tradition of moving forward to create vital people as consumers and citizens has become our own tradition, and for the same reasons.

Unity of purpose [between the labor movement and the Negro civil rights movement] is not an historical coincidence. Negroes are almost entirely a working people. There are pitifully few Negro millionaires and few Negro employers. Our needs are identical with labor's needs: decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old-age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children, and

respect in the community. ...

Labor today faces a grave crisis, perhaps the most calamitous since it began its march from the shadows of want and insecurity. In the next 10 to 20 years, automation will grind jobs into dust as it grinds out unbelievable volumes of production. This period is made to order for those who seek to drive labor into impotency by viciously attacking it at every point of weakness. Hardcore unemployment is now an ugly and unavoidable fact of life. ...

To find a great design to solve a great problem, labor will have to intervene in the political life of the nation to chart a course which distributes the abundance to all instead of concentrating it among a few."

...SEIU organizes St. Charles Medical

(From Page 7)

izing made sense as a vehicle to put workers back in the hospital's business plan.

The campaign was clandestine at first, but came out into the open when pro-union workers began gathering signatures on a petition calling for the hospital to recognize the union. Over 65 percent signed, but the hospital declined to voluntarily recognize the union, so the union filed for an election.

That's when an anti-union campaign kicked into high gear. Managers held anti-union meetings on work time, had one-on-one conversations with workers, and mailed letters to workers' homes.

Workers were told they were not allowed to talk about the union on work time, but the rule was only enforced against union supporters.

Some union supporters wavered, but others showed courage by signing a public "Vote yes!" petition. In the end a bare majority came out in favor. Now pro-union workers hope to win over those who voted "no," even as some anti-union workers are rumored to be planning a decertification drive. [Legally, workers could vote again in a year whether to keep the union.]

The last time a private sector union election was held for a unit of such size in Oregon was a 1995-1996 campaign

by United Steelworkers among 1,700 workers at Precision Cast Parts in Portland. But that campaign fell victim to an employer anti-union campaign that included numerous violations of federal labor law.


At St. Charles, the next step is negotiating a first-ever union contract for the 69 support and maintenance classifications that make up the bargaining unit. By law, the hospital must bargain in good faith with the union. Local 49 has sent out a bargaining survey, and workers are nominating members of the union bargaining team. No bargaining sessions had been scheduled as of press time.




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