



NORTHWEST

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Portland**AFL-CIO appeals for peace in Iraq**

Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain, flanked by union members opposed to the war in Iraq, spoke at a March 15 peace rally in Portland to mark the fifth anniversary of the start of the current war in Iraq. "Billions of dollars that should have funded health care for all, that should have rebuilt this country and provided good jobs for working families, have instead gone for war," Chamberlain said. Most U.S. labor organizations have taken stands against the war or calling for speedy troop withdrawal. In a statement adopted last March, the national AFL-CIO Executive Council declared: "The men and women risking their lives in Iraq come from America's working families. They are our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers, our husbands and wives. They have answered their call to duty with the utmost courage and dedication. And the best way now to recognize and honor their service is to take them out of harm's way."

Machinists to lobby lawmakers on Air Force tanker deal

The Machinists Union is lobbying lawmakers to overturn a \$35 billion multi-year contract the Air Force awarded a European consortium to build the next generation of aerial refueling tankers.

Boeing, a union company based in the U.S., was favored to win the contract based on its 50-year history of supplying the Air Force with refueling tankers. Company and union officials, and political leaders were stunned when it went to a consortium consisting of the government-subsidized European Aeronautic Defense and Space Co. (Airbus) and Northrop-Grumman.

"Every U.S. citizen should be outraged. They are using our tax dollars to boost the European economy when ours is in a critical tail spin now," said Tom Buffenbarger, general president of the Interna-

tional Association of Machinists.

The Machinists Union represents about 35,000 Boeing workers in Washington, Kansas, Oregon and other locations across the country. The Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA) represents another 24,000 engineers and technical workers. SPEEA members were instrumental in the design and engineering of Boeing's KC-767AT (advanced tanker) that was in competition for the contract. Airbus will base the tankers on its A380.

"I'm surprised the Air Force chose an unproven technology and an inferior product for this important program that supports the men and women in our armed forces," said SPEEA President Cynthia Cole.

Union officials said the 179 tankers called for in the contract would be built with over 85 percent domestic U.S. content and would support more than 44,000 U.S. jobs and 300 contractors in over 40 states.

It was expected to create 9,000 jobs in Washington and about 225 jobs in Oregon. Machinists Lodge 63 represents 1,200 workers at Boeing of Portland, where they produce key components for the 767.

Airbus says it will create 2,000 jobs in the U.S. by building a new

Gardner resigns as labor commissioner

By DON McINTOSH
Associate Editor

Oregon Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner announced March 12 that he will resign effective April 7 — 15 months into his second four-year term of office. A day later, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski announced he will appoint State Sen. Brad Avakian (D-Bethany) to fill the vacancy.

Labor commissioner, one of six offices in Oregon that are elected statewide, serves as chief executive of Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), a 106-employee \$10-million-a-year agency. BOLI enforces state civil rights and wage and hour laws, administers the state's prevailing wage law for public construction projects, and promotes apprenticeship training. So who's in charge of the agency matters a good deal to the state's unions.

Gardner gave the governor a short list of recommendations for his replacement, but Kulongoski, after scant consultation with labor leaders, swiftly settled on the choice of Avakian, a fellow attorney.

Avakian was in the middle of a four-way race for the Democratic nomination for Secretary of State. But he didn't hesitate when offered the job



DAN
GARDNER

of labor commissioner. An employee-side civil rights and workers' compensation attorney, Avakian says at one time he knew every BOLI civil rights investigator by name.

In the 2007 legislative session, Avakian was one of four state senators to get the Oregon AFL-CIO's highest ranking, and he was named an "all-star" by the Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council. Avakian's appointment stands until the November election, and he says he intends to run for election.

Gardner said he loves the job of labor commissioner, but is resigning in order to take a legislative and policy job for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in Washington, D.C. Gardner is a third-generation journeyman electrician and longtime IBEW member, and was vice president of Portland-headquartered IBEW Local 48 before he was

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factory for the tankers in Mobile, Ala. Parts for the tanker, however, will be assembled by 40,000 unionized French workers at the Airbus plant in Toulouse, Buffenbarger said.

Boeing filed a formal protest March 11 with the Government Accountability Office, the federal government's non-partisan auditing arm. The GAO has 100 days to make a ruling.

"How we could turn over the crown jewel of support for our nation's Air Force to foreign manufacturers is beyond me," Buffenbarger said. "We're going to take this on tooth and nail and get this decision overturned. We're going to see that America gets what it deserves in the form of economic justice and fairness for American workers."

The AFL-CIO Executive Council called on Congress to "defund" the contract, as well as conduct a full investigation about how the contract was awarded to a foreign contractor.

Since the announcement, Boeing workers and taxpayers have held several rallies protesting the Air Force's decision. The latest was March 19 (after this issue went to press) in Everett with members of District Lodge 751 and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.

The Machinists Union is asking union members and all taxpayers to call Congress and urge them to "defund" the contract with Airbus and to support U.S. jobs by choosing a U.S.-made tanker.

CEOs pocket big pay while their companies tank

By MIKE HALL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Three CEOs — Angelo Mozilo of Countrywide Financial Corp., E. Stanley O'Neal of Merrill Lynch and Charles Prince of Citigroup — presided over companies that lost a combined \$20 billion in just the past two quarters of 2007 as a result of investments in subprime and other risky mortgages.

For that kind of performance, the CEO trio pocketed more than \$320 million in compensation, stock bonuses and other rewards last year. That disconnect between performance and pay, says Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), shows that "there seems to be two different economic realities in this country. Most Americans live in a world where economic security is precarious and there are real economic consequences for failure. But our nation's top executives seem to live by a different set of rules ... CEOs seem to hit the lottery when companies collapse."

Waxman made his remarks at his U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's hearing March 7 on CEO pay and the mortgage crisis.



Waxman says all three companies "bet heavily on the subprime market" and suffered enormous losses. Countrywide lost \$1.6 billion in 2007 and its stock lost 80 percent of its value. Merrill Lynch lost \$10 billion and its stock lost 45 percent of its value. Citigroup also lost \$10 billion and its stock lost 48 percent of its value.

According to a report released by the committee, the companies' nose-

dives paid off for the three CEOs. O'Neal and Prince pulled the rip chords on their golden parachutes and resigned. Mozilo appears ready to do the same as soon as Bank of America completes a deal to buy Countrywide.

The report shows that O'Neal left Merrill Lynch with a \$161 million retirement package. Prince was awarded a \$10 million bonus, \$28 million in unvested stock options and \$1.5 million in annual perquisites when he left Citigroup. Mozilo received more than \$120 million in compensation and sales of Countrywide stock. Says Waxman:

Any reasonable relation between their compensation and the interests of their shareholders appears to have broken down. The obvious question is this: How can a few executives do so well when their companies do so poorly?

Nell Minnow, co-founder of the Corporate Library, an independent group that studies corporate governance and executive pay, describes herself as a "passionate capitalist." But she told the committee that not only is the compensation the three re-

ceived far out of line compared with performance, it also should be returned to shareholders.

"The undue compensation awarded to these failed CEOs should be returned to shareholders," she testified. "In addition, they should be held liable for providing false and misleading statements to investors and held accountable for the impact of their poor strategic decision-making policies."

Minnow also called for stronger shareholder rights in determining CEO pay throughout the corporate world.

"Now, shareholders only vote on stock options and have no say over any other aspect of compensation," she said. "So directors have nothing to lose by approving pay plans that pay off like perpetual pin-ball machines, designed so that everything you hit rings a bell."

The committee report also found that Countrywide retained three compensation consulting firms to develop Mozilo's pay package. After the first two firms made recommendations that apparently didn't suit Mozilo, a third company was retained that, the report says: "...appeared to serve as Mr. Mozilo's personal adviser" with the goal of achieving "maximum opportunity" for Mr. Mozilo. The final contract was significantly more generous than Exequity [the second compensation firm] originally recommended.

During their testimony, the CEOs claimed reports of their pay were exaggerated by the media. But the committees' report suggests that Mozilo is trying to deflect blame onto unions — because organized labor has been leading the way in many shareholder actions seeking to hold corporate executives accountable.

The committee came across Mozilo's accusations while sorting through various financial documents.

In a 2006 e-mail, responding to an executive compensation consultant who was disappointed that Countrywide's board had made revisions in Mozilo's compensation package, Mozilo wrote: "boards have been placed under enormous pressure by the left-wing, anti-business press and the envious leaders of unions and other so-called 'CEO Comp Watchers.'"

He goes on to say that "a decade from now," the public will realize how wrong it was to attack honest "entrepreneurship."

(Editor's Note: Mike Hall is a writer for the national AFL-CIO Now Blog News.)

IBEW launches union campaign at Comcast

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers announced March 12 that it will try to unionize Comcast, a telecommunications giant that last year took in \$25 billion in revenue.

Matt Carroll, IBEW Local 89 president and lead Northwest organizer on the Comcast campaign, says less than 2 percent of Comcast's 90,000 employees are unionized. IBEW represents Comcast workers in Chicago, Philadelphia, New Jersey and Alabama, and Communications Workers of America represents Comcast workers at facilities in California, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. But the company has successfully resisted further unionization.

So IBEW is trying a new approach — a "virtual" campaign. Organizers and volunteers show up outside Comcast workplaces with a banner and fliers that direct workers to a Web site. In mid-March, the union campaign kicked off in the Pacific Northwest, New England, Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Florida.

The Web site for the Northwest, www.comcastworkers.com, enables workers to download and mail in union authorization cards. If the union collects enough cards, it can request an election to be overseen by the National Labor Relations Board.

The Northwest campaign is being headed up by IBEW Local 89 — an Everett, Wash., telecommunications local with members in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Northern California, at Verizon and two rural telecom companies, CenturyTel and Frontier.

Comcast management appears to be reacting swiftly. In Auburn, Wash., managers held an emergency meeting when the union banner appeared, and then came out to watch the entrance while employees drove out in their company vans.

In the first several days of the Northwest campaign, IBEW staff and volunteers hit every Comcast work site from the Canadian border to Corvallis, Carroll said.



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Rebekah Orr new PR director for Oregon AFL-CIO

The Oregon AFL-CIO has hired a new communications and research director. Rebekah Orr, 32, began Feb. 28. She replaces Jennifer Sargent, who left in December to take a job doing communications for the International Longshore & Warehouse Union.

Orr comes to the state labor federation after a short stint at Metropolitan Group, a public relations firm with offices in Portland, Chicago, and Washington, DC. During the 2007 session of the Oregon Legislature, Orr was communications director for the Oregon House Democratic Caucus, working for Democratic Majority Leader Dave Hunt. Prior to that she was the communications director for Basic Rights Oregon.

Orr grew up in Silverton, Oregon, the daughter of a family doctor and a dental hygienist, and graduated from Silverton High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and women's studies from the University of Oregon in 1999.

Though Orr said she's new to the union movement, in a sense her new job is her second union job. She was a member of American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees for several years working at Oregon Health & Science University doing internal communications for the IT department. Now, as a staffperson at the state labor federation, she'll be represented by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48.



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Portland school board narrowly ratifies custodial contract, 4-3

It was never clear how many school board members agreed with Portland Public Schools when, for months, the district demanded pay cuts of up to 30 percent from the district's long-suffering custodians. In the end, the district dropped that demand in union contract bargaining, and let custodians continue with nothing worse than a three-year pay freeze.

Some of the board members showed their colors, however, when the agreement went before them for ratification. Three of the seven voted against the contract, arguing that the district was too generous. The three were Sonja Henning, a lawyer for Nike; Bobbie Regan, West Hills mom and wife of a Pacificorp vice president; and Trudy Sargent, a property manager and tax attorney.

PPS custodian pay ranges from \$14 to \$23 an hour, and most custodians earn under \$20 an hour. They are represented by Service Employees Local 503.

Sargent said under this contract the district will spend \$4 million a year more than it did when the schools were being cleaned by Portland Habilitation Center.

The Oregon Supreme Court ruled in 2005 that the district's outsourcing to PHC was illegal, and PPS had to rehire the custodians it had let go.

"The millions of dollars we left on the table in this negotiation would have been better used in the classroom," Sargent said.

Oregon AFSCME backs Obama

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 endorsed Barack Obama for president at its March 15 Executive Board meeting in Portland. The vote was 60 to 4.

The political action in Oregon breaks ranks with the international union, which endorsed Hillary Clinton.

"Council 75 took action prior to the upcoming Oregon primary because Obama has a history of standing up and fighting for working people," said Oregon AFSCME Executive Director Ken Allen. "In Illinois, Sen. Obama fought alongside AFSCME to keep vital public services open, including mental hospitals and prisons. He also worked to help organize thousands of workers at Resurrection Hospital, and supported card check recognition for other workers seeking to unionize in their workplace."

Illinois AFSCME also has endorsed Obama.

Allen said AFSCME plans to mail to its members and participate in other get-out-the-vote activities on behalf of Obama and other endorsed candidates in statewide and local races.

How Presidential Labor Endorsements Stack Up

BARACK OBAMA

United Food and Commercial Workers; Teamsters; Service Employees International Union; UNITE HERE; Boilermakers; Plumbers and Fitters; Change to Win labor federation; Utility Workers Union; International Longshore and Warehouse Union; Oregon Education Association; Oregon AFSCME Council 75.



HILLARY CLINTON

AFSCME; American Federation of Teachers; Amalgamated Transit Union; Bricklayers; National Association of Letter Carriers; Machinists Union; Office and Professional Employees; Painters and Allied Trades; Sheet Metal Workers; Transportation-Communications Union/IAM; Theatrical Stage Employees; United Transportation Union.



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



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OFFICIAL NOTICES

Auto Mechanics 1005

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, March 22, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop steward training class. Shop stewards must attend training class and regular meeting to be compensated.

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16.

All meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. PLEASE NOTE: Rochelle Conrad will be available from 8 a.m. to noon to answer any questions you have concerning health, welfare and pension plans.

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 25, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland.

Carpenters 247

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

Carpenters 1388

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at 276 Warner-Milne Rd., Oregon City.

Carpenters 1715

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, preceded by a 5 p.m. Executive Board meeting at 612 E. McLoughlin, Vancouver, Wash.

Clark, Skamania & W. Klickitat Counties Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 27, 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, March 25 and April 1, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th.

Electrical Workers 48

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

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, in the Executive Boardroom.

General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, in the Meeting Hall. Show-up early for free sandwiches and specifically designed t-shirts. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 2 and April 16, in the Executive Boardroom.

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in the Executive Boardroom.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in the Dispatch Lobby.

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

Vancouver Meeting, 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Shanahan's Pub, 209 W McLoughlin Blvd.

Wasco Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at the Northern Wasco PUD, 2345 River Rd., The Dalles. NOTE: Wasco Unit members voted to change their monthly meeting date from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Electrical Women of Local 48 meets 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, at NIETC, 16021 NE Airport Way, Portland.

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

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: The following death assessments have been declared for March and are payable at 50 cents each: No. 2167, Darrell J. Cobb and No. 2168, John L. Engelbart.

Electrical Workers 280

Executive Board meets 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.

Joint Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at the Central Electrical Training Center, 33309 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, April 10, 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, April 16, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 207, Portland.

Fire Fighters 452

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

Fire Fighters 1660

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

Glass Workers 740

Executive Board members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

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

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

Insulators 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9. Members meet 8 p.m. Friday, April 11.

Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Iron Workers 29

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, April 3, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #200, Portland.

Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 8 a.m. Friday, March 28, at Home-town Buffet, 7809-B Vancouver Plaza Dr., Vancouver, Wash.

Laborers 483

Municipal Employees

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

Laborers/Vancouver 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, April 7, preceded by a 6:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the Van-

couver Labor Center, 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vanc.

Laborers 320

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

Lane, Coos, Curry & Douglas Building Trades

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

Linn-Benton-Lincoln Labor Council

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, 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, March 27, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. PLEASE NOTE: The Portland meeting will be SPECIAL CALL to vote on allocation of the \$.60 cent increase effective April 1, 2008.

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

Machinists 63

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be nominations for delegates to the Grand Lodge convention at the April meeting.

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 9. Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

Machinists 1432

Shop stewards' training session 9 a.m. Saturday, March 22.

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at noon Wednesday, April 9.

Regular membership meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9.

Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

Metal Trades Council

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Executive Board meets 8 a.m. Monday, April 14, at NOLC board room, 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

Molders 139

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 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, April 2, at the AFSCME union office.

General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 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, March 24, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Operating Engineers 701

District 4 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at DTC Office, 148 Main St., Hermiston.

District 5 members meet 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 4, at Gladstone Union Hall, 555 E. First St., Gladstone.

District 1 members meet 8 p.m. Friday, April 4, at Gladstone Union Hall, 555 E. First St., Gladstone.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at North Bend/Coos Bay Labor Center, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Rogue Regency Inn, 2300 Biddle Rd., Medford.

District 2 members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Comfort Suites, 969 Kruse Way, Springfield.

District 1 members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 14, at Longview Electricians Hall, 1145 Commerce Ave., Longview.

District 4 members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, at Cousin's Restaurant, 2115 W. 6th, The Dalles.

Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd. 2nd Floor, Portland.

Plasterers 82

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

Portland City & Metropolitan Employees 189

General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

Roofers & Waterproofers 49

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

Salem Building Trades

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

Sheet Metal Workers 16

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

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

Medford area members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at Sheet Metal Local 16 Hall, 4748 Franklin Blvd., Eugene.

Coos Bay area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at the Labor Temple, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

Sign Painters & Paint Makers 1094

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

Southern Oregon Central Labor Council

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

Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council

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

Transit 757

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, March 23, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, WA.

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, March 23, at the Odd Fellows Hall, next door to the Bay City Fire Hall in Bay City.

AMR Northwest Josephine County, LAMAR Advertising and Valley Transit- See your liaison officers.

PLEASE NOTE: ATU members are invited to attend any of the above-listed meetings.

United Association 290

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

Astoria area members meet 6 pm Thursday, March 27, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St.

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

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 417 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

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

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

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at 650A Industrial Cir., White City.

Roseburg area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at 742 SE Roberts, Roseburg.

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

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

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the Eureka Training Center, 832 E St., Eureka, Calif.

USW 1097

Members meet 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, preceded by a 5:45 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office building, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED

AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, April 10, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, April 24, 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, April 14, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retirees, wives and friends meet Tuesday, April 8, and travel on a FREE 48-seat luxury bus to Lucky Eagle Casino in Rochester, WA. The bus will pickup at 8 a.m. from Westminster Presbyterian Church, NE 16th and Weidler, (plenty of parking available). The bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. from Russellville Park Plaza, 20 SE 103rd Ave., Portland, and return at 4:30 p.m. Receive casino coupons and enjoy a lunch, plus raffle gifts and snacks for the drive home. Bring friends and let's fill the bus! For reservations, please call Vera Larson

503 252-2296.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280

Retirees meet between 11:45 a.m. and noon Monday, April 14, 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, April 8, at Kirkland Union Manor, Portland.

GLASS WORKERS 740

Retirees meet 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 15, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

INSULATORS 36

Retiree breakfast 9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 3, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

LINOLEUM 1236

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 11, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

MACHINISTS

Retired Machinists meet 12 noon

Wednesday, April 2, at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland for a brief business meeting and 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, April 14, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, #100G, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 15, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 503-239-9858, ext. 124.

SHEET METAL 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Spaghetti Factory, 18925 NW Tanasbourne Dr., Beaverton.

TRANSIT 757

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

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, April 17, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Portland.

Union electricians, contractors come to the aid of family of fallen soldier

VANCOUVER — Nearly two dozen members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48 volunteered a Saturday to wire a house being built for the family of a Vancouver soldier killed in Iraq.

Jeremiah Johnson, a 2001 graduate of Prairie High School, died Jan. 5, 2007 — 10 days after a Humvee he and two other soldiers were riding in crashed into a canal in Baghdad. All three soldiers of the Army's 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne),

25th Infantry Division were killed.

Johnson is survived by his wife, Gale, 24, and two children, Isaiah, 6, and Rya, 3.

To help the family, longtime friend and homebuilder Steve Staudinger formed a foundation — "Jeremiah's House — to raise money to build them a home.

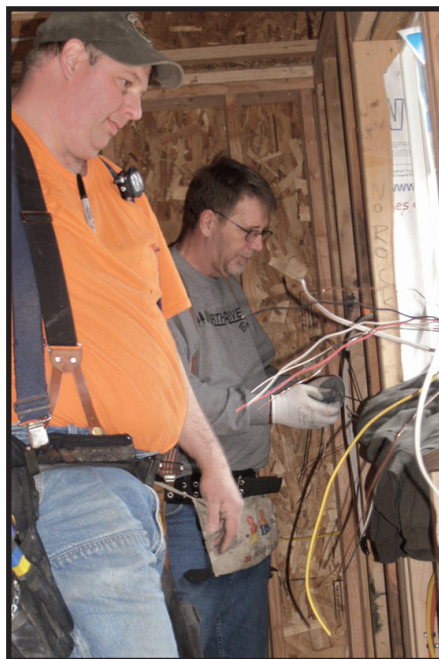
Local 48 learned of the project and word went out for volunteers. "We probably had 100 guys offer to help," said Greg Parson.

"It's what we as union members fight for every day, the American Dream of owning your own home,"

said Terry Reigle, a Local 48 organizer.

Union contractors donated material and within six hours the 1,700 square-foot-home at 2719 125th Court was completely wired. Estimated cost for a wiring project this size was estimated at \$10,000.

"This is a hell of a good Saturday morning for me," said Danny Gibbs, a veteran and Local 48 member. "We should do this for the families of every soldier who doesn't come home."



(ABOVE LEFT) Jeremiah Johnson with his wife, Gale, and children Isaiah and Rya. Johnson was killed while serving in the Army in Iraq.

(BELOW LEFT) Steve Rushing (left) and Danny Gibbs of Capitol Electric help wire home being built for Johnson's family.


The crew of 23 volunteers — 18 journeymen and five apprentices — take a break for a group photo.

Labor Bowl for MDA April 27

The 19th annual Labor Bowl Challenge to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) will be held Sunday, April 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Cascade Lanes, 2700 NE 82nd Ave., Portland. Registration starts at noon.

Money raised from pledges and a silent auction helps provide wheelchairs and braces for youngsters, medical care, research and summer camps.

Pledge packets are available at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council or by calling Tor at MDA at 503-223-3177. For more information, call Kelly Pendell, a member of Letter Carriers Branch 82 and coordinator of the event, at 503-493-5903.



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...Avakian tapped labor commissioner

(From Page 1)

elected labor commissioner. Now he'll be one of two lobbyists in the Political/Legislative Affairs Department of IBEW, which represents 700,000 American workers and is one of Washington, D.C.'s most politically involved unions.

"It's an exciting time to be in D.C.," Gardner said. "The Democrats are in control of Congress, and we'll most likely have a Democratic president."

Gardner's tenure at BOLI was a breath of fresh air for the labor movement after two terms of labor commissioner Jack Roberts, a Republican who downsized the agency and even proposed the elimination of the office he was elected to. Gardner on the other hand, with his background in a construction trades union, was a staunch ally of labor and a frequent presence at strike picket lines, union protest rallies and labor events of all kinds.

Gardner was offered the new job after meeting with IBEW officials last month while he was in Washington, D.C. for a meeting of the National Association of Government Labor Officials, which he serves as president.

"It was a hard decision to leave Oregon and to leave elected office, but it was an opportunity I just couldn't pass up," Gardner said. "I'm returning to my roots as an advocate for working people."

Gardner said salary was also a factor in the decision, noting that the new



BRAD AVAKIAN

job comes with a significant raise. All of Oregon's statewide elected officials have had a pay freeze since 2001, and Gardner's \$72,000 salary as commissioner was less than that of 10 of his subordinates within BOLI. Gardner said he expects to testify in November when a special legislative commission looks at Oregon statewide elected official salaries.

Though he became a journeyman electrician in his native Illinois, Gardner, 49, has spent most of his working life in Oregon, first as a working electrician, and then as Local 48 vice president and three-term member of the Oregon House of Representatives representing Southeast Portland. He was elected House Minority Leader in 2000 by his Democratic colleagues. In 2002, he won election as labor commissioner, defeating three lesser-known candidates. BOLI commissioner is a non-partisan position, so the May primary serves either to narrow the field or determine the winner; Gardner clinched the race with more than 50 percent in the May primary. That year Gardner also served as one of the chief petitioners on the 2002 ballot measure that raised the Oregon minimum wage and pegged future annual increases to inflation. He ran unopposed for reelection in 2006.

Gardner said his proudest achievements at BOLI include requiring agri-

cultural employers to give meal and rest breaks; helping resolve a five-year battle over when prevailing wage rates apply to projects that mix public and private funds; and funding pilot projects to expose high school students to career opportunities in the building trades.

Last month, Gardner considered running for Congress in the district being vacated by Democrat Darlene Hooley, but decided against it, citing family reasons. Gardner is divorced and his two high-school-aged children live in Oregon. The new job will require that he move to D.C., but Gardner said it will help him pay for college for his kids.

Before his public announcement, Gardner called several Oregon labor leaders, including Oregon AFL-CIO president Tom Chamberlain.

"I thought it made a lot of sense considering Dan's background," Chamberlain said.

Chamberlain gives Gardner credit for having rebuilt BOLI. Chamberlain said Gardner's campaign for budget increases benefited from his credibility among lawmakers from his having served as minority leader.

BOLI's budget rose slightly during Gardner's tenure, but the agency still has 36 fewer staff than it had in 1996.

Gardner leaves some unfinished business, including further plans to expand apprenticeship opportunities. And last year he wasn't able to pass a bill that would have returned Oregon overtime law to the eight-hour-day standard. In 1985, the Oregon Legislature changed the state overtime standard to a 40-hour week, which is the minimum under federal law.

At the press conference announcing his appointment, Avakian said he doesn't yet have any specific plans for the agency. But in their remarks, both Avakian and Kulongoski stressed BOLI's importance to economic development. Kulongoski said BOLI is vital to getting employers the highly-trained workers they'll need in the future.

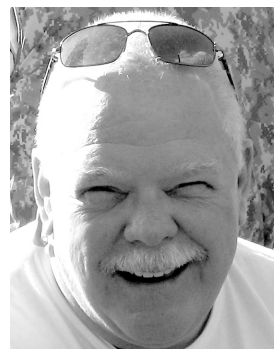
Gardner has often described himself as one of two union members in the country that hold statewide elected office; if that's correct, then his resignation leaves just one, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, a member of the Screen Actors Guild.

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America's middle class is rapidly shrinking

By TOM CHAMBERLAIN
President
Oregon AFL-CIO

Portland's Thom Hartmann writes about it; Democratic presidential candidates run on it; Republicans ignore it; American working families live it and our children will suffer because of it.

"It" is the knowledge that today it will take the children of low-income families four to five generations to reach the middle class. It is a frightening statistic, but coupled with a shrinking middle class, we are headed toward dark days for future generations of American workers.

How did we go from Horatio Alger's rags-to-riches America, where if you worked hard and played by the rules, then anything and everything was achievable? How did we get to an America where workers fall farther behind every day?

I think most folks know exactly how we got to this moment in time:

- A shrinking union movement
- Corporate driven trade agreements
- Cheaper labor markets
- Privatization
- Out-of-whack timber policy
- High cost of education
- Corporate welfare
- The development of a "me-first"

economy. As candidates campaign in 2008 and expound on their vision for fixing America, we as workers must dig deeply into what they are saying. For example, recent legislation expanded tax breaks for renewable energy. There are some projections that tax credits will increase from \$10 million to over \$100 million in little more than one decade. With these tax-credit incentives based on the premise that "green jobs" will create jobs like those lost in the Oregon manufacturing or timber sectors — it sounds like a plan.

But, what exactly are the facts? To date, in spite of tax incentives, attempting to move Oregon as a hub for green industries fueled by Oregon-produced green energy and the corresponding creation of high quality green jobs — high quality green jobs that are supposed to pay good wages and provide good health and retirement benefits — these jobs have not yet been defined, nor have they even been created.

Instead, we are creating jobs such as solar panel installers that pay \$10 an hour and pay no benefits. Part of the problem lays in competing priorities. For example: What should come first — good jobs or protecting the environment? Most of us believe that you can accomplish both.

Our problem has been well-meaning folks who are talking about good jobs but are not defining what that really means. A definition of good jobs will not occur until the unions representing the worker's perspective become included in the debate.

Unions cannot afford to sit on the sidelines and watch. That is why over the last two years the Oregon AFL-CIO devoted time and effort to the building of the Oregon Apollo Alliance.

The Apollo Alliance is a coalition of unions, environmentalists and businesses whose mission is to develop strategies that create high quality jobs while slowing and ultimately reversing climate change and achieving energy self-reliance.

Oregon AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Byrd has focused her time and talents through the Apollo Alliance in developing relationships within the environmental and business communities, educating them on the importance of the development of middle-class jobs as an essential component of Oregon's debate on global warming and achieving energy self-reliance.

The development of the Governor's Study Group on Renewable Energy in 2006 is a case in point. Unions were not invited into the

process; rather we inserted ourselves. Thankfully, the governor immediately made room at the table for the Oregon AFL-CIO.

Unfortunately, because the process had already begun, our voice was actually an after-thought at that point. Pro-worker components are still sorely lacking from renewable tax credits. As strategies are formulated to create incentives; the development of renewable energy; conservation; and green industries — we must also include in those strategies an evaluation of what types of jobs we are creating. Are we creating short-term entry-level jobs or creating long term employment? Are we creating jobs

that pay good wages and benefits? And if job projections are not met or even considered, how does Oregon recoup our investment from companies that have not met their promises?

The 2009 Legislative session must mandate an evaluation of the impact of tax incentives in job creation. Legislators need to demand that those receiving tax incentives pay them back if they do not fulfill their promises.

Finally, policymakers need to also review the fact that there is no prohibition on the use of state and local tax dollars in opposing a worker's right to join a union and collectively bargain.

Klare's column missed

To The Editor:

As radicals in the labor movement, we will miss Gene Klare's column in the Northwest Labor Press. We thank him for defending the constitutional rights of all workers.

In the early 1990s, Klare supported the Freeway Hall case. This case involved the right of the Freedom Socialist Party to keep its membership list, contributor list, minutes and financial records private.

Strong support from the community and labor activists, such as Gene, helped defeat the McCarthyist attack on the First Amendment. This free speech victory protects the internal documents of other organizations and unions. It allows internal debates, comments and

names to be recorded in minutes without fear they they will fall into the hands of political enemies through court actions.

We need more Gene Klare's in the labor movement — principled unionists willing to stand up for workers who are attacked because of their political ideology.

Glenn Kirkindall
UFCW 555
Portland

Laura Mannen
Forest Grove Education Assoc.
Forest Grove

Travis Giobi
Painters Local 10
Portland



Swanson Thomas & Coon is proud to announce that Governor Ted Kulongoski has appointed Margaret F. Weddell (Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation Counsel Extraordinaire) to the WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD for the STATE of OREGON.

We will miss her bright eyes and good sense.

Jim Coon	Jacqueline Jacobson	Connie Dailey	Hilary Moore	Tanya Colvin
Ray Thomas	Lynne McHarry	Charley Gee	Subhan Tindall	Rosemary Anderson
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Local Motion

February 2008

Union activity in Oregon and Southwest Washington, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

Election results

Company	Date	Union	Location	Results:	
				Union	No Union
City of Gervais Police Department	1/3	Laborers Local 483	Gervais	card check, unit of 3	

Representation petitions

Company	Union	Location	# of employees
Three J's Distributing		Clackamas	22
Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers	Local 114		



Promoting 'green collar' jobs is focus of LERC's new STAR Fund

Up to six union members will be taking a three-day field trip to California this summer to study local efforts to promote what are being called "green collar" jobs — jobs that come out of efforts to combat environmental ills like global warming. The trip comes thanks to a new fund set up by the Labor Education Research Center (LERC), the Strategic Training and Action Research (STAR) Fund.

Former LERC director Margaret Hallock was among a crowd of several hundred to turn out March 7 to celebrate LERC's 30th anniversary. Also attending were UO President Dave Frohnmayer (standing behind) and Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

It's the fund's first project, and dovetails closely with plans by LERC educator (and AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer) Barbara Byrd. Byrd wants to get Oregon labor leaders up to speed on global warming before next year's session of the Oregon Legislature. That's when state lawmakers will be debating how to curb greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to global warming. Labor unions could help push to make sure tax-subsidized investments create living wage jobs — not just profits for eco-entrepreneurs.

The project is titled, "Just Transition: Developing a union approach to the challenge of global warming." LERC will accept applications until May 1. Union members whose ap-

plications are accepted will take part in extensive study prior to the field trip. Then they'll travel to the San Francisco Bay area, where local unions have already been securing union jobs from local efforts to address global warming. Upon their return to Oregon, participants will spend time educating other union members.

The STAR Fund was begun with a \$115,000 bequest from former Carpenters business agent Robert Uhrbrand and his wife Cloydene, a teacher. Leading up to LERC's 30th anniversary celebration, LERC did fundraising to increase that endowment. LERC director Bob Bussel said the goal was \$30,000; over \$60,000 was raised.

Oregon labor turns out to celebrate 30 years of LERC

Close to 600 people attended what amounted to the 30th birthday party of the University of Oregon's Labor Education & Research Center, a \$60-a-head dinner at the Oregon Convention Center. Among the attendees were Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski and University of Oregon president Dave Frohnmayer.

LERC was founded in order to use university's intellectual resources — teaching and research — to aid labor unions. As such, its budget has sometimes faced political attacks in the Legislature from union foes. But that also

means the department has its friends — elected leaders and others — and they filled the banquet hall March 7.

Frohnmayer assured them of the university's continued support, and Kulongoski, who was present at LERC's birth, praised the department for 30 years of service.

"LERC," Kulongoski told attendees, "exemplifies the social compact between government and labor that build America's middle class."

Proceeds from the dinner benefited a new fund LERC set up for special projects.

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