

Carpenter apprentice learns meaning of 'union'

Last month, Wendy Holmes, a first-year apprentice at United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 247, learned the meaning of her union's middle name.

Holmes, 44, had wanted a career where she could make a decent living, and came to the Carpenters after being recruited by Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.

"I knew the union was there to make sure you got fair wages," Holmes said, "but I never realized just how family-oriented it is."

In February, Holmes' husband found himself unable to work his warehouse job due to back pain. Doctors determined he had a herniated disk, and she, too, lost work caring for him while they waited for surgery. Insurance would cover the medical costs, but not the lost wages.

Holmes, in the habit of attending her union meetings, was advised by fellow member John Svob to tell her story to the members at the March meeting; maybe they could do something. She panicked when the time came, so Svob spoke for her.

Local 247 has a custom of giving grants in the amount of \$247 to help community groups or members in need. It's the principle of "charity begins at



WENDY HOLMES

home" — the union, a family of workers, takes care of its own.

Members passed the hat for Holmes, raised \$106, and voted for the union to kick in the remainder to make it \$247.

The next day, emotional with gratitude, Holmes decided to use the money to pay her \$15 monthly union dues, and was surprised to discover a fellow member had anonymously paid them up for a year.

"It's wonderful to be a part of an organization like that," Holmes said. "I'm really proud to be part of Local 247."

NECA boss takes BULL Session by the horns

The BULL (business, union and legislative leaders) Session Invitational Charity Events has selected Tim Gauthier, executive manager of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Oregon-Columbia Chapter, as the organization's new president.



TIM GAUTHIER

"Tim is the perfect choice to help lead our organization," said BULL Session co-founder Jim Moss. "His leadership and dedication to helping the community, along with his longtime involvement in the BULL Session, makes him a perfect fit for this role."

NECA and Electrical Workers Local 48 have been title sponsors of the event for 14 years. The BULL Session holds an annual golf tournament and dinner/auction to raise money to benefit nine Oregon-based children's charities. In the 15 years since its inception,

the BULL Session has raised nearly \$2.4 million.

Gauthier has served on the BULL Session tournament committee for more than a decade. He will continue as executive manager of the local NECA chapter, a post he has held for 24 years.

"NECA-IBEW Local 48's support of the BULL

Session stems from our roots in this community. For more than a century, NECA contractors and IBEW electricians have helped build Portland," said Gauthier. "But, our commitment to our community isn't just in providing quality electrical work. We're dedicated to improving our community. I hope that as BULL Session's president, I'll be able to help us touch even more lives in a positive way."

In addition to Gauthier, BULL Session board members are Jim Moss,

Doug McQuown, Tom Goodhue, Bob Shiprack, Jerry Bruce, John Mohlis, Mark Holliday, Wally Mehrens and Ross Vroman. Ed Ellis has been selected this year's tournament director.



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