



Trades Fair opens doors for women

Lela Brown (right), a second-year apprentice with Plumbers and Fitters Local 290, helps a Salem student cut copper pipe at the 14th annual Women in Trades Career Fair April 28 at the NECA-IBEW Local 48 Training Center in Northeast Portland. Brown, 23, is a former daycare teacher who “couldn’t afford to eat, pay rent or all my bills” on a daycare workers’ wages. She entered the plumbers apprenticeship program and now makes \$17 an hour, plus benefits while learning the trade. “I’m a homeowner now. It’s amazing,” she said. Brown shared her story with hundreds of high school students who attended the fair. On April 29, the fair was open to the general public, offering women a hands-on look at high-paying career opportunities in the construction, building, mechanical and utility trades. The event is sponsored by Oregon Tradeswomen Inc..

Benefit dinners for member of Iron Workers #29 with asbestosis planned

Members of Iron Workers Local 29 are holding benefit dinners for 35-year member Steve Swearingen, who recently was diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Mesothelioma is a relatively rare form of cancer that afflicts approximately 2,000 Americans each year. The only known cause is exposure to asbestos, which comes from inhaling the particles of dust.

The benefit dinners will be held Monday, May 22, and Monday, June 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Lorenzo’s Pasta Bella, 709 SW 17th Ave. (a block away from PGE Park). The restaurant is owned by retired Iron Worker Lorenzo Jordan.

Cost for the family-style dinner is \$20 per person.

All proceeds will go to Swearingen, 52, the father of four children ages 14 and younger. Swearingen, of Birkenfeld, Ore. in Columbia County near Jewell, was in Houston last month where he underwent surgery to remove a lung. His health insurance will cover approximately 80 percent of the cost of surgery.

Because of the disease, Swearingen will not be able to return to his trade.

Iron Workers Local 29 also is accepting donations for the family at the union hall. Send contributions to: 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, Suite 200, Portland, Ore. 97220.

People exposed in the 1940s, ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s are just now being diagnosed with mesothelioma because of the long latency period of asbestos disease. For that reason, Swearingen is asking anyone who worked with him on paper mill projects in the past to please contact the union hall at 503-774-0777.

Paramount Hotel offers ‘union rate’ in May

The Paramount Hotel in downtown Portland has declared May “Union Appreciation Month” and is offering union members a special rate of \$99 a night.

Employees at the luxury hotel are members of UNITE HERE Local 9.

The special rate is available now through May 31. Simply ask for the “union rate” when reserving a deluxe room at the hotel, located at 808 SW Taylor St., Portland. To reserve a room, call 503-223-9900 or 800-663-1144.



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- United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555
- Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48
- Joint Council of Teamsters #37
- Northwest Oregon Labor Council
- Unite Here Local 9
- Portland Association of Teachers
- Carpenters Local 247



Thanks for your support!

Authorized by Friends of Dan Saltzman. Paid for by UFCW Local #555

