

Let me say this about that

...Spelling them out

(From Page 2)

IATSE — International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts.

IBEW — International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

ILWU — International Longshore and Warehouse Union. The Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU) is a division of the ILWU.

IUEC — International Union of Elevator Constructors.

IUOE — International Union of Operating Engineers.

IUPAT — International Union of Painters and Allied Trades.

LCLC — Lane County Labor Council, Eugene-Springfield area.

MEBA — Marine Engineers Beneficial Association.

MMP — International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots.

NALC — National Association of Letter Carriers.

NOLC — Northwest Oregon Labor Council, based in Portland.

ONA — Oregon Nurses Association.

OSBCTC — Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

OPEIU — Office and Professional Employees International Union.

SAG — Screen Actors Guild.

SIU — Seafarers International Union of North America.

SMWIA — Sheet Metal Workers International Association.

UA — United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the U.S. and Canada.

UAW — United Auto Workers or the United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union.

USW — United Steelworkers, or United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial & Service Workers International Union

WSLC — Washington State Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

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CTW — Change to Win, a labor federation started in 2005 by international unions dissatisfied with the AFL-CIO. CTW's members include:

IBT — International Brotherhood of Teamsters; affiliates include the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) and Graphic Communications International Union (GCIU).

LIUNA — Laborers International Union of North America.

SEIU — Service Employees International Union.

UBC — United Brotherhood of Carpenters; affiliates include the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW) and the Carpenters Industrial Council (CIC). Both organizations are based in Portland.

UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers.

UFW — United Farm Workers.

UNITE HERE — Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, and Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees.

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INDEPENDENT UNIONS include the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA); the Oregon Education Association (OEA); the Portland Police Association (PPA), and Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United (PCUN), is the Spanish acronym for the Woodburn-based organization); and Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA).

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THERE ARE SOME UNIONS whose names aren't usually shortened by abbreviations and acronyms but instead are referred to by shortened versions of their names. Examples are the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers. The Labor Press identifies that union's Oregon locals as Iron Workers Local 29 and Iron Workers Shopmen's Local 516. Another is the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers. The Oregon affiliates are Roofers Local 49 and Roofers Local 156. The International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers is referred to as Asbestos Workers Local 36; the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers is known as Boilermakers Local 500; and the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association's Portland affiliates are Plasterers Local 82 and Cement Masons Local 555.

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THE FOLLOWING aren't unions, but they are mentioned often by the NW Labor Press.

BOLI — Bureau of Labor and Industries, an Oregon governmental agency.

LERC — Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon.

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CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS can be made to this list by mailing them to the NW Labor Press on the sending union's letterhead.

U.S. Supreme Court tackles Washington State teachers' case involving union dues

WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 10 heard oral arguments in a case involving the Washington Education Association (WEA) — an affiliate of the National Education Association (NEA) — and a state law that restricts union expenditures in connection with state elections.

The issue centers around non-members who must pay agency fees for the collective bargaining services the union provides for all state teachers, but who object to having their fees used for political action. Each year, the union notifies non-members in writing that they have the right to opt out of political action spending and receive a refund for that part of their agency fees.

But with backing from the anti-union National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, a few nonunion-member teachers filed suit, claiming a 1992 voter-approved state ballot measure required the union to acquire written permission from each non-member — called "opting in."

In March 2006, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled the "opt in" provision of the state law was unconstitutional and also wrote:

"There is no indication or argument that WEA is compelling non-members to support political activities or preventing non-members from asserting their First Amendment rights."

The National Right-To-Work Committee took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that the fee-payers' First Amendment right to free

speech was violated because they must pay the money first and then ask for a portion of it back later.

WEA attorney John West said its right to speak — to lobby for legislation on behalf of all 70,000 people it represents, including the 3,500 fee payers — would be violated because its views would be held hostage to those of the non-member fee-payers.

The case is important for unions nationwide. Agency fee-payers are workers who are represented by unions, but are not union members. The most recent federal figures from 2005 show there are 1.5 million agency fee-payers.

Currently, agency fee-payers pay the equivalent of union dues to unions that represent them. But unions, under the U.S. Supreme Court's previous Beck decision, must give fee-payers the right to "opt out" of paying for anything except collective bargaining expenses. After a request and calculations, the extra money is returned.

The Washington state law that was tossed out would deprive WEA, for example, of between \$26 and \$70 per month from each fee-payer who did not "opt in." Other unions nationwide would lose millions of dollars each year.

West told the justices that "there is a rational basis for protecting the rights of fee-payers." He said the present system, where they "opt out," provides that.

He argued that banning the union from using the money, subject to the

"opt-out" provision for the fee payers, shows the law "is content-discriminatory" and thus violates the free speech clause of the Bill of Rights.

The justices offered a mix of views in their questioning, with Associate Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy appearing dubious to the union cause and Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer supportive.

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