

Labor council re-elects slate of officers

VANCOUVER — The Clark, Skamania, West Klickitat Counties Central Labor Council held officer elections Jan. 25. All ran unopposed.

Re-elected secretary-treasurer were Mike Phillips of Vancouver Fire Fighters Local 452; president, Cager Clabaugh of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 4; and vice president, Mike Carnahan of Electrical Workers Local 48.

Elected to the Executive Board

were Bud Bartunek of Painters District Council 5, Shannon Walker of Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 277, and Lucy Hamill of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555.

Elected trustees were Suzanne Scheans of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290, John Murphy of Bakers Local 364, and Mark Rauchenstein of International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 17.

Rick Thompson of Machinists Lodge 63 was elected sergeant-at-arms.

The Labor Council is hosting an internal organizing class on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Hall, 2807 Fruit Valley Rd in Vancouver. The class will be taught by the Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon. Seats are still available. Call Phillips at 360-921-7484 to register. Cost is \$35 with lunch provided.

Anti-sweatshop rally set Feb. 19 at City Hall

Workers' rights activists are holding a noon hour rally outside Portland City Hall on Monday, Feb. 19, calling for Portland to pass a "sweat-free" ordinance and join a consortium of local governments that would monitor labor conditions in sweatshops.

Oregon Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner is expected to speak at the

rally, along with Fire Fighters Local 43 Vice President Ed Hall and two Third World union leaders who are touring the United States to talk about sweatshops — Beatriz Fuentes, whose union represents a flower plantation in Colombia; and Kotagarahalli Jayaram, an organizer for the Garment and Textile Workers Union in India.

The Sweatfree Portland Campaign has been meeting with city commissioners and staff since October. Commissioners appear to be willing to pass a symbolic resolution opposing sweatshop abuses, but have balked at committing tax dollars to fight the problem without evidence that city government is purchasing sizable amounts of goods made in sweatshops.

In a Feb. 1 press statement, campaign activists said the city is buying goods from companies that have hired subcontractors accused of labor rights violations.

The campaign has been endorsed by more than a dozen labor organizations. The rally will go from noon to 1 p.m. on the Southwest Fourth Avenue side of City Hall, which is located at 1221 SW Fourth, between Madison and Jefferson.

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