



Painters get bonus checks for safety, skills training

Members of Painters and Drywall Finishers Locals 10 (Portland), 78 (Longview), 360 (Vancouver), 724 (Salem) and 1277 (Eugene) don new Carhartt jackets and baseball caps — along with receiving individual checks for \$575. It's all part of a labor-management rewards program to inspire workers to complete safety training and skill advancement classes. A provision in the union's contract with the Signatory Painting Contractors Organization qualifies journey-level painters who complete six classes and/or certifications, plus an additional 24 hours of skill advancement training over a one-year period for the bonus. The program is funded by employer contributions of 20 cents an hour into a special fund. Classes include first aid, CPR, fall protection, OSHA 10 and others. Classes are held in the evenings and on weekends at the Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5 Training Center in Northeast Portland. Approximately \$40,000 was handed out to the union workers. "We hope more of our members will take advantage of this program," said Business Representative Tim Carrier. "These are skills they can use for a lifetime."



Jason Broten, a 16-year member of Vancouver Painters and Drywall Finishers Local 360, was one of 56 union members to receive bonus checks for completing safety training and skill advancement classes at the union's training center. After getting his check for \$575, Broten immediately turned it over to co-worker Jerry Mataya, a member of Portland Painters Local 10, who has cancer. Mataya also received a bonus check, but he's been out of work for a while for chemotherapy treatment. "I'm not looking for any publicity," said Broten of Amboy, Washington. "It's money I didn't know I was getting. Someday, maybe someone will do the same for me if I need it." Broten and Mataya work for W.E. Given Contracting Inc. Broten said the company is matching all contributions to help Mataya.

NOLC's annual awards dinner set for June 2

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 2, when the Northwest Oregon Labor Council hosts the 10th annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night at Westmoreland Union Manor.

This year's theme is "Hat Madness," so don your favorite lid for the dinner and awards ceremony, which serves as a fundraiser for Labor's Community Service Agency's Emergency Fund. The fund helps union members who have been laid off, are on strike, or experiencing some type of financial difficulty.

Dinner tickets are \$10 per person. Raffle tickets are sold for \$1 each or seven for \$5.

Through May 18, the labor council will be accepting nominations for persons to be recognized for their contributions to the labor community.

"You can recognize union members, shop stewards, service providers, whomever you feel is worthy," said Judy O'Connor, executive secretary-treasurer of NOLC.

The labor council also is accepting cash and prize donations for the raffle.

For more information or to order tickets, call 503-235-9444.

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NW Labor History confab set May 11-12 at IBEW #48

"Preserving Union History: Saving The Day" is the theme of the 39th annual Pacific Northwest Labor History Association Conference, slated Friday and Saturday, May 11-12, at the IBEW Local 48-NECA Training Center, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

The conference brings union members from Oregon, Washington and British Columbia together for a weekend of workshops, panel discussions and entertainment.

The annual awards banquet will be held May 11 starting at 6:30 p.m. Ed Barnes, retired business manager of IBEW Local 48, will be honored with the Labor History Person of the Year Award and the Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon will receive a special award.

Speakers that evening will include Oregon Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner and Tim Nesbitt, adviser to Gov. Ted Kulongoski. Nesbitt is a for-



JOSEPH McCARTIN

mer president of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

On May 12, a plenary session starting at 9 a.m. will feature Joseph McCartin, associate professor of history at Georgetown University, who will talk about the the air traffic controllers and how their mass firings in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan changed the face of collective bargaining in the United

States.

Also speaking on Saturday will be Heather Mayer of Simon Fraser University; Trevor Griffey of the University of Washington History Department; and Adam Klugman of the Progressive Media Agency. Mayer will discuss the Wobblies and the 1907 sawmill strike in Portland. Griffey will talk about working-class radicalism and the electrical workers in the Northwest. And Klugman will make a presentation on telling labor's story.

For more information, call Ross Rieder at 253-875-9498.

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