

Let me say this about that

...Politics and lobbying

(From Page 2)

other IAM-endorsed candidates, some of whom he had recruited to run for public office.

OREGON GOVERNOR Vic Atiyeh took note of Schneider's activities representing the Machinists at the Legislature and appointed him to a Citizens Unemployment Advisory Committee. Portland Community College became aware of Schneider because of his work as chairman of the Machinists Apprenticeship Committee, which held classes at PCC, and asked him to serve on a PCC Advisory Board.

In 1988, Schneider was appointed as a Machinists Grand Lodge representative by George Kourpias, then the union's international president, and in 1996, Dick was selected to be the administrative assistant to IAM General Vice President Lee Pearson at the union's Western Territory headquarters in Sacramento, Calif. His next assignment was to be one of four coordinators of the IAM's newly-formed Aerospace Department, based at the union's international headquarters in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.

DICK SCHNEIDER was given the responsibility for handling 62 labor contracts with the Boeing Company's plants in the United States and Canada. Later, his workload was increased to 115 labor agreements with Boeing and other aerospace employers. These included L-3 Communications, the Triumph Group in Spokane, Washington, and British Aerospace operations in Texas, plus other companies. He worked with the leaders of IAM locals and councils at the various plants in negotiating contract renewals. Stalemates in collective bargaining sometimes resulted in strikes, in which the workers gained their objectives. In the course of Schneider's tenure with the IAM, Tom Buffenbarger succeeded George Kourpias as international president and still holds the office.

SCHNEIDER'S WIFE, Kathi, whom he married in 1988, has been employed as an office secretary at District Lodge 24 for 39 years. She now works for Bob Petroff, the directing business representative. Her first job was as a secretary for Auto Mechanics Local Lodge 1005; she was hired by Ralph Kaufman, then secretary-treasurer of Local 1005. Long since retired, Kaufman is now nearly 100 years old and lives in Beaverton. Kathi is a 39-year member of Office and Professional Employees Local 11.

Between them, Dick and Kathi have five children and 11 grandchildren. Both were married previously. Their sons and daughters include Steve, of Tigard, who is employed in telecommunications; Nicole, an attorney in New York City; April, who owns a dance studio in LaPine and is active in the Four Square Church where here husband is the youth pastor; Scott, a mortgage broker who lives in Gresham; and Steven, a Teamster Union member who works at Albertsons warehouse and also lives in Gresham.

Schneider is a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Eagles Lodge.

★★★

RONALD S. SHERMAN of Scappoose, a longtime member of Portland-based Machinists Local Lodge 63 and a former secretary-treasurer of that union, died on July 29 at age 66. A memorial service was scheduled from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, at Columbia Funeral Home in St. Helens.

He was born on July 8, 1941 in Beaty, northeast of Klamath Falls. He moved to Portland at age 18 and joined the U.S. Air Force. Later, he worked as a machinist at several companies, then was employed at the Gresham-area Boeing plant for 25 years. He was active in Machinists Lodge 63, serving as secretary-treasurer and as a delegate to the Multnomah County Labor Council and the Oregon AFL-CIO. He was a former board member of the Native American Tribal Council.

SURVIVORS INCLUDE his wife, the former Jean Baldwin; a daughter, Debbie Helms; and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Diabetes Association.

★★★

LONGTIME UNION and political activist Linda Johnson died Aug. 17 after battling several health issues, including a liver ailment. She was 60.

Johnson was a librarian at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, a post she'd held since 1980. She was an active member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 328.

She served as a delegate to many AFSCME national conventions, state conventions, women's conferences and political trainings. She was a longtime member of the Oregon AFSCME Executive Board and the Council 75 Political Action Committee.

She was prominent in the 1984 organizing drive that saw OHSU workers win AFSCME representation.

Unions should work together with immigrants, not against

To The Editor:

In response to Jeff Lyles' letter (U.S. citizens would take jobs held by illegals at Del Monte, Aug. 3), I want to agree with the brother: "The illegal aliens are being used ... to lower the standard of living of U.S. workers."

But the question for our labor movement is —how do we respond?

Do we jump on the anti-immigrant bandwagon, calling for firings, raids and deportations, driving undocumented foreign workers even further into the under-the-table economy?

Or do we join with immigrants in fighting for legalization, for equality, for improved wages, hours and working conditions, and for union representation?

A look at our past provides the answer. Divide and conquer — turning workers against each other using race, nationality and gender — has been the bosses' most powerful weapon. The argument is always the same: "They're taking our jobs."

When the American Federation of Labor (AFL) organized white, male, citizen-only unions, little progress was made. When the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) organized immigrants, blacks, latinos and women and white male citizens together into industrial unions, spectacular gains were made.

As we see the huge demonstrations, boycotts and national work stoppages by immigrant workers demanding equality, do we think "threat" or "opportunity?"

Mexican, Central American and Latino-American workers have a rich history of workers' solidarity. How we respond to their struggles will deter-

mine the future of our labor movement.

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