

Local Motion

November 2007

Union activity in Oregon and Southwest Washington, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

Election results

Company	Date	Union	Location	Results:		
				Union	No Union	
SuperValu (decertification)						
11/14	UFCW Local 555		Corvallis	44	19	
First Student/Laidlaw						
11/16	Teamsters Local 206		Sandy, The Dalles	31	7	
Fred Meyer						
11/16	UFCW Local 555		The Dalles	36	18	
US Metal Works						
11/16	Iron Workers Local 516		Sandy	16	11	

Representation petitions

Company	Location
Union	# of employees
UNITUS Community Credit Union (decertification)	Portland
Communications Workers of America	75
Bread Song Bakery	Lake Oswego
Bakers Local 114	25
BEKO Membrane Technology (decertification)	Bend
International Association of Machinists	19

Minimum wage increases in Pacific NW

Oregon's minimum wage will increase 15 cents to \$7.95 per hour on Jan 1, 2008, while Washington's minimum wage will jump to \$8.07 an hour — an increase of 14 cents. The increases reflect the rise of the cost-of-living as defined by the Consumer Price Index and is mandated by law in both states.

...NLRB bars union e-mail at work

(From Page 1)

ings for sending three e-mails to unit employees at their Register-Guard e-mail addresses.

The newspaper imposed a written policy four years earlier forbidding the use of company e-mail for “non-job-related solicitations,” but management had never enforced it.

The union filed an unfair labor practice complaint, arguing that unions have a right to send e-mail to members and non-members in the same way they have a right to distribute fliers and bulletins. Censoring such communications violates federal labor law.

Not so, responded management, asserting its property rights in deciding how it's resources may be used.

An administrative law judge initially sided with the union, ruling that the newspaper couldn't ban union messages at the same time it allowed “jokes, baby announcements, party invitations, and the occasional offer of sports tickets or request for services such as dog walking.”

The Register-Guard appealed to the full board, and on Dec. 16 the three-member majority reversed the earlier decision. Under the new ruling, companies can bar union-related e-mails as long as they also prohibit solicitations from any outside organization.

It is likely the order will be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

It's also possible that the e-mail ruling will be one of the board's last

for a while. Battista's term expired Dec. 16 and President Bush did not renominate him, or name a replacement. That left the board split with two Republicans and two Democrats.

And two of its members — one from each party — saw their terms end last month, leaving the NLRB without a quorum to conduct business.

Given the NLRB's anti-worker track record under Battista, though, “We're better off with a board that can't act than one that can,” said CWA President Larry Cohen.

(Editor's Note: Press Associates Inc. and American Rights at Work contributed to this report.)

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