

Steelworkers campaign against toxic imports

“Get the Lead Out” — a campaign by the United Steelworkers against toxic imports — held demonstrations Jan. 16 at 100 congressional district offices, including Portland.

The campaign comes in the wake of a spate of product recalls, particularly of imported toys made in China that contained lead. USW is demanding that Congress do something to protect Americans from unsafe imports.

Outside U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith’s downtown Portland office, several dozen union members — including Ron Rodgers (pictured right) a member of Albany Steelworkers Local 7150 — came out in 35 degree weather for a 45-minute rally. Demonstrators called on Smith to co-sponsor the U.S. Food and Product Responsibility Act, a bill introduced last September by Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown that would require importers to



purchase insurance or otherwise guarantee they can cover the costs of recalls and product liability suits.

Thus far the bill has just one co-sponsor, Sen. Robert Casey (D-Penn).

IN MEMORIAM

Herman Jobelmann, a former president of Portland-based American Federation of Musicians Local 99, died Jan. 13 of heart failure. He was 94.

Jobelmann was born in Portland on May 20, 1913. He grew up in Northwest Portland and attended Lincoln High School and Multnomah College.

He played his first professional job at age 17 while still in high school.

Jobelmann played with the Portland Symphony Orchestra for 25 years and was principal bass for 12 years. He served as principal bass and personnel manager of the Oregon Symphony until the early 1980s.

In 1983, he married India Zerbe, who played principal cello in the Oregon Symphony for 25 years.

Jobelmann taught music at Multnomah College, the University of Portland, Portland State University and Lewis and Clark College. He also worked with the Portland Youth Philharmonic as a teacher and mentor for many years.

Jobelmann joined Musicians Local 99 in October 1934. He served in the 1960s as a vice president and Executive Board member. He held the post of president from 1988-1996, when he decided to retire to make room for new leadership. However, he returned as a member of the Executive Board in 1999 and remained in that post until his death.

He also held Musician union cards in New York Local 802 and Los Angeles Local 47.

In 2007 he was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame.

Jobelmann is survived by his wife; two stepdaughters, Cynthia Van Vleck and Lydia Weber; and four grandchildren.

Magdalena “Maggie” Jacobsen died Jan. 6 of breast cancer. She was 67.

Jacobsen was appointed by President Clinton to the the National Mediation Board in 1993. Prior to that she served as a mediator with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, both in Portland and San Francisco.

She was born July 26, 1940, in New York City, the daughter of a tugboat captain. She started her career in 1962 as a flight attendant for Continental Airlines, became a representative of her union — the Steward and Stewardess Division of the Airline Pilots Association, and was elected national secretary-treasurer of the union that represented over 20,000 flight attendants who flew on 20 air carriers.

In the early 1970s Jacobsen completed studies at the AFL-CIO Labor Studies Program and Harvard University’s Trade Union Program.

In 2002 Jacobsen started a private practice as a mediator and arbitrator in Washington State. She moved to Camas, Wash., in 2005.

Jacobsen is survived by her husband, Bruce Henricus, a retired Teamster official; two sisters, Jean Jacobsen and Annette Allen; and a brother, Waldemar Jacobsen.

The family requests that offerings in her memory be sent to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure in Dallas, Texas, and/or the Ray Hicky Hospice House in Vancouver, Wash.

Marie Frances Strickler, a retired director and treasurer of Food and Drug Clerks Local 1092 Federal Credit Union, died Nov. 10. She was 93.



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