



Rebekah Orr new PR director for Oregon AFL-CIO

The Oregon AFL-CIO has hired a new communications and research director. Rebekah Orr, 32, began Feb. 28. She replaces Jennifer Sargent, who left in December to take a job doing communications for the International Longshore & Warehouse Union.

Orr comes to the state labor federation after a short stint at Metropolitan Group, a public relations firm with offices in Portland, Chicago, and Washington, DC. During the 2007 session of the Oregon Legislature, Orr was communications director for the Oregon House Democratic Caucus, working for Democratic Majority Leader Dave Hunt. Prior to that she was the communications director for Basic Rights Oregon.

Orr grew up in Silverton, Oregon, the daughter of a family doctor and a dental hygienist, and graduated from Silverton High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and women's studies from the University of Oregon in 1999.

Though Orr said she's new to the union movement, in a sense her new job is her second union job. She was a member of American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees for several years working at Oregon Health & Science University doing internal communications for the IT department. Now, as a staffperson at the state labor federation, she'll be represented by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48.



(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)
Established in 1900 at Portland, Oregon as a voice of the labor movement.

4275 NE Halsey St., P.O. Box 13150,
Portland, Ore. 97213
Telephone: (503) 288-3311
E-mail: Michael492@comcast.net
Editor: Michael Gutwig
Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice

Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co., Inc., a non-profit corporation owned by 20 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 120 union organizations in Oregon and SW Washington. Subscriptions \$13.75 per year for union members.

Group rates available to trade union organizations.
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT PORTLAND, OREGON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE: Three weeks are required for a change of address. When ordering a change, please give your old and new addresses and the name and number of your local union.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS, P.O. BOX 13150-0150,
PORTLAND, OR 97213



Portland school board narrowly ratifies custodial contract, 4-3

It was never clear how many school board members agreed with Portland Public Schools when, for months, the district demanded pay cuts of up to 30 percent from the district's long-suffering custodians. In the end, the district dropped that demand in union contract bargaining, and let custodians continue with nothing worse than a three-year pay freeze.

Some of the board members showed their colors, however, when the agreement went before them for ratification. Three of the seven voted against the contract, arguing that the district was too generous. The three were Sonja Henning, a lawyer for Nike; Bobbie Regan, West Hills mom and wife of a Pacificorp vice president; and Trudy Sargent, a property manager and tax attorney.

PPS custodian pay ranges from \$14 to \$23 an hour, and most custodians earn under \$20 an hour. They are represented by Service Employees Local 503.

Sargent said under this contract the district will spend \$4 million a year more than it did when the schools were being cleaned by Portland Habilitation Center.

The Oregon Supreme Court ruled in 2005 that the district's outsourcing to PHC was illegal, and PPS had to rehire the custodians it had let go.

"The millions of dollars we left on the table in this negotiation would have been better used in the classroom," Sargent said.

Oregon AFSCME backs Obama

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 endorsed Barack Obama for president at its March 15 Executive Board meeting in Portland. The vote was 60 to 4.

The political action in Oregon breaks ranks with the international union, which endorsed Hillary Clinton.

"Council 75 took action prior to the upcoming Oregon primary because Obama has a history of standing up and fighting for working people," said Oregon AFSCME Executive Director Ken Allen. "In Illinois, Sen. Obama fought alongside AFSCME to keep vital public services open, including mental hospitals and prisons. He also worked to help organize thousands of workers at Resurrection Hospital, and supported card check recognition for other workers seeking to unionize in their workplace."

Illinois AFSCME also has endorsed Obama.

Allen said AFSCME plans to mail to its members and participate in other get-out-the-vote activities on behalf of Obama and other endorsed candidates in statewide and local races.

How Presidential Labor Endorsements Stack Up

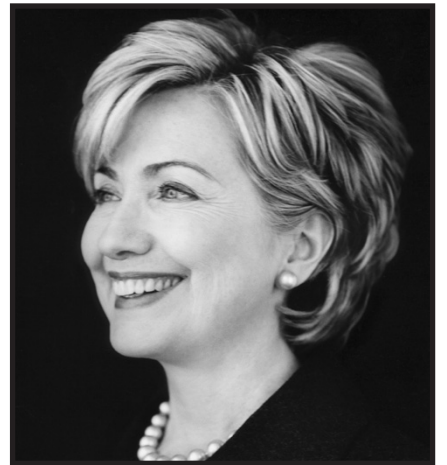
BARACK OBAMA

United Food and Commercial Workers; Teamsters; Service Employees International Union; UNITE HERE; Boilermakers; Plumbers and Fitters; Change to Win labor federation; Utility Workers Union; International Longshore and Warehouse Union; Oregon Education Association; Oregon AFSCME Council 75.



HILLARY CLINTON

AFSCME; American Federation of Teachers; Amalgamated Transit Union; Bricklayers; National Association of Letter Carriers; Machinists Union; Office and Professional Employees; Painters and Allied Trades; Sheet Metal Workers; Transportation-Communications Union/IAM; Theatrical Stage Employees; United Transportation Union.



Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family



Please join the Credit Union
"Annual Meeting"
Celebration 2008
Tuesday, April 15th at 7:00pm

Opportunities to win prizes throughout the meeting

IBEW Local 48
15937 NE Airport Way
Portland, Oregon 97230

Lasagna Dinner will be served at 6:30pm
Please bring your family and fellow union members
For more information call (503) 253-8193 *
(800) 356-6507

Special give-a-way to all attendees



Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family