

UFCW Local 555 backs Walker for secretary of state

Oregon State Sen. Vicki Walker's campaign for secretary of state has been endorsed by United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757.

Walker is in a three-person primary race with two of her colleagues from the Senate — Rick Metsger and Kate Brown.

All three candidates were endorsed by the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council. The Oregon AFL-CIO is neutral in the race.

Service Employees International Union locals 503 and 49 have endorsed Brown. SEIU is an affiliate of the Change to Win labor federation.

Westlund adds IBEW, Carpenters to list of endorsers

Oregon State Sen. Ben Westlund (D-Tumalo) picked up endorsements from Electrical Workers Local 48, Carpenters Local 247 and the Joint Council of Teamsters No. 37, in his bid for state treasurer.

A proponent of renewable energy, Westlund was instrumental in expanding the solar energy tax credit for individuals during the 2005 session. In the 2007 session, he supported the Oregon Renewable Energy Act, which will make Oregon a national leader in the development of clean energy.

"As an efficient legislator, Ben Westlund has been getting things done to expand our renewable energy economy in Oregon," said Joe Esmonde, political director for IBEW Local 48. "As state treasurer, he will advocate for retrofitting our state buildings to increase energy efficiency, save tax dollars and create jobs."

"Ben has encouraged vocational training in our schools to help our youth have the chance at good-paying jobs, and he is leading the charge to lower health care costs," said Joseph Baron of Carpenters Local 247.

Also endorsing Westlund are the Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon State Fire Fighters Association, Oregon Education Association, SEIU Local 503, AFSCME Council 75, American Federation of Teachers, and Association of Oregon Corrections Employees.

Westlund has served Central Oregon as a legislator for the past 10 years. Before that he was a business owner and entrepreneur. He currently consults for Northwest Professional Management to develop affordable health care delivery systems.

Machinists Union endorses Merkley, Schrader, Kroger

ASTORIA — The Machinists Non-Partisan Political League endorsed Jeff Merkley in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate.

The endorsement came April 26 at the Oregon Machinists Council meeting in Astoria. MNPL is the political arm of the Machinists Union.

Also speaking at the meeting was John Frohnmayer, an independent candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Merkley told the group that incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith has voted with President Bush 90 percent of the time during his tenure and that his votes have canceled out Oregon's senior U.S. Senator, Democrat Ron Wyden, 1,700 times.

"Workers have been getting the short end of the stick time and time again," Merkley said, emphasizing that he opposes free trade agreements such as NAFTA.

In other political business, MNPL issued Democratic primary endorsements to John Kroger for attorney general; State Sen. Kurt Schrader for Congress; and Brad Witt and Brian Clem for re-election as state representatives in House Districts 31 and 21, respectively.

IN MEMORIAM

"Buy American. Look for the Union Label." Whenever those words were uttered at a union event, you knew Luther Jobe was in the house.

Luther P. Jobe Jr. passed away at his Portland home on April 17. He was 87.

For nearly 58 years, Jobe served as president of the Label Trades Section of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (and the Multnomah Labor Council prior to its merger). At monthly meetings or conventions Jobe would always remind delegates to "Buy American" and to "look for the union label."

Jobe operated a one-chair barber shop at the downtown Portland Labor Temple and later at the Labor Center. After the Labor Center shut down, he opened a shop in Northeast Portland.

Much of his clientele were union members, and he always promoted his store as a "union barber shop."

Jobe was a member of Barbers Local 75, which later became Meat Cutter Local 143A. That local then merged into what is now United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555. He served as president of Local 75, as well as president of the Barbers Credit Union.

Following the merger with Local 555, Jobe was made a vice president and Executive Board member of that union.

In 2000, Jobe was named to the Labor Hall of Fame sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Retirees Council, AFL-CIO.

Luther P. Jobe Jr. was born June 13, 1920, in Wichita Falls, Texas, the son of Luther and Mary (Byrd) Jobe. He was raised in Yuma, Ariz., and various cities in California, before moving to Portland in 1937.

He took up barbering at age 17, following in the footsteps of his father, uncle, and brother. For a short while he also worked at the Oregon Shipyard in



St. Johns, where he was a member of Boilermakers Local 72.

He left the shipyard to serve two years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Upon his return to Portland in 1946, he resumed his barbering career.

Jobe married Vivian in 1940. They had a son and three daughters. Vivian died in 1995.

Jobe is survived by his son, Leonard; daughters Carol Turner, and Diane German; a sister; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by daughter, Karen Liday, in 1997.

Interment was at Willamette National Cemetery with military honors. Memorial contributions can be made in his name to Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

CLARIFICATION

An article in the April 18 edition reported that under the International Longshore and Warehouse Union contract with the Pacific Maritime Association, the union is allowed to call mandatory-attendance union meetings on the second shift, which workers attend while still on the clock. That was partially in error; attendance is mandatory, and members are assessed a fine by the union if they miss meetings, but ILWU members are not paid by the employer to attend.

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We support Mike Delman for Multnomah County Commissioner District 3



GENE PRONOVOST, JOE DEVLAEINCK, DICK SPRINGER, GARY HANSEN, LORI RICE, R.N., UFCW LOCAL 555, OREGON NURSES ASSOCIATION

And Congratulations, Mike, on your endorsement by the Multnomah County Corrections Officers Association

Vote for Real Change. Vote for Mike Delman

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