

# Sizemore held in contempt of court

A Multnomah County judge held anti-union ballot measure activist Bill Sizemore in contempt of court May 27 for willfully violating a 2003 court order. The court order came after a lawsuit filed in 2000 by the Oregon Education Association and American Federation of Teachers-Oregon.

In that suit, after a two-week trial, a Multnomah County Circuit Court jury found two Sizemore-led organizations guilty of a pattern of fraud and forgery to get initiatives on the ballot that were intended to cause financial harm to the unions. The judge in the case, Jerome LaBarre, ordered \$2.5 million in damages. When Sizemore tried to evade the verdict by creating new organizations, LaBarre issued an order that, among other things, barred Sizemore from raising and spending money for new political groups until the court-awarded damages were paid.

But Sizemore didn't pay, and in 2006, he raised and spent money for a new initiative campaign, which didn't make it to the ballot. The unions asked that he be held in contempt of court for that.

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Janice Wilson rejected Sizemore's argument that he didn't understand the court order, and ruled that he "chose to ignore" it.

"Mr. Sizemore is a very bright man,"



**BILL SIZEMORE**

Judge Wilson said. "He knew that the words [of the court order] meant something."

Jail, the judge declared, wouldn't be appropriate or necessary. But the judge is ordering that Sizemore pay the plaintiffs' attorneys fees for pursuing the contempt of court case, which could be tens of thousands of dollars. And Wilson is adding the amount Sizemore raised — about \$35,500 — to the amount he still owes the unions. That's about \$500,000. [An appeals court reduced the earlier award to \$500,000.]

"This is what we have to do to get compliance with the jury award and the injunction," said AFT-Oregon Execu-

tive Director Richard Schwarz. "Sizemore is very good at proposing laws for everyone else, but when it comes to laws that apply to him he thinks he should be immune."

The decision is the latest in a series of court orders against Sizemore's circumvention of the courts. In February, attorneys for OEA and AFT-Oregon filed a fourth contempt of court charge, presenting evidence that Sizemore fraudulently used a sham charitable organization to funnel money into his political activities — which he was barred from doing by LaBarre's order.

On May 27, Judge Wilson also gave plaintiffs attorneys the right to subpoena documents and testimony from Sizemore and his wife to gather more information about the Nevada shell organization.

Parts of LaBarre's order expire July 25, including a prohibition against Sizemore using funds from charitable nonprofits for political causes. Hartman said plaintiffs will ask the court to extend the order another five years.

"There hasn't been much compliance so far," Hartman said, "so we'd like to give Bill another chance to comply."

Meanwhile, the original case is still on appeal before the Oregon Supreme Court, which heard from both sides last September but has yet to make a decision.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Michael Douglas Anderson**, a retired business representative of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16, died May 23 at his home in Vancouver, Washington. He was 58.



Anderson joined Local 16 as an apprentice in October 1968. He worked for the local as an organizer from 1995 to 1998 — leaving that job to become a business representative for the union. He retired in April 2005.

Anderson was born in Eugene, Oregon, on March 25, 1950. He attended high school there before moving to Vancouver, where he graduated from Evergreen High School.

He met Janet L. Woodcock through her brother Jim. The Woodcocks all went to Madison High School in Portland. They were married on April 4, 1968.

According to his daughter, Michelle, Michael Anderson "was a Jack of all trades, who loved racing, guns, and family."

Anderson was preceded in death by his father William G. Anderson.

He is survived by his wife; mother, Doris L. Anderson; a son, Bill; a daughter, Michelle Rivera and son-in-law Ben Rivera; four grandchildren; and brothers Gary and Fred Anderson.

A memorial service was held May 31 at the Sheet Metal Worker Local 16 Union Hall in Portland Oregon.

Donations in Anderson's name may be sent to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.

Lung cancer claimed **Michael Wayne Howard**, a long-time member/activist of Service Employees In-

ternational Union Local 49, who died April 26 at age 51.

Howard worked as a lead janitor for American Building Maintenance at the Wells Fargo Center in downtown Portland for 30 years. He was active in Local 49, serving as a chief steward, sergeant-at-arms, as a member of the bargaining team for the citywide master janitorial agreement, and as a volunteer member organizer.

Howard was a familiar face at rallies, marches, and picket lines to support fellow union members. He was a mentor to new stewards, helped hundreds of nonunion janitors join the union, and spent countless hours knocking on doors and making phone calls to help get pro-union candidates elected.

In 2003, he was the first recipient of the Emory F. Via Workers Education Award for outstanding achievement in activating co-workers and promoting social justice. The award was presented at the Oregon AFL-CIO convention in September 2003.

Howard was born May 28, 1956, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His family moved to Portland when he was a child. He attended King and Sabin elementary schools, and graduated from Benson High School in 1974.

He met his wife, Lena Lewis, in 1981, and they were together for over 26 years. They married in 2007.

Howard is survived by his wife; two sons, Michael Howard, Jr., and Andre Avent; nine grandchildren; his father, the Rev. Felton Howard; three brothers; three sisters; and many nieces and nephews.



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