

## Mike Lappier re-elected to lead Iron Workers Shopmen's #516

Michael Lappier was re-elected financial secretary-treasurer/business manager of Iron Workers Shopmen's Local 516. He outpolled Bruce Bunnell and Michael Damm in a three-person race.

In a two-person race for president, Tony Butkovich Jr. of Oregon Iron Works/Clackamas defeated Mark Craig.

Four candidates ran for an open seat for vice president. Taylor Lappier of Columbia Wire defeated Gordan Eckert, Steven Dorton, and Darrell Tompkins Jr.

Bill Stinde of Oregon Iron Works ran unopposed for recording secretary and David Bell of Oregon Iron Works defeated Andy Gunter for sergeant-at-arms/conductor.

Business manager is the only full-time position in the 800-member local based in Northeast Portland.

Elected to the local's Executive Committee were Duane Blackmore of Columbia Wire; Rex Thornton of



MIKE LAPIER

Pella Vinyl; Gale Bernard of Oregon Iron Works, and David Payne of The Western Group. Two candidates — Cecil Pflagl of Fought and Ricky Wambold of Oregon Iron Works — tied. They have agreed to determine the winner in a coin flip to be held at the union's next meeting July 24.

Elected trustees were Ken Malicoat of Oregon Iron Works, Carl Fossi of The Western Group, and Larry Gerads of Fought.

Michael and Taylor Lappier, and Butkovich were elected delegates to the Iron Workers District Council.

Terms of office are three years.

# Oregon Supreme Court upholds unions' case against Sizemore

SALEM — The Oregon Supreme Court ruled July 3 that two teachers unions were within their rights to use an organized crime law in a lawsuit against two groups run by anti-union activist Bill Sizemore.

The court upheld the 2002 jury verdict in the suit filed by Oregon Education Association (OEA) and American Federation of Teachers-Oregon against Sizemore's Oregon Taxpayers United Educational Foundation and Political Action Committee.

The jury found that Sizemore's groups used fraud and forgery to qualify two ballot measures that the unions had to spend money fighting. That included forged signatures on the initial "qualifying" petitions that are submitted to the state before major signature gathering begins, illegal use of charitable contributions for political purposes, and fraud in charitable reports to the state. The reports failed to reveal donors, or the extent of political activity of Sizemore's charitable organization.

In 2006, the Oregon Court of Appeals affirmed that Sizemore's organization engaged in a "calculated course

of criminal conduct" and "cynical, criminal manipulation of the democratic process."

Sizemore had appealed that verdict on several grounds, arguing that since the groups could easily have gotten the required 25 genuine signatures on the qualifying petitions, the forgeries didn't make that much difference. Also, the fraud on the charitable filings didn't directly cause the unions to have to spend money, Sizemore argued through attorney Gregory Byrne.

But the Oregon Supreme Court rejected those and other arguments, and agreed that the jury's conclusion was reasonable: That the purpose of the ballot measures was to bleed the unions of money, and that Sizemore's ballot measure campaigns engaged in a pattern of criminal activity.

"The Supreme Court has the final word," said OEA President Larry Wolf

in a press statement. "They have confirmed what we've known for years — Bill Sizemore is a racketeer who uses fraud and forgery to manipulate Oregon's initiative system. Oregon voters should be very suspicious of any measure he puts forward now and in the future."

One of the two measures in the lawsuit will be on the ballot again this year — an initiative to prohibit public employee union members from using paycheck deduction to contribute to their unions' political campaigns. And at least three other measures sponsored by Sizemore will be on this November's ballot.

Sizemore's organizations remain liable for a \$2.5 million dollar jury award owed to the unions, and the unions plan to ask the courts to hold Sizemore personally liable for the judgment, which is so far largely unpaid.

## AFSCME's Oswalt returns to work at Portland Police Bureau

Angela Oswalt returned to her job as a police desk clerk for the Portland Police Bureau July 7 after almost 15 months of paid administrative leave.

The suspension came after Oswalt, an officer of AFSCME Local 189, refused to answer questions related to union business. AFSCME filed an unfair labor practice complaint and the Oregon Employment Relations Board ruled that the Bureau could not investigate or discipline her for protected activities in her role as a union steward for Local 189.

The Bureau subsequently dropped its proposed termination of Oswalt and

agreed to return her to work.

"I am pleased that the situation has been resolved," Oswalt said. "I simply wish to go back to work and do a good job for the citizens of Portland; that's all I've wanted to do for many months. I would like to thank friends, colleagues and my union for standing behind me, but now I just want to turn the page and go to work."

Local 189 Union Representative James Hester said he was happy that Oswalt was returned to work, although he chastised the Bureau and City of Portland for dragging out the case for over a year.

*(Editor's Note: In April 2006, Oswalt accused former Police Chief Derrick Foxworth of abuse of power and sexual misconduct, which led to his demotion.)*



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4275 NE Halsey St., P.O. Box 13150,  
Portland, Ore. 97213  
Telephone: (503) 288-3311

Editor: Michael Gutwig  
Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice

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