

WSLC to convene in Vancouver

VANCOUVER, Wash — About 500 delegates from unions across Washington are expected in Vancouver Aug. 4-7 for the annual convention of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. The state labor council is considered the voice of labor in Washington, and represents 500 local unions with a combined membership of about 400,000 workers.

The event will take place at the Vancouver Hilton Hotel, where work-

ers just ratified their first union contract after a two-year campaign.

Highlights of the convention include a Monday morning address by Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire and a Tuesday visit from U.S. Sen. Patty Murray. Delegates will also hear from U.S. Congressman Brian Baird, Washington House Speaker Frank Chopp, and State Treasurer candidate Jim McIntire.

Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain will speak to delegates,

as will British Columbia Labour Federation President Jim Sinclair.

Delegates will debate and pass resolutions, and take part in trainings and policy discussions on trade, health care, immigration, global warming, and worker safety.

The day before the convention begins, arrivees and local volunteers will take part in a "Labor Neighbor" walk to help a union-endorsed candidate for State House in Washington's 17th legislative district.



Holliday named general vice president of Operating Engineers

Mark Holliday has been appointed a general vice president of the International Union of Operating Engineers. Holliday is business manager of Gladstone, Oregon-based Operating Engineers Local 701. He is the first business manager from that local to serve on the international union's 14-person Executive Board. The term of office is for five years. Prior to the appointment last month, Holliday was chair of the international union's five-person Board of Trustees. The International Union of Operating Engineers has 400,000 members in 170 locals throughout the United States and Canada. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

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Lewis gets labor council nod in Portland election

Charles Lewis has been endorsed by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council in his race for an open seat on the Portland City Council.

Lewis is in a November runoff against Amanda Fritz for Position 1. The seat is currently held by Mayor-elect Sam Adams. Adams didn't seek re-election, in order to run for mayor. He takes office Jan. 1, 2009.

Fritz, a member of the Oregon Nurses Association, was the top vote-getter in the primary, capturing 44 percent of the vote in a field of six candidates. She was endorsed by several unions, including United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, Laborers Local 483, AFSCME Local 189, Letter Carriers Branch 82, Fire Fighters Local 43, and Carpenters Local 247.

Lewis received 13 percent of the vote in the primary. He did not have any union endorsements.

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council's endorsed candidate in the May primary was Mike Fahey. The

former Carpenters Union representative finished fourth.

Lewis is making his first run at political office. He is the founder of Ethos Music Center, a non-profit organization that teaches music and provides instruments to children.

During an interview with the labor council's Executive Board on July 28, Lewis said he is a former member of the Teamsters Union and that his father was a Teamster throughout his working career.

"I will be the strongest advocate you have on City Council," he told board members.

In other political action, the Northwest Oregon Labor Council endorsed the re-election of Tony Hyde for Columbia County commissioner, Position 3. Hyde ran unopposed in the Republican primary.

He faces a challenge from Democrat Pat Zimmerman in November. Zimmerman ran unopposed in the May primary.



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