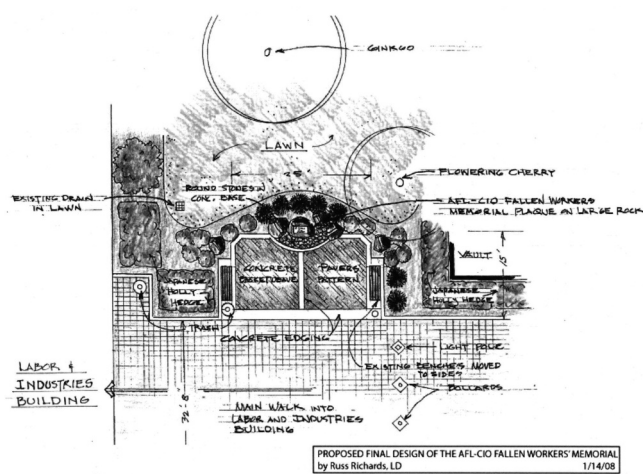


Cash needed to complete Workers Memorial in Salem

SALEM —The long-anticipated construction of the Fallen Workers Memorial on the State Capitol Mall is just about ready to proceed — when enough money is collected to get the green light.

The Oregon AFL-CIO's Safety and Health Committee has been trying for more than three years to erect a permanent memorial in Salem to honor workers who have been killed or injured on the job. The idea for a permanent memorial came in the form of a resolution passed at an Oregon AFL-CIO convention in 2005.

The process to locate a site and get approval for the design have been fi-



nalized by the state. The problem now is cash.

The memorial will consist of a large boulder with an inscribed bronze plaque attached to it. The plaque will read:

*"In memory of Oregon's working men and women who suffered injury or loss of life on the job.
MOURN FOR THE DEAD,
FIGHT FOR THE LIVING
Workers Memorial Day, April 28.
Donated to the State of Oregon by the working men and women of the Oregon AFL-CIO"*

The boulder will rest within a landscaped sitting area near the main entrance of the Labor and Industries Building at 350 Winter St. NE, Salem.

The national AFL-CIO declared April 28 as Workers' Memorial Day more than two decades ago to remember those who have been killed or injured on the job. Every year unions throughout the country hold services to remember those workers.

"We now have an accurate estimate of the cost using all union labor to prepare the site and construct the memorial," said Al Dorgan, chair of the Oregon AFL-CIO's Safety and Health Committee and the lead man on the project. Dorgan is president of Albany Steelworkers Local 7150.

LCG Pence Construction of Salem will be the contractor, with work being done by members of Laborers Local 320 and Carpenters Local 1065. "The contractor is ready to begin construction as soon as we have the funding," Dorgan told the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board at its quarterly meeting Nov. 21.

To date, \$20,514 has been collected, following a \$5,000 contribution from the state labor federation. Total cost for the project is \$49,765.

Donations can be sent to:
**Oregon AFL-CIO
Worker Memorial Fund
2110 State St. Salem, OR 97301.**

Organizing drive at Oregon Steel Mills falls short

Union supporters at Evraz Oregon Steel Mills plant in North Portland failed to get majority support for joining United Steelworkers (USW) by a Nov. 26 deadline.

Union organizer Pete Passarelli said about 200 workers signed cards, but that was about 85 short of a majority.

The Russian multinational Evraz bought several steel mills and related facilities in the United States and Canada in recent years, including Portland-headquartered Oregon Steel Mills and IPSCO of Canada.

Evraz left management in place after it acquired Oregon Steel Mills in 2006.

Under its union contract with two Pueblo, Colorado locals, Oregon Steel Mills agreed to recognize the Steelworkers as the representative of workers at the Portland plant if the majority signed union cards over a three-month period. During that time, the company allowed union organizers to talk with workers in break rooms.

It made it harder that wages at the Portland mill — \$14 to \$15 an hour — are equivalent to those at unionized mills owned by Evraz, Passarelli said. And the bad economy made workers want to hang on to what they got. Ore-

gon Steel Mills laid off about 130 of the plant's 570 workers in early November, and some workers felt unionizing at such a time was too risky.

Plus, union organizers had to contend with an active steel mill rumor mill. Among the rumors: If they unionized, all workers would lose their seniority and have to start from scratch; workers would lose their profit-sharing bonuses, and bargaining could go either way, meaning that workers might even lose what they currently have.

Where did all the rumors come from? Passarelli suspects anti-union consultants hired by the company

played a role. When United Steelworkers showed up in August, Oregon Steel Mills hired The Burke Group, based in Malibu, California, which advertises itself as a "preventative labor relations consulting firm" that helps employers stay "union free."

Burke Group representatives talked up the disadvantages of unionizing at a mandatory-attendance union information meeting held by Oregon Steel Mills. No union representatives were invited to give a counter-argument.

"If the company really intended to be neutral," Passarelli said, "they wouldn't have hired the Burke Group."

Oregon Steel Mill's agreement with the locals in Pueblo, Colorado comes up for renegotiation next fall. Bargaining could be tough if the worldwide economic downturn dampens steel demand, and profits.

The current Pueblo contract is a five-year deal signed in 2004 as part of a legal settlement that ended a six-year labor dispute that began as a strike and continued as a lockout. Ultimately, the National Labor Relations Board ruled Oregon Steel Mills had violated labor law, and the company agreed to a record-setting back pay settlement that is still being paid out.

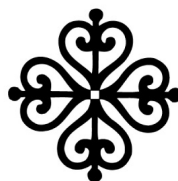
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strengthen the holiday spirit of giving.*

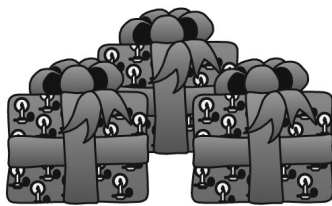
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or donate cash and let one of
Santa's helpers do the
shopping for you!*

*The Giving Tree will be
in our lobby until
December 12th.*

*Donations must
be unwrapped.*

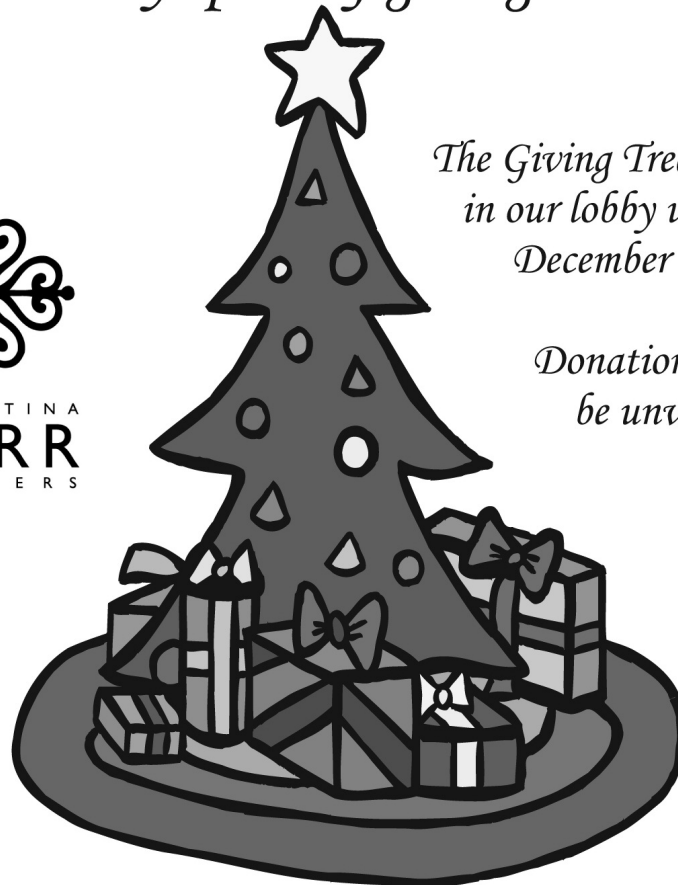


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