

Lane CLC to host candidate training

EUGENE — Lane County Central Labor Council will host its second “campaign school and candidate training” Feb. 6 to 8. The idea is to equip union members and supporters with the know-how they need to run campaigns for local elective office.

The Oregon AFL-CIO is co-sponsor of the event, which is expected to attract would-be candidates, campaign managers and treasurers from around the state. Over a dozen consultants and elected officials will be giving the trainings. Some of the highlights include Steve Novick, past consultant to unions and candidate for U.S. Senate in the 2008 Democratic primary; Jon Isaacs, who ran the successful U.S. Senate campaign of Novick’s opponent Jeff Merkley; and union leader Michael Dembrow, one of Salem’s newest labor-legislators, who won the Demo-

cratic nomination to a Northeast Portland state house seat in a tough three-way race last May.

The first campaign school, held in December 2007, drew about 20 attendants for two days of workshops. One of those, Rob Handy, defeated a four-term incumbent for Lane County Commission in November.

The school is the brainchild of Pat Riggs-Henson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Lane County CLC. Riggs-Henson said her hope is to get one union member on every board and every elective body, so as to incubate future generations of political leaders.

Participants learn how to map and analyze an electorate to see whether it’s possible to win. They learn how to win endorsements, raise money, and develop and stick to a message; how to recruit and coordinate volunteers; and

how to maintain expense records to comply with campaign finance reporting requirements. Handy — a pro-labor landscaping business owner — said he was already an experienced campaign activist and attended the school thinking it would be a brush-up. But he says he was stunned by the quality of presenters and presentations, and credits the school as a factor in his win.

The campaign school is open to members of AFL-CIO and other unions, as well as members of the AFL-CIO’s Working America community affiliate. Participation is limited to 40. Register by Jan. 30 by contacting Riggs-Henson at 541-914-6928 or by e-mail at henson2831@comcast.net.

The school will take place at the United Association of Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 290 Training Center, 2861 Pierce Pkwy., Springfield.

Feeney, Rebel Voices to appear in Portland Jan. 23

Folk singers Anne Feeney and Rebel Voices will perform in Portland Friday, Jan. 23, at Carvlin Hall, 1636 SE Hickory St. (in the St. Phillip Neri Church complex just north of SE Division St.). The concert is presented by the Portland FolkMusic Society and its monthly concert series, now in its 14th season.

Cost is \$10 for union members or members of the Portland FolkMusic Society, \$12 for others, \$5 for children 12 to 18, and free for kids under 12. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Feeney, of Pittsburgh, is the granddaughter of a mineworkers’ organizer, who also used music to carry the message of solidarity to working people.

Feeney has lived her life on the frontlines — performing at thousands of rallies, picket lines and demonstrations over the years — including the WTO demonstrations in Seattle, Solidarity Day in Washington, D.C., and for 1.5 million people at the April 2004 March for Women’s Lives.

Dubbed the “minister of culture” to the movements for economic and social justice and human rights, Feeney is “the best labor singer in North America,” said the late Utah Phillips.

Susan Lewis and Janet Stecher — members of the American Federation of Musicians Local 1000 in Seattle — have created incredible harmony as

members of The Belles of Hoboken, Shays’ Rebellion, and since 1989, Rebel Voices. They took their name from the book by Joyce Kornbluh, “Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology,” a collection of writings, songs, poems, and cartoons by members of the Industrial Workers of the World. “Wobblies” have always been rabble rousers, unionists, artists, and singers who attack the issues of their time with passion and humor. This same spirit moves Rebel Voices today as they sing out for social and economic justice.

For more information or for reservations, call 503 452-0130.

Oregon AFL-CIO, LERC, to hold legislative conference Jan. 24

The Oregon AFL-CIO and the Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) of the University of Oregon will hold a 2009 legislative conference Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Registration is \$25 per person and must be made by Jan. 19. Registration covers tuition, materials, lunch, and refreshments.

The conference will provide an opportunity for union activists to meet lawmakers, learn how to lobby, and become informed on labor’s agenda for the 2009 legislative session. Some of those issues include health care reform, green energy and job creation, and transportation.

Invited to attend are Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Attorney General John Kroger, Senate President Peter Courtney, and elected legislators.

For more information, call LERC 541-346-5054.

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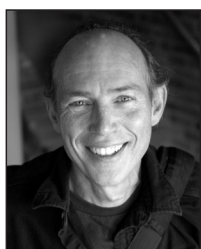
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