

## Friend of labor tapped for NLRB chair

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Wilma Liebman has been designated by President Barack Obama to chair the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

As an NLRB member over the past eight years, Liebman has challenged the Bush Administration on workers' rights.

"The Board's Republican majority made it harder to form unions through

majority sign-up, limited the ability of illegally fired workers to recover back pay, and allowed employers to discriminate against union supporters in the hiring process," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

Liebman was first appointed to the NLRB by President Bill Clinton in 1997. Her current term expires in 2011.

Before joining the NLRB, Liebman served from 1994 to 1997 at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, first as special assistant to the director and then as deputy director. She began her legal career as an NLRB staff attorney in 1974, then served on the legal staff of two unions: the Bricklayers and the Teamsters.

## Professional Firefighters of Clackamas County Local 1159

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*More information is available at the  
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or at: [www.clackamas.us/elections](http://www.clackamas.us/elections)  
The filing deadline for  
Board Positions 1 and 4 is March 19, 2009*

## Congress passes Lilly Ledbetter 'fair pay' bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — By a 61-36 vote, the U.S. Senate on Jan. 22 passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Bill.

The legislation overturns a 2007 Supreme Court ruling that said workers who are discriminated against in pay could sue only within the first 180 days of being hired. In practical terms, advocates said, that barred all pay discrimination cases, since workers often do not discover the discrimination until long afterwards.

In the case of Lilly Ledbetter, the gray-haired grandmother from Gadsden, Ala., did not discover her paychecks as a supervisor in the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. plant had been shorted until near the end of her 19-year career. She sued and won \$3.5 million in back pay and damages.

Appeals lowered the damage payout, but the high court — on a 5-4 vote — threw out the case entirely.

The five justices, all men appointed by Republican presidents, including two named by George W. Bush, said anti-discrimination law allows suits only within 180 days of being hired, or 300 days in some cases. Any time after that, and workers can't file a lawsuit.

Ironically, Ledbetter told Press Associates Inc. during a congressional hearing that rank-and-file female workers at the plant suffer little or no pay discrimination because they are covered by a Steel Workers Union contract. As a supervisor, she was not.

"The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is a modest and targeted response to a harm-

ful and unjust ruling that made it just about impossible for victims of pay discrimination to seek justice in the courts, no matter how severe the discrimination they face," said Debra Ness, president of the National Partnership for Women and Families, one of the lead organizations that lobby for fair pay and female workers' rights.

All 36 Senate votes against the bill came from male Republicans. The GOP also provided the entire opposition in the House, which passed the bill soon after the Democratic-run 111th Congress opened.

Senate Democrats of both sexes voted unanimously for the bill. They were joined by the four female Senate Republicans and Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

President Barack Obama has signed the legislation into law.

## Officers elected at labor council in Vancouver

VANCOUVER — Mike Carnahan of Electrical Workers Local 48 was re-elected secretary-treasurer of Clark, Skamania, West Klickitat Counties Central Labor Council in an election held Jan. 22.

Shannon Walker of Office and Professional Employees Local 277 was tapped president; Judy Kuschel of AFSCME Local 313 was elected vice president; and Rick Thompson of Machinists Lodge 63 was re-elected sergeant-at-arms.

Walker succeeds Cager Clabaugh of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 4. He did not seek re-election.

Elected to the Executive Board were Lucy Carrier of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, Roy Jennings of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757, Roben White of Painters Local 10, and Scott Orrell of ILWU Local 4. Mark Rauchenstein of International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 17 was re-elected a trustee.

## Marion, Polk, Yamhill CLC elects Munger president

SALEM — Joe Munger of Steelworkers Local 8378 has been elected president of the Marion, Polk, Yamhill Counties Central Labor Council. He succeeds Dave Tischer of the Laborers Local 320, who did not seek re-election.

Richard Swyers of AFSCME Local 2067 was re-elected secretary-treasurer and Rosalie Pedroza of Service Employees Local 503 was re-elected vice president.

Terms of office are three years.



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