

IN MEMORIAM

SHELLEY HEROCHIK, a labor educator and communicator, died Jan. 14 at age 58 of complications from diabetes. In the Portland labor community, she's best known for her work locally with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

Born Shelley Glotzer, she grew up in Linden, New Jersey and married John Herochik in 1976. She earned a bachelor's degree from Douglass College and a doctorate in education from Rutgers University in 1982, where she taught labor history. She next went to work as an educator for New Jersey Local 65 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and later for New York Local 122.

She helped register union workers to vote and get out the vote for New York mayor David Dinkins in 1989. In 1991, her husband got a job as Portland Rose Garden Arena production manager, and the two moved to the Portland area.

She worked for two years for Southwest Washington Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld. After Unsoeld lost reelection in 1994, Herochik was hired as SEIU western region representative.

She also worked on SEIU's national health care reform campaign and helped organize a Portland rally attended by First Lady Hillary Clinton.

In 1997, she was hired by then SEIU Local 49 secretary-treasurer Rick Henson as field director. She served as strike spokesperson during a 33-day walkout by 2,000 support workers at Kaiser Permanente. Henson lost his election in 2000, and Herochik went to work as a reporter at the Portland Business Journal. She also wrote for BUILDERnews magazine.

To be nearer to families, she and her husband moved to Chesapeake, Virginia, in 2005. She took a part-time job teaching writing, philosophy and business, and advising students at the Chesapeake campus of Cambridge College, a Massachusetts based school for working adults.

Herochik is remembered by Portland unionists as a big-hearted fighter for justice with a fierce commitment to unions and working people.

After a memorial service in Chesapeake, Herochik was interred in New Jersey.

Labor Law Conference slated Feb. 27 in Portland

The 13th annual Oregon Labor Law Conference will be held Friday, Feb. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the IBEW Local 48 union hall, 15937 NE Airport Way.

The event is sponsored by Local 48, the Oregon AFL-CIO, the Oregon State and Columbia-Pacific Building Trades Councils, and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

Presenters will include Richard Ahearn, regional director of the National Labor Relations Board; manage-

ment attorney Rick Liebman of the firm Barran Liebman; and Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian.

The conference organizer is Norm Malbin, in-house attorney for Local 48. The purpose of the conference is to provide information that will help union activists do their job better and help them avoid legal liability.

For more information, call Kristi Straight at 503-889-3660 or Malbin at 503-889-3669.

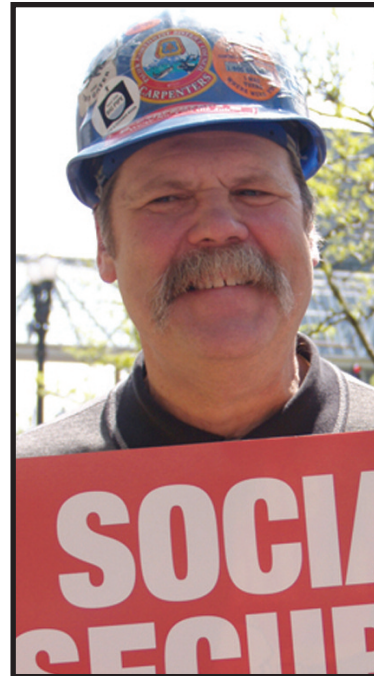
Dennis steps down as president of Carpenters local, regional council

Bruce Dennis, a longtime local leader within the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, has resigned as president of Portland-based Local 247 and as president of the five-state Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters. Both are unpaid positions.

Until August, Dennis was also a full-time union representative at the regional council. He and three others were let go following the regional council elections, at which he won reelection as president.

Based on age and years of service, Dennis, 57, was eligible for the pension benefit offered to union staff, but not while he continued to serve as a union officer. So the decision to resign the unpaid elected offices was an economic one, he told Local 247 members in November — and arrived at after some soul-searching. Dennis has spent much of his life in the union.

A Northeast Portland native and Parkrose High grad, Dennis said he was first exposed to the Carpenters while he was a long-haired anti-war student who had enrolled in Portland State University to avoid the risk of going to Vietnam. Dennis got a work-study job in the university facilities department, and picked up skills from a former Carpenters member who encouraged him to look into the union. When Dennis graduated in 1973 with a general studies degree, he promptly joined Local 247 as an apprentice carpenter.



BRUCE DENNIS

After 15 years in the trade, Dennis ran for union office. He won election as trustee in 1988, full-time staff rep in 1990, local president in 1992, and regional council president in 1996.

Now that he's no longer in the union leadership, Dennis said he's using his free time to do things he enjoys, but hasn't had time for — fishing, working on his 1964 Corvette, helping a friend remodel. He sings in the choir at Trinity Lutheran Church. He serves on the board of the IBEW

& United Workers Federal Credit Union.

And he has more time to act on his beliefs. Among his biggest concerns are that big-dollar campaign contributions make the political system unresponsive to regular voters, and that NAFTA-style trade policies have sold out the working class. Dennis, his hardhat covered in union stickers, has been a regular presence at anti-free trade rallies. Last fall he campaigned door-to-door for Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz and Multnomah County Commissioner Judy Shiprack. And he's active in the Oregon Working Families Party, a union-backed third party.

Carpenters are allowed to continue to work part time while collecting pension benefits, so Dennis also has returned to working at the trade, taking occasional dispatches for short-term jobs. He said he will continue to attend Local 247 meetings, and is freer to speak his mind now that he's not chairing them.

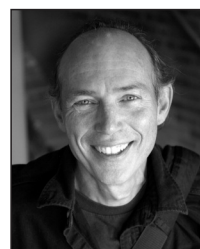
"We've got a good union," Dennis said. "It's not perfect, but it's up to us to make it better."

To fill its vacancy, Local 247 will hold nominations at its February general membership meeting, and vote on a replacement at the March meeting.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters will nominate and elect a replacement at a Feb. 15 delegates meeting in Spokane.



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Raymond Thomas



Cynthia Newton



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