

# Trumka picks up support for AFL-CIO post

COLUMBUS, Ohio (PAI) — Though the race for the AFL-CIO's top job hasn't officially started, the Ohio AFL-CIO made the first move, endorsing Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka to succeed retiring President John Sweeney.

The decision on who will take the top job will occur at the AFL-CIO convention, Sept. 13-14 in Pittsburgh.

Trumka, 59, is a past president of the United Mine Workers of America. He has held the secretary-treasurer's post for 14 years, since running on a "New Voice" slate with Sweeney, who was then president of the Service Employees International Union, and Linda Chavez-Thompson of AFSCME.

Sweeney has endorsed Trumka in his bid to succeed him.

Greg Junemann, president of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, (IFPTE) announced earlier this month that he will run for secretary-treasurer.

Another big issue at the convention will be progress in unity talks between the AFL-CIO, Change To Win and the independent National Education Association. NEA, with 3.2 million members, is the nation's largest union.

American Rights At Work President David Bonior, who is mediating those talks, told Press Associates that "there will probably not be" a definitive agreement by the convention "because it takes time to shop it around to those unions not in the talks. And there are structural issues, especially involving the NEA, where there are constitutional issues involved."

Bonior hosted another round of talks the first week of June.

## Labor center needs financial assistance

OLYMPIA — The Labor and Education Center at The Evergreen State College needs help. The Democratic-controlled Legislature slashed its budget by 68 percent in the 2009 session — sending a clear signal that it doesn't hold labor education as a very high priority.

With help from the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, the Labor Center is now trying to raise \$25,000 over the summer in order to keep two labor educators on at 3/4 time and two labor educators on at 1/2 time. Without the additional funding, one labor educator will be let go on July 1.

"It is time to stand up and be counted in support of labor education," said WSLC President Rick Bender. "Your contributions will help save a labor education program that has been very valuable to the labor movement."

Contributions can be sent to: Labor Education and Research Center, TESC, C/O Peter Kardas, 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW, Olympia, WA 98505.



## Poker Run raises cash for kids

It was a full house June 13 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48 hall, as about 200 union members and others gathered for chili and prizes at the close of the Unions for Kids 7th Annual Motorcycle Poker Run.


This year's event raised \$50,000 for Doernbecher Children's Hospital, bringing the total to \$171,000 since its inception. Most of the funds came from the raffle of a serious top prize — a 2009 Dyna Low Rider FXDL Harley — valued at \$16,999. About 3,000 tickets at \$10 each were sold. Money is also raised through ride registration fees of \$10 each, sponsor donations, a silent auction, and a chili cookoff.

Who knew there were so many union member motorcycle enthusiasts? Unions for Kids founder Lee Duncan (pictured lower right) did. Duncan, an organizer for IBEW Local 48, conceived the event in 2003 when he became the owner of a Harley Sportster. Poker runs are a common charity event among bikers: Participants ride a route and buy a playing card at each check point, bringing the cards to the finish line, where in this case the highest and lowest hands won \$100. The full route took a little over three hours, and June 13 was a beautiful day for a ride that included Crown Point in the Columbia Gorge.

Ron Hamacher of Portland won this year's Harley raffle. And Gail Perryman (pictured above right) of IBEW & United Workers Federal Credit Union won this year's chili cookoff. Perryman is a member of Office and Professional Employees Local 11.



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