

Local Motion

May 2009

Union certifications and decertifications in Oregon and Southwest Washington, as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

Recognition elections

Name of employer	Date	Name of union	Location	Results:	
				Union Yes	Union No
Pioneer Memorial Hospital	5/28	Oregon Nurses Association	Prineville	30	3



Recognition by card check

Name of employer	Date	Name of union	Location	Number of employees
Klamath Community College	5/20	Klamath Community College Faculty Association/OEA	Klamath Falls	70

Requests for recognition election

Name of employer	Date	Name of union	Location	Number of employees
McDonald Wholesale		Teamsters Locals 206 and 962	Eugene	60
Red Apple Market (DECERTIFICATION)		United Food & Commercial Workers Local 555	St. Helens	26
Marion County		Marion County Law Enforcement Association	Salem	6
McMinnville Water & Light		Employees of McMinnville W&L vs IBEW Local 125	McMinnville	12
City of Umatilla		City of Umatilla Public Safety Assn. vs. SEIU Local 503	Umatilla	11

Portland City Council pledges to 'Buy American,' set employment standards

The Portland City Council passed resolutions June 3 pledging to buy goods and services made or produced in America — and to establish employment standards for all programs funded with monies from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The resolutions were carried by Mayor Sam Adams and Commissioners Dan Saltzman and Randy Leonard. There was no opposition.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed earlier this year by Congress includes \$787 billion in federal funding for infrastructure, health care, education, energy efficiency, public safety, job training, and other programs.

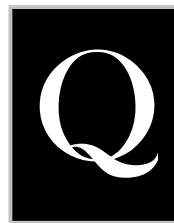
The amount coming to Portland is expected to be \$30 million. Approximately \$14.7 million has been earmarked for surface transportation and another \$5.6 million for emergency efficiency programs.

The City Council also is working with local partners and state agencies to secure additional funding through ARRA competitive grants.

The "Buy America" campaign was launched on a national scale by United Steelworkers. To date, more than 500 states, towns, and other public entities have passed similar resolutions, including commissioners in Multnomah and Yamhill counties, city councils repre-

senting Albany, Sweet Home, and Carlton in Oregon; and Clark County, the City of Vancouver, and the Regional Transportation Council in Southwest Washington.

Testifying in favor of the Portland resolutions were Barbara Byrd, secretary-treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO, and Judy O'Connor, executive secretary-treasurer of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.



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(From Page 1)

And union backers have to contend with the fact that some of their full-time co-workers may be less enthusiastic about the union drive. Full-timers got a 10 percent cut from wages of \$29 an hour, but that still gives them a lot more to lose.

"Unions these days give concessions all the time," argued a full-timer who showed up to a June 12 union strategy meeting to speak against unionizing. It was an odd argument to make: If unions bargain concessions, at least members get to vote on it; this group of workers had just had concessions imposed on them without a vote.

Another fear: If they unionize, the company may decide to fire them all and replace them with temps. Workers say representatives of Barrett Business Services, a temp agency, were seen visiting the department.

Despite the risk, several pro-union workers who spoke with the Labor Press said they don't have much to lose at this point.

"We have no other choice," said one. "We should have done it a lot sooner."

Letter Carriers' food drive beats record

Despite the difficult economic times throughout the nation, Americans donated a record 73.4 million pounds of non-perishable food in the Letter Carriers National Food Drive to restock community food banks and pantries, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) announced.

The food was collected by letter carriers on May 9 as they delivered mail along their postal routes in over 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states.

It is the nation's largest one-day effort to "Stamp Out Hunger."

In Oregon and Southwest Washington, 1,602,405 pounds of food were collected, plus \$74,221 in cash donations.

Final results showed 73,414,533 pounds of non-perishable food were collected nationwide, an increase over the previous record of 73.1 million pounds set in 2008. It was the sixth consecutive year above 70 million pounds and brought the total for the drive's 17 years to over 982 million pounds of food.

West Coast Florida NALC Branch 1477, headquartered in St. Petersburg, collected 1,755,689 pounds of donations to take top honors among the more than 1,400 local NALC branches.



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