

Move to put Fred Meyer on Unfair List is tabled

Fred Meyer Inc. dodged a bullet July 13 when the Northwest Oregon Labor Council Executive Board tabled a request to put the retailer on its Unfair/Do Not Patronize List.

The citing was brought to the Executive Board by Cement Masons Local 555 and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48.

Fred Meyer did not respond to the labor council's citing as requested.

The construction locals have been conducting informational picketing at Fred Meyer stores for several months because the company is using nonunion contractors on its remodeling projects.

"Fred Meyer wants our union members to spend money at their stores and pharmacies, yet won't let us bid their work and, in fact, hires contractors that provide little in the way of prescription drug benefits for their workers," said Bob Childers, an international representative of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association.

Fred Meyer is owned by Kroger Inc. of Cincinnati.

Three unions — United Food and

Commercial Workers Local 555, Bakers Union Local 114, and Teamsters — each represent workers at Fred Meyer.

"We're sympathetic. Fred Meyer should be doing its remodeling work union," said Local 555 Secretary Treasurer Jeff Anderson, who requested that NOLC table the motion. "But, we cannot support a secondary boycott that affects our members."

Local 555 is in the midst of bargaining with Fred Meyer and other grocers in the Portland metro area and in Central Oregon. Fred Meyer bargains jointly with Albertsons and Safeway using labor consultant Food Employers Inc. Clerks, meatcutters and central checkout clerks at those stores have been working under an extended contract for more than a year.

Additionally, Local 555 is trying to bargain a first contract for non-food employees at The Dalles Fred Meyer. Those workers voted to join the union in November 2007.

Childers encouraged union leaders to notify their trust offices about the labor dispute and to consider changing pharmacies if nothing changes.

IBEW #280 votes Frew business manager

TANGENT — In a June 30 runoff to determine International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 280's next business manager, one-time vice president Tim Frew outpolled former business manager Dennis Caster 278 to 219. Incumbent business manager Tim Nicol placed a close third in the first round of voting held June 9.

With headquarters just south of Albany, Local 280 represents about 1,200 construction electricians and sound and communications technicians in the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon.

Frew, 51, is a 25-year IBEW member starting in Local 177, Jacksonville, Florida. He moved with his wife to Eugene in 1991 and became a member of Local 280. Frew served as Local 280 vice president from 1997 to 2000, and was an Oregon AFL-CIO convention delegate and chair of the IBEW-NECA Safety Committee. He has also volunteered as an organizer and has served as a job site steward.



TIM FREW

For the last seven years, Frew has worked for EC Company.

Frew began his three-year term July 17, and hired Local 280 members Bill Kisselburgh and Tom Baumann as organizer and dispatcher, respectively. Baumann served two terms as recording secretary and one term as president, ending in 2006.

Frew spoke well of Nicol and Caster, the other candidates for busi-

ness manager, and lauded Nicol's work in the legislative arena.

Frew plans to focus on making sure IBEW members seize opportunities in green technology jobs. Local 280's training center has a strong program in solar, Frew said. The challenge will be to find work for union members in an industry that has tended to be nonunion.

Frew also wants to involve more young members, and expects to work with Local 280 President Drew Lindsey to appoint younger members to committees.

Lastly, Frew said the ideal of brotherhood is central to his vision for the local, and it's an ethic he wants to instill in members, for example, through team-building community efforts like Habitat for Humanity.

"Sometimes we forget about the brotherhood, our roots and where we came from, the oath we took," Frew said. "Even in these struggling times, if we stick together and rely on one another, unions will emerge stronger."

Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council wants NOAA facility relocated to Newport

Oregon on short-list for federal agency's Marine Operations Center

The Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council has endorsed relocating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Operations Center to the Port of Newport in Oregon's Lincoln County.

NOAA is considering leaving its current facility on Lake Union in Seattle after its lease expires in 2011. The move will relocate six research vessels and 75 administrative positions from Seattle to Newport.

Ed Hall, labor liaison to U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), told construction union leaders July 6 that all of Oregon's congressional delegation have signed on supporting the relocation to Oregon.

In addition to the permanent jobs, there will be a considerable amount of construction work, Hall said.

The Port of Newport owns five acres of land on which NOAA could construct new facilities.

Officials said the move would bring up to \$19 million in economic benefits to the Oregon Coast.

Three other ports are competing for the center, including Port Angeles, Bellingham and Lake Union, all in

Washington.

The building trades council is asking union leaders and rank-and-file workers in Oregon to send letters of support to NOAA, specifically to:

- Admiral Jonathan W. Bailey, director NOAA Corps, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 500, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

- James Barrows, contracting officer, Western Administration Support Center, Facilities and Logistics Division, 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E. Seattle, WA 98115-0070.

- Jane Lubchenco, undersecretary of commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 5128, Building HCHB, Washington, D.C., 20230-0001.

A decision from NOAA is expected by August.



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 Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice
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