

# Labor Day Picnics

Monday, Sept. 7, 2009

**Bend** — Labor Day Picnic at Pioneer Park in Bend. Noon – 5 p.m. Sponsored by the Central Oregon Central Labor Council. Contact Steve Williamsen at 541-647-2350 or Jerry Fletcher at 541-350-0265 for more information.

**Eugene/Springfield** — Labor Day Picnic at Jasper Park in Springfield/Pleasant Hill. 12 Noon. Sponsored by the Lane County Central Labor Council. Contact Pat Riggs-Henson at 541-914-6928 or Cj Mann at 541-913-0056 for more information.

**Medford** — Labor Day Picnic at TouVelle State Park in White City. 11 a.m. – to dusk. Sponsored by the Southern Oregon Central Labor Council. Call Kathy McUne at 541-664-0804 for more information.

**North Bend** — Labor Day Picnic at Ferry Road Park in North Bend. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sponsored by the Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council. Call Shawn Jennings at 541-396-3244 or e-mail at [shawngj@msn.com](mailto:shawngj@msn.com) for more information.

**Portland** — Labor Day Picnic at Oaks Amusement Park in Southeast Portland. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The Labor Council will sell food scrip for 25 cents each. Three scrip will get you a hot dog and chips, two scrip a soda pop, and six scrip a beer. A deluxe bracelet for carnival rides costs \$8.75. The ride bracelet also includes admission to the roller skating rink. Guest speakers from 1 to 2 p.m. and pro wrestling matches will be featured throughout the day. Sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. Call 503-235-9444 for more information or to order scrip.

**Salem** — Oregon State Fair. The Oregon AFL-CIO labor booth in the central canopy area continues to be staffed with union volunteers during the entire two weeks of the fair, including Labor Day.

# Court backs newspaper employees in e-mail case

By JAMES PARKS

It took nine years, but workers at the Eugene Register-Guard newspaper finally won the right to use company e-mail to discuss union business.

In a sharply worded ruling, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on July 7 overturned a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) decision that the company did not break federal labor laws in 2000, when management disciplined the president of The Newspaper Guild Local 37194 for using the company's e-mail system to send three e-mail messages about Guild business. The messages were sent after work hours.

Local 37194 is an affiliate of Communications Workers of America.

The Guild filed unfair labor practice charges, but the then Bush-dominated NLRB sided with the company regarding two of the e-mail messages. The appeals court overturned that ruling.

The company claimed that e-mail could only be used for business purposes, but the Guild showed that the company's e-mail system was

used by both employees and managers for a wide assortment of news — from baby shower invitations to requests for United Way volunteers.

The appellate judges had some sharp words for the Register-Guard's union-busting lawyer Michael Zinser. The decision characterized Zinser's arguments as "simply more distortion than the words can bear."

The judges also criticized the NLRB, saying its rationale smacked of "a post hoc invention."

Union President Bernie Lunzer applauded the ruling. "The court's decision made it clear that the company had discriminated based on union activity. I was at the Court of Appeals when Michael Zinser presented his case, and a jury of kindergarteners could have seen through it. He tried to argue that the union was a special case and could be barred from communicating by company e-mail, even though everyone else was allowed to use it freely."

*(Editor's Note: James Parks writes for the national AFL-CIO Now BlogNews.)*

**Largely because of rising costs, nearly 50 million people in the United States — including 8.7 million children — have no health coverage at all.**

**More than one-third of people who have insurance worry about losing it. Even union workers, who have led the way in securing health benefits for working people, are in danger of losing health coverage because of out-of-control costs.**

### And the CEOs Are Feeling No Pain

CEOs of health insurance and pharmaceutical companies sure can afford health insurance. The average 2006 compensation for health and disability insurance CEOs was \$8,747,914, and the average pharmaceutical CEO pulled down \$4,355,834. Those are obnoxious numbers, but some of the specifics will spin your head.

### Average Insurance and Pharmaceutical Company CEO Pay in 2006...

**HEALTH/DISABILITY INSURANCE CEOS**  
\$8.75 million

**PHARMACEUTICAL CEOS**  
\$4.36 million

### ...and Some VERY High Fliers

Aetna Inc. CEO Ronald Williams	\$32,158,245
Wellpoint Inc. CEO Larry Glasscock	\$19,146,675
CIGNA Corp. CEO H. Edward Hanway	\$15,857,323
Schering-Plough Corp. CEO Fred Hassan	\$25,620,197
Wyeth CEO Robert Essner	\$22,934,782
Abbott Laboratories CEO Miles White	\$22,493,447

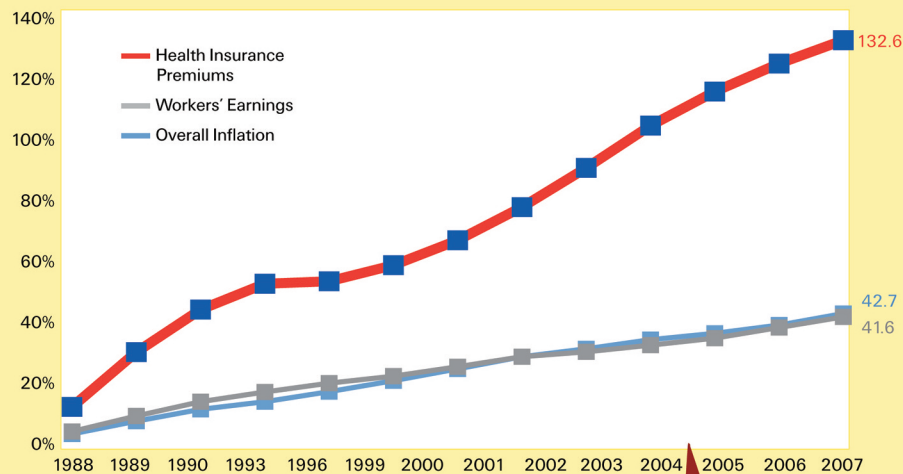
AFL-CIO totals based on data from The Corporate Library; see [www.paywatch.org](http://www.paywatch.org)



**Facts About America's Broken Health Care System, AFL-CIO**

## WHY IT HURTS: Health Premiums Rising 3 Times Faster Than Inflation and Wages

PERCENT INCREASE 1988-2007



Average total premium for family coverage  
Kaiser Family Foundation HRET Employer Health Benefits Surveys



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