



## 'STAR' painters and contractors

Seventy-eight union Painters (photo left) received \$500 bonus checks May 14 at a Safety Training Awards Recognition (STAR) banquet hosted by Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5 and the Signatory Painting Contractors Organization. The painting industry involves work with hazardous tools and material, oftentimes in extreme environmental conditions. Six years ago, the union and its signatory contractors included a provision in their collective bargaining agreement rewarding journey-level painters with cash bonuses if they completed six classes, plus an additional 24 hours of skill advancement training over a one-year period. Classes are held in the evenings and on weekends at the Painters Training Center in Northeast Portland. "You don't see this kind of commitment from the average worker. They're way ahead of their field," said John Kirkpatrick, chair of the labor-management health and safety committee. In 2009, only eight lost-time injuries were recorded on 898,474 hours of work.



Randy Cornelius (right), safety director for HCI Industrial and Marine Coatings, receives the 2010 Excellence in Safety Award from John Kirkpatrick, chair of the labor-management health and safety committee. It is the first time the committee has recognized a contractor for its commitment to providing and maintaining a safe workplace.

# Five unfair labor practice complaints filed against Portland French School

At a private school in Southwest Portland, pro-union teachers and support staff encountered a management backlash when they sought to join American Federation of Teachers (AFT)-Oregon.

Portland French School principal Elimane Mbengue told one teacher he would not renew her H-1B visa because of her support for the union, and told another she would not have her teaching contract renewed — according to allegations in five separate unfair labor practice charges filed by AFT-Oregon with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

To combat the union campaign, the school hired attorney Nelson Atkin, and held several workplace anti-union meetings. At one meeting, a board member at the non-profit school pleaded with teachers not to unionize, and then resigned. Parents were invited to campaign against the union.

AFT countered with a letter of support from a French teachers union, and gathered over 300 signatures on an electronic petition protesting the employer anti-union campaign.

The school, at 6318 SW Corbett, is a French language immersion academy that runs pre-K through middle school and is certified by the French educational ministry.

A union election was held April 16, but the results won't be known until the NLRB rules on three challenged ballots. Two separate tallies were taken: In the first, 26 teachers vote whether they want to be in the same bargaining unit with about 11 support staff; the second determines whether either or both groups want union representation. The first tally was 10-12 against a combined

bargaining unit, but three of those ballots were challenged.

A hearing is set for May 27-28, and AFT-Oregon Executive Director Richard Schwarz said he hopes to know

the results by mid-June.

"We believe the board will find merit to the unfair labor practice charges and issue complaints," Schwarz told the Labor Press.

## Local Motion

April 2010

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

Date	Name of employer	Name of union	Location	Results:	
				Union Yes	Union No
4/12	Fairview Transitional Health Center	Teamsters Local 962	Grants Pass	11	19
4/28	Coca-Cola Bottling Company (decertification)	Teamsters Local 670	Pendleton	4	14

### Requests for recognition election

Name of employer	Name of union	Location	Number of employees
Kaiser Permanente (decert) (outpatient schedulers)	Service Employees International Union Local 49	OR/SW Wash	78
First Student (decertification)	Oregon School Employees Association	Molalla	46
Safeway Clackamas Bakery	Bakers Local 114	Clackamas	13

## Election results too late for NWLP deadline

Oregon primary election night results were not available before this issue of the Northwest Labor Press went to press.

A full account of how organized labor fared on election night will be reported in the June 4 edition.



Sharon Maynard  
• Social Security Disability



Nelson Hall  
• Personal Injury  
• Workers Compensation

### Serious Injury and Death Cases

- Construction Injuries
- Automobile Accidents
- Medical, Dental and Legal Malpractice
- Workers' Compensation Injuries
- Social Security Claims



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