

Wyden talks jobs with labor folks

More than 70 union members met with U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) July 7 at a breakfast event sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

"It's all about the economy — getting people back to work," said Wyden, who is running for a third full term in the Senate.

Oregon's senior senator said he is working on legislation that will strip tax breaks for businesses that move jobs overseas and shift the incentive to help businesses that manufacture (and create jobs) in the United States. He promoted Build America Bonds, a program he helped establish that enables municipalities to attract new investors and finance critical infrastructure projects, and he voiced optimism for an Eastside Forestry bill that he said will create jobs, save old-growth trees, and provide logs and other forestry material to local mills.

"One of the things we do best (in Oregon) is we grow things," he said. "We ought to grow 'em, we ought to add value to 'em, and we ought to ship 'em somewhere — and that means jobs for your members," he said.

Wyden was concerned, though, that labor and Democrats "aren't pumped" and might sit out the November election. There is no secret that union members are frustrated with the Democratic-controlled Congress and the Obama Administration: for not passing its top bill — the Employee Free Choice Act — when it had a 60-vote supermajority; and for its inertia on a "jobs agenda" that protects and creates work in the public and private sectors and helps the long-term unemployed get through the Great Recession.

"People are very, very frustrated," Wyden said. "They thought more was going to get done more quickly. There are a lot of things, looking back, that



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (left) has an animated conversation with Scott Lucy (right), a business representative of Machinists District Lodge 24, and Musicians Local 99 President Bruce Fife.

should have been done differently. I don't dispute that for a second."

Though there is plenty of blame to go around, Wyden said there simply aren't enough votes to move a progressive agenda quickly, noting Republican abuses in Senate procedures, including the filibuster.

"The single biggest concern I have," Wyden said, "is that big abuses can be done in secret. It's one thing to have the guts to stand up on the floor and to say 'I don't want so-and-so,' and have a vote. It's another thing to

do it in secret." Wyden is pursuing a bill that would bar anyone from doing public business in secret. "They ought to have to go out on the floor and identify themselves," he said.

Wyden worried that if union members don't vote in November, the Bush agenda will resurface.

"Are we going to have even close to the numbers that we need for progressive legislation after this election?" he asked. "One of the things this election is going to be about, is not turning back the clock."

Summer School offers union members opportunity to learn

EUGENE — The 2010 Oregon AFL-CIO Summer School, which will occur Friday through Sunday, Aug. 6-8, at the University of Oregon campus, is an opportunity for union activists and member leaders to network with fellow unionists, improve their skills, and renew their commitment to building a stronger and more effective union movement.

Coordinated by the Labor Education and Research Center, the school will feature a Friday night talk by AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain on "Jobs for All" and a series of classes and workshops on Saturday and Sunday morning. Topics to be covered include political action efforts by unions, effective communications for union leaders, developing strategies to make local unions stronger and more effective organizations, bridging generational differences among union members, and building more inclusive unions.

Participants will also have the opportunity to mingle with legislators during Saturday's "Solidarity Picnic," view labor-related films, or kick up their heels during the "Dancing with Your Union All-Stars" event on Saturday evening. The event will climax with a ceremony honoring graduates of LERC's U-LEAD program on Sunday morning.

"Summer School is a great opportunity for both newer activists and veteran leaders to learn from each other and gain insights from the top-notch instructors who teach our classes and workshops," said LERC Director Bob Bussel. "We guarantee participants a memorable experience that will better prepare them to meet the challenges of leadership during hard times."

For more information, contact LERC at 541 346-5054 or visit the LERC web site at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~lerc/>.

Building Trades to host labor night with Portland Beavers

Building Trades Night with the Portland Beavers will be held Thursday, Aug. 19, at PGE Park.

Infield reserve tickets are only \$12. A block of 100 tickets have been re-

served for union members and their families. Gates open at 6 p.m. with the first pitch at 7:05 p.m.

The Beavers are hosting Round Rock Express.

To order your tickets, contact Brian Pollard at 503-553-5441 or bpollard@pgepark.com and be sure to mention you are with the building trades event. Deadline to order tickets is Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 5 p.m.



(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)
Established in 1900 at Portland, Oregon as a voice of the labor movement.

4275 NE Halsey St., P.O. Box 13150,
Portland, Ore. 97213
Telephone: (503) 288-3311

Editor: Michael Gutwig

Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice
Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co. Inc., a non-profit corporation owned by 20 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 120 union organizations in Oregon and SW Washington. Subscriptions \$13.75 per year for union members.

Group rates available to trade union organizations.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT PORTLAND, OREGON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE: Three weeks are required for a change of address. When ordering a change, please give your old and new addresses and the name and number of your local union.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS, P.O. BOX 13150,
PORTLAND, OR 97213-0150



25

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family

IBEW & UNITED WORKERS FCU

PROUDLY SERVING UNION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1954.

Partnership has its advantages.....

.....like low fixed rate visa cards.

Platinum, Classic or Share Secured

Visa Credit Cards

Straight forward and affordable!

- No Balance Transfer Fee
- No Annual Fee

- No Overlimit Fee
- Verified by Visa Participant

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family