

AFL-CIO youth group gets official start

Close to 40 active members from at least 13 union locals met Aug. 28 in Portland, and not one of them was over 40 years of age.

The occasion was the inaugural meeting of Young Emerging Labor Leaders (YELL), a new youth caucus within the Oregon AFL-CIO.

Six participants vied for election to a specially set-aside seat on the Oregon AFL-CIO General Board, and after a candidates' forum moderated by former U.S. Senate candidate Steve Novick, at-



NICK GAITAUD

tendees elected Nick Gaitaud, 31, of United Steelworkers Local 7150 to the position.

Gaitaud is a millwright at the ATI Wah Chang titanium foundry commonly known as Oremet. He's a 10-year member and former treasurer of the 160-member Local 7150. Gaitaud campaigned on the idea that union responsibilities should be broadly shared, so that more members can take part in the work of the union.

YELL's next meeting, open to any interested union member, will be Friday, Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. at Calapooia Brewing Company in Albany. The band Peculiar Pretzelman will play at 8 p.m.

UFCW racks up a big win at large Connecticut casino

MESHANTUCKET, Conn. (PAI) — By a 190-145 margin, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 371 won a July 30 election to represent bartenders, beverage servers, and other workers at the Foxwoods Resort Casino here, the National Labor Relations Board said. The unit has 400 members.

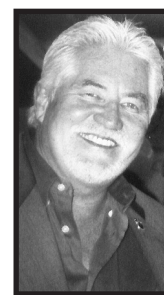
The Native American tribe that owns the casino is arguing that tribal labor law should govern the operation. That law is more restrictive than the already weak National Labor Relations Act.

The United Auto Workers prevailed in its organizing campaign to represent 3,000 dealers at the casino.

UFCW officials are confident they will prevail and will be negotiating a contract with Foxwoods.

IN MEMORIAM

JIM FOX, a long-time union representative from Portland, passed away Sept. 7 from congestive heart failure. He was 62 years old.



JAMES DWAIN FOX was born in Vanport, Oregon, on Nov. 6, 1947 to Dwaine and Betty Lou Fox.

A graduate of Roosevelt High School in 1965, Fox joined the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served as a rifleman and radio operator in Vietnam from 1967-1968. During his time in the war he received two Purple Hearts and several unit citations.

Fox returned to Portland and earned a degree in business administration, along with an associate's degree in legal assistance.

He spent the next 30 years bettering the lives of working people.

His first job was as a legal assistant tracking and collecting delinquent pension fund contributions. In 1981, he was hired by Executive Secretary-Treasurer Robert Bothwell of the Oregon State District Council of Carpenters as an executive assistant. In that capacity, Fox helped establish and promote a Carpenters' organizing program, a market recovery program, and a statewide labor-management committee program that involved all construction unions.

He served as chief negotiator for the Metal Trades Council of Portland and Vicinity, bargaining agreements with the Port of Portland and Portland Ship Repair Yard.

In 1997, following a merger of the Carpenters Council, Fox went to work as a business agent for Teamsters Local 305, negotiating contracts at Albertsons, Frito Lay, and other major corporations.

Fox suffered cardiac arrest in May 2009, which forced him to retire. Despite having a defibrillator implanted in his chest, he was able to return to an active life of golf, travel, boating, enjoying his grandsons, and rooting for the Oregon Ducks football team.

Fox is survived by his wife, Lauren (Laurie); daughter, Kori Fox (Reaves); two grandsons, Mackinley and Grayson; brother, Raymond; and sister Lisa.

His brothers and sisters in the labor movement are too numerous to list.

A military service was held Sept. 14 at Willamette National Cemetery.

BOB SPICHER, a retired union representative of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, died Aug. 27 of a heart attack brought on by diabetes. He was 58. He was vacationing in Lincoln City at the time.

ROBERT JONATHAN SPICHER, SR., was born on Feb. 14, 1952, and raised along with four brothers in Portland. He graduated from David Douglas High School in 1970 and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 to 1975.



He worked as a clerk at Fred Meyer starting in 1977. He was active in the union and in 1991 was hired by Local 555 as a union representative. He retired from that job in February 2007.

Throughout his career, Spicher was active in politics, serving as a Democratic Party precinct committee person in Clackamas County, as vice chair of the Clackamas County Central Democratic Committee, and as an elected delegate to the 1984 Democratic National Convention.

He was an active volunteer in Oregon for the Clinton/Gore campaigns in 1992 and 1996.

Spicher was a member of the Southgate Masonic Lodge, Gateway Elks Lodge, and the Scottish Rite.

After retiring, Spicher joined the PDX Police Volunteer Parking Enforcement, monitoring and ticketing handicapped parking violators. He also volunteered at the Pittock Mansion and recently joined its board of directors.

Spicher is survived by his wife Mary; son, Robert Jr.; daughter Chrissy Verpoorten; and a grandson.

He was cremated and buried at Lincoln National Cemetery in a private ceremony.

A service was held on Patriot Day, Sept. 11, at the Teamsters' Joe Edgar Hall in Northeast Portland.

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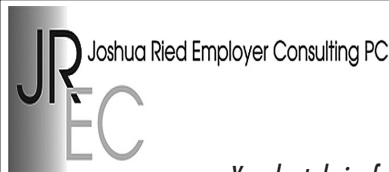
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