

Another big vote: Ballots out to elect WSLC officers

SEATTLE — Ballots are out in the election for new officers and Executive Board members of the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), AFL-CIO.

This election is different than past ones because longtime incumbent President Rick Bender and Secretary-Treasurer Al Link are retiring and won't be on the ballot.

Jeff Johnson has been nominated for president, and is running unopposed. Johnson, a member of the Washington Federation of State Employees Local 443 and Office and Professional Employees (OPEIU) Local 8, is special assistant to the president at the state labor federation.

Two people are vying for secretary-treasurer — Lynne Dodson and Karen White. Dodson is a member of American Federation of Teachers/Community Colleges Local 1789, and White is with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 77 and OPEIU Local 8.

Four candidates were nominated to fill three spots as vice president in the Third District (which covers Southwest Washington). Candidates are Bob Guenther of IBEW Local 77; Karen Stites of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1765; Tim Pfeifer of the Association of Western Pulp & Paper Workers Local 580; and Shannon Walker of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555.

In balloting for leaders of constituency groups, Art Boulton of Machinists Lodge 79 and Robby Stern of the Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans are running for the top spot at the Alliance for Retired Americans. It is the only contested race among constituency groups.

Candidates for WSLC president and secretary-treasurer must receive 10

nominations from affiliated unions, and candidates for vice president must receive five nominations in order to appear on the election ballot.

More than 500 local unions are affiliated with the WSLC, representing approximately 400,000 rank-and-file union members working in the state.

Ballots were mailed to affiliates Oct. 20 and must be filled out and returned to the WSLC by Dec. 6. Ballots will be counted Dec. 9, and the WSLC will report the results Dec. 10.

New officers will serve four-year terms that begin on Jan. 5, 2011.

Jensen, Held named to prevailing wage committee

Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian has appointed three new members to the Prevailing Wage Advisory Committee — two from organized labor and one from management.

The appointments are:

- Kevin Jensen, business manager of Iron Workers Local 29;
- Greg Held, business manager of the Oregon and Southern Idaho District Council of the Laborers Union; and
- Dee Burch, president of Advanced American Construction, Inc.

One of the appointments replaced Pete Savage of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, whose term expired Nov. 1. The other two appointments were newly created positions. Oregon law doesn't say how many members the committee must have, just that there be an equal number of management and labor representatives.

The committee is charged with helping the labor commissioner administer prevailing wage laws that apply to public construction projects.



New journey-level Painters and Tapers

A dozen painters and tapers graduated from the Painter/Decorator and Drywall Finisher Apprenticeship Program last month. Graduates received plaques and Carhartt jackets at a dinner in their honor Oct. 14 attended by union officials and contractors of the Signatory Painting Contractors Organization. One new journeyman, Sergio Gonzales, received \$500 for having perfect attendance at all classes. New journeymen and women are: Top row, left to right: David Taylor, Stephen Miller, Alex Schon, Jacob Adams, Stephanie Halferty, and Carrie Jossy-Christian. Seated from left to right: Mengiste Mengiste, Johnny Criss-Lawson, Brian Malkson, Erik Fadling, Chris McEnaney, and Raymond VanSlyke. Not present were Damon Keene, Anatoliy Paliakov, Francisco Ibanez, Brandon Hardy, and Pam Grater. Miller, Shon, Mengiste, Ibanez, Hardy, and Grater are tapers, and all but Miller are members of Portland-based Local 10. Miller is a member of Local 724 in Salem.

'Holiday Party' Dec. 4 in Salem

SALEM —The 70th annual "Holiday Party for Children" will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE, Salem.

The free event, sponsored by the Marion, Polk, Yamhill Counties Labor Council, will feature holiday songs by Patrick Lamb, a showing of the movie How to Train Your Dragon, a visit from Santa Claus, and a free goody bag. Lamb is a popular musician in Oregon and is a member of Musicians Local 99.

Doors open at 9:45 a.m.



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