



Local Motion

October 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	
10/18	Fred Meyer (decertification)	UFCW Local 555	Coos Bay	46	13	
10/21	National Car Rental/Alamo (decertification)	Teamsters Local 305	Bend	39	18	

Recognition by card check

Date	Name of employer	Name of union	Location	Number of employees
10/25	City of Cottage Grove (law enforcement officers)	Laborers Local 121	Cottage Grove	13

Requests for recognition election

Date	Name of employer	Name of union	Location	Number of employees
	City of Newport (Public Works Department)		Newport	
	Newport Employees Assn. vs AFSCME Council 75			20
	Free Geek		Portland	
	Communications Workers of America Local 7901			18
	Baycrest Village (registered nurses and LPNs)		North Bend	
	Teamsters Local 206			15
	Knife River LTM (decertification)		Central Point	
	Teamsters Local 962			31

Delta flight attendants say no to union

In votes counted Nov. 3, Delta Air Lines flight attendants chose not to be represented by Association of Flight Attendants (AFA-CWA). That means Delta will remain the least-unionized among top U.S. airlines. While 8,778 Delta flight attendants voted for AFA-CWA, 9,544 voted for “no representation.” Turnout was very high, with more than 94 percent of 19,887 eligible workers casting a ballot.

“Delta management overwhelmed flight attendants with heavy handed intimidation and coercion of voters,” said AFA-CWA President Patricia Friend in a press statement.

It was Delta flight attendants’ third

unionization vote in a decade, and union campaigners should have had an easier time. A federal agency rule change ended the practice of counting non-voting workers as “no” votes. And Delta absorbed 7,500 unionized Northwest Airlines flight attendants when the two companies merged in 2008.

The vote result will mean an end to a union contract for the former Northwest flight attendants, a group that had been union for 63 years. Though Delta won’t legally have to recognize a union or bargain, Friend said AFA-CWA will do everything it can to continue to fight on behalf of the Northwest flight attendants.

AFA-CWA said it would file a series of objections with the National Mediation Board (NMB), including charges accusing Delta management of using illegal and unfair methods to sway the vote. NMB oversees workers’ union rights in the railroad and airline industries.

Still to come were election results for three other groups of Delta workers who are deciding whether to be represented by International Association of Machinists (IAM). About 14,000 Delta baggage handlers — including 4,700 formerly at Northwest — will decide in ballots tallied Nov. 18, after this issue went to press.

Then 700 Delta “stock and stores” workers will have their ballots counted Nov. 22. And 16,000 passenger service workers will decide in ballots counted Dec. 7.

Free Geek employees vote to join Portland CWA Local 7901

A group of 19 workers at the celebrated local non-profit Free Geek have unionized with Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7901. The Portland group accepts used computers and electronics, recycles or refurbishes them, and donates them to low-income people in exchange for community service.

Begun in 2000, Free Geek prides itself on an unusual form of management, in which all major decisions are made by democratic consensus, by 11 employees who are members of a “collective.” But as the group grew, a sub-caste developed of lower-paid employees who weren’t in the collective.

Earlier this year, they revolted, issuing a manifesto this summer — and last month filing a representation petition with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). In an NLRB-supervised election Nov. 3, the workers voted 12-2 to join CWA.

Although non-collective staff make several dollars an hour less than members of the collective, pay isn’t what drove unionization, said Local 7901 President Madelyn Elder.

“It’s about respect,” Elder said. Workers want more regular workplace practices and a clearer path to advancement. Now, Elder said, they’ll have a chance to negotiate that.

‘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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