



Laborers Local 483 Business Manager Richard Beetle presents check for \$600 to Vickie Burns, executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency.

## Laborers #483 donates to LCSA

Laborers Local 483 donated \$600 to Labor's Community Service Agency, whose Helping Hands program provides short-term assistance to the jobless. The union collected the money through an incentive program it has to get members to attend monthly union meetings. If a member's name is called at the meeting and that member is present, they win the cash. If not, the money is carried over to the next meeting. The kitty was at \$600 at the end of 2010. "We talked about what to do with the money and decided to donate it to Labor's Community Service Agency," said Local 483 Business Manager Richard Beetle. "There are a lot of people unemployed. This donation will only do a small part to help the jobless. It's not enough."

Beetle would like to see Congress quickly pass a jobs program. "High unemployment is a crisis for working families," he said. "We bailed out Wall Street; where are the jobs for Main Street? Tax money must be used to stabilize the economy."

Beetle encourages all union members, their families and friends, and the unemployed to attend a "Jobs Rally" at the front steps of the Oregon State Capitol at noon, Monday, March 7, sponsored by the Oregon AFL-CIO. Buses and carpools will be available from several locations. For more information, contact Chris Hewitt at 503-287-3114 or by e-mail at [chris@oraficio.org](mailto:chris@oraficio.org).

## Obama names Trumka, UFCW's Hansen to new jobs council

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Obama named national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and United Food and Commercial Workers Union International President Joe Hansen to his Council on Jobs and Competitiveness. The panel was created in January to focus on lifting hiring and promoting growth.

The Council is chaired by Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric. Among others named to the 22-member committee were Paul Otellini, CEO of Intel; Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg; AOL founder Steve Case; and

Comcast chief executive Brian Roberts. In his State of the Union address, Obama discussed the need to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build global competitors in order to win the future. The President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness is charged with carrying out those goals by finding new ways to promote growth through investments in American business to equip workers with the skills they need to succeed, encourage the private sector to hire and invest in American competitiveness, and attract top jobs and businesses in the United States.

## Sweeney gets Medal of Freedom

Retired AFL-CIO President John Sweeney received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, at a White House ceremony Feb. 15.

Sweeney was honored along with 14 other Americans that included former President George H.W. Bush; baseball Hall-of-Famer Stan Musial; author and poet Maya Angelou; civil rights icon

John Lewis; and billionaire investor Warren Buffett.

Prior unionists who received the medal include the late longtime labor lobbyist Evelyn Dubrow and the late political cartoonist Herbert Block of The Newspaper Guild. Both received the honors from President Bill Clinton.

Sweeney served as president of the national AFL-CIO from 1995-2009.

## Union sponsors sought for kids' fishing event

The 12th annual Kline Kids Fish-In will be held Saturday, April 9, at Kline Pond, located at Salmon Creek Park in Vancouver.

More than 1,500 children ages five to 14 are expected to attend. Cost is \$5 and each child will receive a Zebco rod and reel.

The program is presented by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and Kline Kids Fishing, a partner with the non-profit Go-Play Outside Alliance of Washington.

In the past, this and other similar fishing events throughout Washington have been subsidized by the State of

Washington, but with budgets stretched thin, financial assistance has been cut off.

Roben White of Painters Local 10 is asking unions to step up as sponsors to help fill the budget gap. A donation of \$250 will get your union logo on T-shirts that are given to each child, and provide space to hang your union banner at Kline Pond the day of the event.

"We need young people to replace us in the labor force. We need to teach the children about natural resources so we have good enough quality and access to those resources," White said. "Seeing

and being guided by members of labor at these events is an imperative for both, and one hell of a bang for the buck."

Unions have been involved in the event for many years, both with financial assistance and as volunteers. Last year, for instance, a dozen members of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16's Volunteer Outreach Committee spent the day at the pond helping kids fish.

Donations should be made to Kline Kids Fishing. A deadline of March 15 has been set in order to have your logo printed on T-shirts.

For more information, contact White at 360-608-8537.

## Effort to defund NLRB fails 250-176

The U.S. House defeated an amendment Feb. 17 that would have defunded the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the agency that oversees and rules on labor-management relations for most U.S. industries and workers.

The proposed amendment to H.R. 1, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, would have set a funding level for the NLRB that was so draconian it would have defunded the agency completely through the end of the fiscal year in September.

The vote was 250-176 to reject the amendment.

Every one of the 190 Democrats voting opposed it. Republicans voted 176-60 to kill the NLRB. Among Republicans voting against the amendment were Greg Walden in Oregon's 2nd

District and Jaime Herrera Beutler in Washington's 3rd District.

The amendment was introduced by Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.), chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee. Price charged the "out-of-control" NLRB with "rigging the deck" for unions and workers. A portion of the amendment read: "... the blatant shilling the current NLRB is doing at the behest of union bosses, a defunding of this union-corrupted agency would be a welcome step to making it easier for America's job creators to create jobs."

The brief debate the day before the vote roused the minority Democrats to defend the NLRB against the onslaught.

"This creates chaos and denies people rights, be they employers or employees, be they pro-union or anti-union,

whatever it is," said Rep. George Miller, (D-Calif.), top Democrat on the House Education and Workforce Committee.

Had Price's amendment passed, Miller added, workers who are "fired every day for simply suggesting ... they would like to have a union" would be left "without a job and (with) no right of action to find out whether they were wrongfully fired."

Defunding the NLRB was just one of the provisions in the Republican federal budget proposal. It also attacked the middle class by taking away job safety protections, employment training opportunities, and slashed hundreds of thousands of family-supporting jobs.

AFL-CIO Legislative Director Bill Samuel described it as an "all-out assault against middle-class Americans."

### Labor Union Hearing Instrument Benefits Offered

According to The Better Hearing Institute, the #1 reason for hearing loss today is...NOISE EXPOSURE. In most cases it only takes 8 total hours of damaging noise exposure to cause hearing loss.

Willoughby Hearing Aid Centers was founded in 1949 in Oregon.

Willoughby Hearing wants union members to know we support America first. In fact, we work exclusively with the ONLY major manufacturer that is American Owned & Operated.

Willoughby has special programs just for union members that provide exclusive price discounts, unlimited service and complete warranty coverage for up to 3 years.

Willoughby's licensed hearing professionals conduct comprehensive hearing evaluations at no charge (or obligations) to union members and their families. If you or a loved one are challenged by hearing loss, please contact us to schedule an appointment for a free comprehensive evaluation with no obligation. Make sure to mention your Union affiliation when you call.

Call 1-877-W-I-L-L-H-E-A-R or visit [www.willhear.com](http://www.willhear.com) for locations nearest you.

