

# Oregon Legislature passes unemployment extension

SALEM — Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber signed two bills March 24 that will extend unemployment benefits to Oregonians still looking for work.

Senate Bill 637 passed unanimously in both the House and Senate. It allows Oregon to use \$225 million in federal funds to extend unemployment benefits for 20 weeks. Nearly 50,000 Oregonians will be eligible to receive the additional benefits by the end of the year.

SB 638 passed the Democratic-controlled Senate 26-4 and the evenly split House (30 Democrats and 30 Republicans) by a 49-9 margin. The bill taps \$26 million from the State Unemployment Trust Fund to extend benefits for six additional weeks. This money will go to an estimated 17,500 Oregon workers whose benefits would otherwise expire this month.

Both bills were supported by organized labor.

State Rep. Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie), a union representative of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, gave an impassioned speech on the House Floor in favor of the bills.

Witt said he was moved to speak after remarks from opponents of the bill who questioned the willingness and

ability of unemployed Oregonians to find work, stated that many lack the skills necessary to earn a job, referred to unemployment checks as handouts and speculated that some recipients of unemployment benefits are drug users.

“I represent a district which is by-and-large rural and working class in nature,” Witt said. “The people who live there define themselves as individuals, define their own personal dignity and define their family heritage as workers and working class. If there was work to be had, they would be doing that.”

“It is not a matter of not wanting to work,” Witt continued. “There is simply not enough work for those who want it. That is why we have an unemployment system, and I am grateful for those of you who support it.”

Last month, 9,800 private sector jobs were added to the Oregon economy, but the unemployment rate still lingers above 10 percent statewide, and in the high teens in many rural counties.

“Although we are on the path to economic recovery, there are thousands of Oregonians who are still struggling,” Kitzhaber said. “Extending unemployment benefits is a lifeline to people in need right now.”

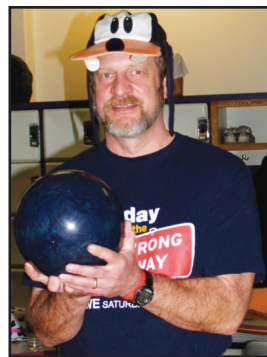
# Unions raise \$15,995 for MDA

All tallies are in, and union members collected a whopping \$15,995 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association at the 22nd annual Labor Bowl Challenge. Since the event's inception in 1989, union members have donated \$327,823.75 to MDA.

Money is raised through pledges and from a silent auction and goes to buy wheelchairs and braces for children, as well as for research and summer camps. Muscular dystrophy is a hereditary condition marked by a progressive weakening and wasting of the muscles over time.

This year's event on Sunday, March 13, was “Funky Hat” bowl. A record 123 bowlers — many wearing crazy looking hats — helped form 25 teams.

The top individual fundraiser was Cal Eddy, a retiree from Portland Firefighters Local 43, with \$1,000.



**Bruce Menzies of NALC Branch 82 gets ready to bowl. This year's theme was funky hats.**

NALC Branch 82 topped all unions in money raised, with various stations contributing a total of \$6,461.

This year's auction took in \$1,833.

Kurt Millsbaugh of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8 captured high bowling series, with a 190 average.

Also participating in the event were Bricklayers Local 1, Machinists Lodges 63 and 1432, Bakers Local 114, the District Council of Laborers, and NW Priority Credit Union.



**(ABOVE) Oregon MDA ambassador Quinnelle Flanagan gets a bowling tip from Katie Raabe and Sean Fogarty of Fire Fighters Local 43. (BELOW) Flanagan and Fogarty celebrate a spare.**



# Donations accepted for Workers' Memorial Scholarship fund

Each year, children in Oregon must cope with a parent being taken from their lives through a workplace death. The loss can have a profound effect on a family's ability to finance higher education.

The Workers' Memorial Scholarship fund was established by the 1991 Legislature at the request of the Oregon AFL-CIO to help surviving family members reach their educational goals.

Private donations to the fund can be accepted, but are not solicited by Oregon OSHA. Please make checks payable to “DCBS Workers' Memorial Scholarship Account” and mail your donation to Oregon OSHA, c/o Melanie Mesaros, P.O. Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309.



**TEETH LIKE A SWEET DEAL.**

Members save 40% or more on their first dental visit.<sup>1</sup>

- Full service dentistry for members and their families
- Financing available
  - Minimum \$500 in financing with no credit check<sup>2</sup>
  - Flexible payment plans, including interest-free<sup>2</sup> or \$0 down<sup>3</sup>
- Same-day emergency appointments
- Convenient extended and Saturday hours

1-866-850-BRIGHT  
(1-866-850-2744)  
www.brightnow.com

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR MEMBERS<sup>4</sup>

**\$100.00** (value)

**Special offer Coupon**  
for members *with* benefits

**\$200.00** (value)

**Special offer Coupon**  
for members *without* benefits

**Bright Now! Dental**  
Smiles for Everyone.®

<sup>1</sup>Savings based on regular price. <sup>2</sup>\$500 financing and interest-free payment plans require valid photo ID and a checking account or credit card. <sup>3</sup>\$0 down payment plans available on approved credit. <sup>4</sup>Limit one offer per person. Cannot be combined with other offers and not valid on diagnostic and preventive services. Not redeemable for cash or credit. To be used for dental services only. May not be used towards existing balances. Offer coordinated with insurance, is subject to change, and expires on 12/31/11. Must bring coupon at time of appointment to redeem. © 2011 Smile Brands Inc. All rights reserved. Northwest Dental Associates, P.C. and Stirewalt, P.C.



**Quest Investment Management, Inc.**

**• Serving Multi-Employer Trusts for over 25 Years**

Cam Johnson  
Garth Nisbet  
Doug Goebel

Greg Sherwood  
Monte Johnson  
Adrian Hamilton

One SW Columbia St., Suite 1100 Portland, OR 97258  
503-221-0158

www.QuestInvestment.com