

Inside

Workers Memorial Day  
Edition

See  
Page 6



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## Thousands gather in Pacific Northwest for 'We Are One' rallies and to honor Dr. King

Plans to sharply curtail collective bargaining for public employees have generated a political backlash as hundreds of thousands of working people massed in more than 1,000 cities April 2-8 to rally, leaflet, and march for workers' rights. Most of the events took place April 4 in commemoration of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., who was killed 43 years ago while supporting striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee. Union workers are tired of being scapegoats for the dismal state of the economy while Wall Street executives, bankers and their corporate allies — the ones who actually caused the financial crisis — go unscathed, raking in billions in profits and bonuses. Many of the GOP politicians elected last November were supported financially by the super rich, and union officials are convinced their agenda is to bust all unions. At rallies in downtown Portland April 4 (top left) and in Blaine, Washington April 2 (top center), Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain said union members today are

walking the same path that Dr. King and Rosa Parks walked decades ago when they fought for civil rights. Nearly 1,000 people attended the Portland event, while an estimated 2,000 gathered at Peace Arch State Park at the U.S.-Canadian border for an international solidarity rally. One of the largest turnouts in the country was April 8 in Olympia, where some 10,000 union members flooded the steps of the State Capitol to urge lawmakers to close tax loopholes instead of cutting back on public services (photo right). A keynote speaker was Wisconsin Democratic state Sen. Spencer Coggs, one of the "Wisconsin 14" who left the state to try to slow Gov. Scott Walker's move to gut collective bargaining rights for public-sector workers. The day before, 17 protesters from SEIU Healthcare were arrested after trying to get into Gov. Chris Gregoire's office to protest her proposed budget cuts. (Photos by Michael Gutwig, Tom Traphagen, and David Groves.)

## Dosha salon employees join Communications Workers #7901

Dosha Salon and Spa has become the first local business of its kind to unionize. In ballots counted March 30, hair stylists, massage therapists, nail and makeup specialists and other workers at the company's four locations voted 79 to 66 to be represented by Portland-based Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7901.

Later that night, union supporters celebrated at a downtown Portland

restaurant. Winning the union election is the first hurdle. Now employees prepare to bargain a first-ever contract with their employer.

At their first official union meeting that Sunday, about a quarter of Dosha's union-eligible workforce turned out, several with small children. Some in attendance had voted against unionizing. But union supporters have been reaching out, hoping the 66 co-workers who

voted "no" will participate in the contract bargaining process. Meetings like this may dispel some of their fears about unionizing — like the idea that a union would be an outside party imposing terms on workers. The lively discussion by Dosha employees of what bargaining proposals to consider made it clear the campaign didn't belong to Local 7901 President Madelyn Elder or organizer Joe Crane, but to the

Dosha workers themselves.

Judging by the issues they raised, they won't be asking for the moon. Guaranteed pension? Fully-paid full-family health care? No, Dosha workers

expressed more modest aims, like direct deposit of their paycheck and an end to having to pay \$150 for their own training on Aveda products. [Dosha co-

(Turn to Page 8)



Outside the National Labor Relations Board office March 30, Dosha employees celebrate the news that their union is supported by a majority of their co-workers. In the center is CWA organizer Joe Crane.

## Unions to remember fallen workers April 28

SALEM — The Oregon AFL-CIO will hold a memorial service at the Fallen Workers Memorial at noon Thursday, April 28 — Workers Memorial Day. The Fallen Workers Memorial is located on the Capitol Mall near the main entrance of the Labor and Industries Building, 350 Winter St. NE.

Secretary of State Kate Brown and State Treasurer Ted Wheeler will read the names of the 39 Oregon workers who died on the job in 2010, as well as the seven Oregon soldiers killed in military duty last year. (A list of names ap-

pears on Page 6 of this issue.)

Michael Wood, administrator of the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration, will be the keynote speaker, and a proclamation will be read from the governor's office declaring April 28 as Workers Memorial Day.

The Oregon AFL-CIO also is asking union members to make arrangements with their employers to observe a moment of silence that day.

On Monday, April 25, the Northwest Oregon Labor Council will hold a memorial service at its monthly dele-

gates' meeting. The service will include a presentation of colors by the Oregon Military Funeral Honors Program. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Workers Memorial Day was enacted by the AFL-CIO in 1989 to remember those killed or injured on the job. April 28 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the day of a similar remembrance in Canada.