



Thompson steps down from Roofers #49

Roofers and Waterproofers Local 49 threw a farewell party for Business Manager Michael Thompson (center) on April 8. Sharing a story with him in the photo above is Roy Bolt (left), a retired apprenticeship coordinator, and Loren Mounce, president of Arrow Roofing and Sheet Metal. Thompson, who is recovering from a bout with cancer, said the overall wear and tear of the job has taken its toll after 15 years in the union's top post. "It's time to go," he said. Thompson has one year remaining in his term of office. The Local's Executive Board appointed Russ Garnett interim business manager until an election can be held in June. Thompson, 52, is a 34-year member of the union. As business manager he helped grow the local from 267 members that met in a small one-room house to a 600-member local with a large union hall and training center. He is leaving with bargaining completed on a new contract. Members will vote on the pact in May. "Mike left us in a good position," said Garnett, who has served Local 49 as president, vice president, and Executive Board member. Thompson will return to the trade and remain a member of the union.

Judge rules against Sizemore in his suit against unions for calling him a racketeer

SALEM — A Marion County circuit court judge has ruled against anti-union ballot measure sponsor Bill Sizemore in a lawsuit he filed against multiple groups and individuals for calling him a "racketeer."

Sizemore sued American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, Service Employees International Union, Our Oregon, the Medford Mail Tribune, The Skanner News-

paper, Arthur Towers, Scott Moore, Kevin Looper, and other groups and individuals — for referring to him as "convicted racketeer Bill Sizemore," or other versions of that phrase. The suit was filed under the Oregon Corrupt Practices Act, which makes it illegal to publish false statements about candidates or political committees.

Basically, Sizemore's argument was that his groups were convicted of racketeering, not he himself, and therefore, calling him a racketeer was false. In 2002, a Multnomah County jury found

that two groups headed by Sizemore had demonstrated a pattern of fraud and forgery, and therefore were in violation of Oregon's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations law.

But Judge Joseph Guimond didn't buy that argument. "The court finds that it could be reasonably inferred that Bill Sizemore was a 'convicted racketeer,'" Guimond wrote in a March 18 ruling, "as he was the executive director of the political action committees that were found liable for fraud, forgery, and racketeering."

NECA/IBEW #48 certifies over 3,000 in OSHA training

With upcoming work at Intel as the latest push, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48 and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) have recently reached over 3,000 members who have taken the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) outreach training.

To date, 2,503 Local 48 electricians have taken OSHA 10 training, which is a specialized 10-hour course developed to provide workers, supervisors and others construction personnel with an awareness of construction safety and health concerns in the construction industry on a wide variety of topics.

A total of 712 electricians have taken OSHA 30 training, a specialized 30-hour training geared towards supervisors, project managers, owners and safety managers. Trainees use OSHA regulations to find and decipher the actual legal responsibility that employers have as it applies to the topics covered in the OSHA 10 training, along with additional safety topics.

"Our state-of-the-art training center and expert instructors make certain that safety is first and foremost on everyone's mind," said Local 48 Business Manager Cliff Davis.

"NECA and IBEW realizes that our work involves many regulatory facets and it's in everyone's best interests for each person to be on the same page when it comes to safety, regardless of whether someone is an apprentice, journeyman or a supervisor," said Tim Gauthier, now in his 30th year as NECA chapter executive manager.

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Unemployed? Group offers assistance

Unemployed? Underemployed? "Oregon Wants to Work" is ready to learn what you need. This new group, sponsored by local labor organizations, meets monthly to bring resources and information to unemployed Oregonians in the Portland area. At each meeting, participants offer up suggestions for what they'd like to see next time.

This month the group is bringing in human resources professionals to give insider tips on what employers look for in job applicants, and to help prepare

for even the hardest interview questions.

In past months, experts on tax-aid, résumé building, and navigating the unemployment insurance system have been on hand to answer questions and share tips.

Meetings are held at the PCC Workforce Training Center, 5600 NE 42nd Ave. (off Killingsworth), at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting is April 20. Dinner is provided and professional childcare is available.