

# NALC food drive totals nearly 1.4 million pounds in Oregon and SW Washington

Despite lingering effects of an economic recession, residents of Oregon and Clark County, Wash., donated 1,388,904 pounds of food this year at the 19th annual Letter Carriers National "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive.

The national event — the largest one-day effort to combat hunger in the country — was held May 14. National totals were not available at press time. However, over the last 18 years the Letter Carriers have collected more than 1 billion pounds of food.

This year in the Portland metropolitan area, members of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 82 collected 383,850 pounds of food. When including Washington and Clark counties, the total increases to 557,513.

Letter Carriers in Clark County are represented by NALC Branch 1104. The drive also relies on the backing of the National Rural Letter Carriers Association.

"In a year with a lot of national disasters — and we're still dealing with high unemployment — it's pretty amazing to collect over a million pounds of food in one day," said Jean Kempe-Ware, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Food Bank.

Kempe-Ware said the donations, though down about 19 percent from last year, are enough to serve more than 1 million meals for those in need.

"I just can't express enough our gratitude to the Letter Carriers union, all of the sponsoring unions, all of the volunteers, and all who donated food. We're very grateful," she said.

After Letter Carriers collect the non-perishable food items left by mailboxes, they bring them back to their postal stations, where volunteers (more than 600 in Oregon and Southwest Washington) sort and box the items and load them on trucks, which are then

taken to the Oregon Food Bank for final distribution.

Nearly 1,500 local NALC branches in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands are involved in the drive.

The U.S. Postal Service and Campbell Soup Company are major supporters of the drive, which has received a number of accolades over the years, including two presidential certificates of achievement.

Some 35.5 million people face hunger every day in America, including 13 million children.

## Carpenters Food Bank still open

The Carpenters Food Bank is still open and serving food boxes to the public the third Friday each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the union building on the corner of North Lombard Street and Brandon Avenue (2215 N. Lombard).

"When the Carpenters merged locals earlier this year, a lot of folks thought we closed," said Mike Fahey, a retired executive secretary-treasurer

of the Portland Metal Trades Council and member of the now merged Pile Drivers, Divers and Shipwrights Local 2416.

Carpenters Local 247, which also was merged, owned the building and donated basement space for storage. The food bank has been operating out of that location for the past 28 years.

In January, the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters dissolved 15 locals and merged them into three locals. Local 247 is now part of Local 157, representing construction carpenters in Oregon and Southwest Washington. It is headquartered in Oregon City. Local 2154 is now Local 196, based in Fife, Washington. Its jurisdiction is Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

Fahey said the food bank distributes between 450 to 650 boxes a month.

To donate cash to the food bank, send checks to: P.O. Box 17358, Portland, OR 97217.



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# Busted!

A sampler of recent charges of employer labor law violations filed with the local office of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

## Is Rogue Ales going rogue to bust a union drive?

After workers at **Rogue Ales** craft brewery in Newport requested a union election April 25, the company brought in Todd A. Lyon of the Lake Oswego law firm Williams Zografos & Peck to lead anti-union meetings. It also suspended four union supporters and fired two. According to charges filed by **Teamsters Local 324**, the discipline was an attempt to put down the campaign. An election for the company's 29 union-eligible workers is scheduled for June 6. The workers are paid minimum wage and have no retirement benefit, vacation days or sick leave.

## No, you don't check your rights at the door

It's not uncommon for employers to stifle workers by banning outward signs of union support. But that can trample federally protected rights. At **Meadow Park Health and Specialty Center** in St. Helens, a manager told workers May 12 to cover up the union insignia they were wearing on their nursing scrubs. That's against federal labor law, **Service Employees International Union Local 503** alleges in charges filed May 17. It was even worse at **Petermann Northwest**, school bus contractor in Battleground, Washington. There, according to a May 18 charge, a manager told employee Mike Gately to remove a union sign from the window of his own car. Workers there joined Vancouver-based **Teamsters Local 58** in 2009. A contract that runs through August 2014. But union opponents have gotten a special election scheduled for June 2 at which workers will vote whether to make union dues voluntary.

## Dosha salon accused of 22 more law violations

Sometimes old habits die hard. At **Dosha Salon Spa**, bosses are used to bossing — making up new rules and disciplining workers for violating them. But Dosha workers voted March 30 to unionize; that means the company now has a legal obligation to recognize their union and bargain in good faith to reach a written agreement. Instead the company's hired gun Bob Tiernan told workers at a mandatory April 18 meeting that Dosha is going to "pretend" the union isn't there. **Communications Workers of America Local 7901**, which filed an earlier unfair labor practice charge April 21, protested that in a new charge filed May 25 along with 21 other allegations. Among the allegations: Dosha disciplined employees for posting union fliers and wearing a pro-union temporary tattoo; installed a surveillance camera in a break room; and changed all sorts of policies without negotiating.

## Mark your calendars for Oregon AFL-CIO convention Sept. 25-28

Union leaders and activists, mark your calendars for Sept. 25-28 and the 52 biennial convention of the Oregon AFL-CIO. The biennial convention will be held at the Hilton Eugene & Conference Center, 66 East 6th Ave., Eugene.

Registration opens Sunday, Sept.

25. That evening a Welcome Party will be held. Convention business gets under way Monday morning Sept. 26.

The popular Union Label Show is scheduled Tuesday evening, Sept. 27.

For more information, call the Oregon AFL-CIO at 503-224-3169 or from Salem call 503-585-6320.

## State offers free training for unemployed members

SALEM — The Office of Administrative Hearings is offering union locals special training to help jobless members better understand the unemployment insurance benefits hearings process and

be better able to present their case to an administrative law judge.

"The consequences of these hearings can be very significant," said presiding administrative law judge David Gerstenfeld.

If your local is interested, call Gerstenfeld at 503-612-4280.