

# Local Motion

## August 2011

A list of Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces deciding whether to be union-represented – as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

### Voting in union elections

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Yes	No	
6/29	Childrens Farm Home (Corvallis) SEIU 503	59	59	👉
8/10	Planned Parenthood (Portland, Bend, Salem) SEIU 49	97	43	👉
8/22	City of Milton-Freewater Police (Milton-Freewater) MFPA	11	0	👉

### Requesting a union election

Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
Parry Center for Children (Portland) SEIU Local 503 <b>DECERT</b>	120
Architectural Metal Works (Portland) Sheet Metal Workers Locals 16, 66, 55	45
Kaiser Permanente membership services (Portland) SEIU Local 49 <b>DECERT</b>	96

#### LEGEND

👉 : workers will be union-represented    👉 : workers will be on their own

**DECERT** : A decertification election occurs when some union-represented workers declare that the union no longer has majority support. A 'yes' vote is a vote for the union.

## Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington banquet Sept. 30

The Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington will host its annual Labor Awards Banquet Friday, Sept. 30, at the Vancouver Hilton, 301 West 6th Street Vancouver, Washington.

A no-host bar will be provided starting at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m.

The annual event recognizes labor unions, labor organizations, labor leaders, and union allies for their outstand-

ing service not only to the labor movement, but to the community as well.

Tickets are \$60 per person or \$480 for a table of eight.

The Roundtable also suggests each person donate an item for a door prize.

For more information, or to order tickets, call 360-921-2864 or e-mail [eboctran@comcast.net](mailto:eboctran@comcast.net).

# SW Washington CLC ends Columbian boycott; endorses city council pols

VANCOUVER — The Southwest Washington Central Labor Council has ended its boycott of the Columbian newspaper.

The daily newspaper, which covers the greater Vancouver/Southwest Washington area, was put on the “Do Not Patronize” list in February after delegates complained of slanted coverage against unions and public employees. The resolution calling for the boycott instructed delegates to revisit the action at the end of July to determine whether or not the newspaper had expanded its coverage “to represent all of the community.” If it did, the boycott would be withdrawn.

During that time period, the boycott was joined by the Portland-based Northwest Oregon Labor Council; the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council; as well as many of the 39 labor organizations affiliated with the Southwest Washington CLC. Rank-and-file union members were encouraged to cancel their subscriptions and politicians were asked not to advertise in the newspaper.

However, at the labor council’s monthly meeting in August, delegates decided that coverage had become more favorable, so the boycott was lifted.

“Not everyone was in favor of ending our action against the Columbian,” said Secretary-Treasurer Roy Jennings, a member of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757. “Some of our delegates still believe the newspaper has an

anti-labor sentiment. While we can agree to disagree on many issues, we believe that at this time the Columbian has reached a turning point. Clearly the Columbian has done better in its reporting.”

The labor council has invited publisher Scott Campbell to attend its meeting Oct 27. It also posted on its web site a link directing union members how to subscribe to the newspaper.

In other action at the August meeting, the labor council issued the following political endorsements:

- Re-elect Bart Hansen for Vancouver City Council, Position 4. Hansen was appointed to the council in January

2010, filling the seat vacated by Tim Leavitt after he was elected mayor. He won the seat outright in a special election last year.

- Elect challenger Anne McEnerny-Ogle to Vancouver City Council, Position 6.

The Vancouver City Council is non-partisan.

- Re-elect Jim Irish mayor of La Center.

- Support Proposition 1, to increase the sales tax by 0.2 percent (2 cents on a \$10 purchase) to preserve C-TRAN local fixed route, limited, commuter and connector service

The general election is Nov. 8.

## Anti-union initiative withdrawn

Without explanation, sponsors of an anti-union ballot initiative effort withdrew their initiative on Aug. 30, just four weeks after they turned in 1,484 signatures to get the process started.

The initiative was aimed at making it harder for public employee union members to give to their unions’ political funds, and had the fingerprints of business lobbyist Mark Nelson on it. Chief petitioner Mel Zucker told the Labor Press that conservative former Oregonian columnist David Reinhard, who works for Nelson, was central to the effort. But neither Reinhard nor either of the chief petitioners returned calls from the Labor Press seeking explanation as to why the measure was

withdrawn. The initiative was in an early stage and had not yet been approved to circulate.

Resources could be part of the answer; Zucker told Oregonian reporter Jeff Mapes that the campaigners didn’t get support they thought they were promised.

A similar initiative — sponsored by an associate of perennial union foe Bill Sizemore — may still be gathering signatures for the 2012 ballot. The union-backed ballot initiative watchdog group Defend Oregon is calling on supporters to report sightings of signature gatherers at [www.defendoregon.org/petitions.html](http://www.defendoregon.org/petitions.html).



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