

... Nov. 5 declared Bank Transfer Day

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class people.] Local 483 is moving the money to Advantis Credit Union. The District Council of Trade Unions, a coalition of City of Portland unions, also voted to move its money.

Meanwhile, the City and County of San Francisco are looking at the possibility of a creating a municipally owned bank where government funds would be deposited. Currently, most of their 133 bank accounts are with Bank of America, the San Francisco Business Times reported.

The Oregon Working Families Party has pushed a similar idea in the Oregon Legislature: Instead of storing Oregon tax funds in out-of-state banks, they propose creating a state-owned bank along the lines of the Bank of North Dakota, which would stimulate the state's economy by making farm and business loans.

Protest campaigns targeting the big banks have been under way since at least late 2009, when the Move Your Money campaign was launched. That campaign's web site, moveyourmoneyproject.org, encourages depositors to divest from the nation's largest Wall Street banks, and it provides a list of local banks and credit unions to choose from.

In March 2010, the AFL-CIO's community outreach organization Working America launched an online petition campaign at notyouratm.com. In the "Wall Street: I am not your ATM," campaign, signers declare "It's time for banks to be a safe place for our money, not another place to get nicked and dined" ... and become members of Working America.

In March 2011, a coalition of community organizations launched the "Make Wall Street Pay" campaign, encouraging people to tally

their own damages from the financial crisis, and calling on Congress to make the big banks pay their fair share.

But the Occupy Wall Street uprising, which began in late September, has given the movement new energy. [Donations to the Occupy Wall Street group itself are being deposited in union-owned Amalgamated Bank and in the Lower East Side People's Credit Union.]

MoveOn.org joined the campaign Oct. 31 with a "Move Your Money Pledge." In one day, close to 20,000 people pledged to close accounts with Bank of America, over 9,000 at Chase, 2,500 at Citigroup, and over 13,000 at other big banks.

To crib a line from the movie V for Vendetta, for the big Wall Street banks, the 5th of November may be a day to remember, remember.

AFL-CIO will launch online campaign Nov. 14 in Portland

November 14, the national AFL-CIO will launch a pilot version of a media campaign in three mid-sized cities: Portland, Oregon; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Austin, Texas.

Using a combination of online advertising and public events, the campaign will emphasize the dignity and value of work, showing how "work connects us all." The campaign, developed by the SS+K marketing and communications agency, will give recipients a chance to connect via an online

hub, and it will present America's unions in a positive light.

The reaction was uniformly positive among union staff and leaders at an Oct. 31 meeting in Portland, where AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Liz Shuler described the campaign as a proactive response by labor that would counter the anti-union media campaign that some business groups have waged.

Launch events will take place in each of the cities the week of Nov. 7-

Last call at the Guild Public House

A short-lived, briefly-union bar closed its doors Oct. 29.

Six workers at the Guild Public House became members of Communications Workers of America Local 7901 Aug. 13, with the blessing of owners

Jesse Cornett and Molly Aleshire.

But the pair announced the pub's closure Oct. 20. "We realized that we're unable to continue the business if we're going to have the lives we value," they explained. The Guild, at 1101 East Burnside St., Portland, was open less than a year. Cornett, formerly with the Oregon Bus Project, was a candidate for Portland City Council in 2010.

Employer associations say reporting for injuries, amputations is a job-killer

The National Association of Manufacturers and other employer associations are urging the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to abandon a proposed regulation that would require employers to report workplace injuries within eight hours and amputations within 24.

The employer groups say the requirement would be a nuisance and a job-killer.

The rule would require employers "to report to OSHA, within eight hours, all work-related fatalities and all work-related in-patient hospitalizations; and within 24 hours, all work-related amputations," and would update which employers were exempt from this requirement, the agency said in its proposal.

"I think this is a very simple, easy and transparent modification," Bill Ko-

jola, an industrial hygienist with the AFL-CIO's Department of Safety and Health, told The Hill, a congressional newspaper in Washington, D.C., that publishes daily when Congress is in session. "It modifies the reporting requirements in a very modest way for some of the most serious events that happen to workers in the workplace."

Trade associations disagree. Joe Trauger, the vice president of human resources policy at the National Association of Manufacturers, told The Hill the measure would hurt job creation and add new burdens to an already overregulated economy.

Other trade groups including the Retail Industry Leaders Association, the National Grain and Feed Association and Printing Industries of America expressed concerns about the reporting re-

quirements in comments to OSHA. The retail association called the requirements "ambiguous and unrealistic."

Current law only requires employers to report workplace fatalities within eight hours and in-patient hospitalizations involving three or more employees at a time. OSHA says tightening the reporting requirements will help the agency better identify the causes of workplace incidents while placing "relatively minimal burdens on employers."

Trauger told The Hill the proposed regulation creates confusion about what needs to be reported, since medicinal practices vary across states regarding who is admitted for different injuries.

The timeline is also unrealistic, he said, since if an employee is injured on a weekend and the employer does not find out until the next business day, he

could violate the new eight-hour requirement.

Finally, with the influx of individual workplace hospitalization reports, serious incidents could be lost among those caused by outside factors like pre-existing conditions, Trauger said.

"What we're trying to get at here is the reporting of any injury that is alleged to or happened in the workplace. Is that going to make a safer workplace, or is it just data for the sake of data?" Trauger said. "Just because someone visits the hospital doesn't make it a

workplace-related incident."

Kajola told The Hill the expansion of reporting requirements and the collection of the data would help protect workers.

"I think that'll help the agency identify what those hazards are and then think about how can we assist employers in ... eliminating or decreasing or exposure to those hazards," Kajola said. "It's very important."

Unions are not fully satisfied with the proposed rule. Many are upset that certain employers will remain partially

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