

# Phillips retires at Sheet Metal Workers; Candioto appointed business manager

Len Phillips, a 40-year member of Portland-based Sheet Metal Workers Local 16, has retired as business manager/financial secretary. The local's Executive Board appointed business agent John Candioto to complete the unexpired term.

The Executive Board appointed Russ Benton to fill Candioto's unexpired term as a business agent.

The transition took place Dec. 1. Officer elections will be held in June 2012.

Phillips, 62, has held the local's top position since 2003. He had less than a

year remaining on his third term.

A graduate of the Sheet Metal Workers apprenticeship and training program, Phillips worked as a business agent for the local from 1993 to 1995, servicing Southern Oregon. He returned to the tools in 1995, taking a job as a construction manager for Southland Industries. That's what he was doing when he was appointed business manager in 2003, following the resignation of Bob Ronspiess.

In addition to business manager, Phillips has served as president of the local, as a pension trustee, on the apprenticeship and training committee, and as a trustee to the international training trust.

"The local is stable and on solid financial ground," Phillips said. "When I took this job, I set a goal of leaving office with the union better off than I found it. I feel we've done that. Now, I've challenged my successor and the other officers to do the same."

Candioto, 54, has worked full time as an elected business agent for Local 16 since 2006. Prior to that he served

one term on the Executive Board.

A native Oregonian, Candioto grew up in a union household. His late father was a member of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8, and his grandfather was a union boiler-maker.

"I was a union kid," he said.

After graduating from Portland's Cleveland High School, Candioto moved to the Tri-Cities in Washington, where he worked as a union construction laborer.

In 1976 he entered the sheet metal apprenticeship program in the Tri-Cities, joining Sheet Metal Workers Local 242 (now Local 55). He followed work to Portland in 1988, where he transferred his union card to Local 16.

Candioto said work in Local 16's jurisdiction currently is the best it's been in two and a half years. "We're not fully recovered, but we're starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

The union represents 2,200 Sheet Metal Workers in both construction and industrial production.



JOHN CANDIOTO



LEN PHILLIPS

## IN MEMORIAM

LEE HUNSAKER, a former business representative and 69-year member of the Machinists Union, died Nov. 11 of age-related causes. He was 88.



LEE G. HUNSAKER was born March 28, 1923, in Dillon, Mont., to Isaac and Laura Griffith Hunsaker. He married Margaret "Mickey" Mickelson on Nov. 20, 1942, in Eugene.

Hunsaker began his career as an apprentice saw-maker at Spear & Jackson, Inc., the charter shop of Machinists Paradise Lodge No. 1311 in Eugene. The shop made circular saws and bandsaws for mills. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he returned to Spear & Jackson to complete his apprenticeship.

He worked as a journeyman saw-maker until he was elected business representative for Santiam District Lodge 163, which was comprised of Machinists locals in Cottage Grove, Eugene, Corvallis, and Salem.

After District 163 was merged with District Lodge 24, Hunsaker continued as a business rep until his retirement in 1978.

Hunsaker held several offices in Lodge 1311. He also held delegate positions to the Lane County Labor Council, the Linn-Benton-Lincoln La-

bor Council, the Oregon Machinists Council, and the Oregon AFL-CIO during his career.

In recent years, Lodge 1311 was merged into Lodge 1432. Hunsaker was a member of Lodge 1432 at the time of his death.

Hunsaker is survived by his wife; a son, Richard of Springfield; a daughter, Nancy Van Buskirk of Eugene; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Nov. 17 at Lane Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home in Eugene.

The family asks that remembrances go to the Lane County chapter of the American Red Cross.

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