

# ...YEAR IN REVIEW

(From Page 9)

garnishment in the multi-million damage award he owes to two unions for the pattern of ballot measure campaign fraud and forgery that led to that 2002 civil conviction on racketeering.

• Allegations of personal misconduct dogged Oregon 1st District Congressman **David Wu** in the first half of 2011, leading eventually to his resignation in August. In the special election Democratic primary to replace him, **Suzanne Bonamici** outpolled Oregon Labor Commissioner **Brad Avakian** and State Representative **Brad Witt**, a former secretary-treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO and current union rep for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555. Bonamici will face Republican Rob Cornilles in a Jan. 31, 2012, special election.

• International Longshore and Warehouse Union, shut out of operating EGT's new \$200 million grain terminal in Longview, Washington, joined a federal lawsuit by the Port of Longview, and ramped up protests beginning with a 1,200-strong rally in June. In July, workers entered the terminal and dumped grain into the yard. Then EGT took ILWU by surprise, signing a five-year deal for members of Operating Engineers Local 701 to operate the shipping terminal as employees of contractor General Construction Co. ILWU protests continued, however, with several episodes of mass civil disobedience on railroad tracks, halting grain shipments for a time. The legal cases and pressure campaign continue in 2012.



**Newly unionized workers at Dosh Salon rally for a first contract. The unit voted to join CWA in March. The company is putting up an expensive fight and workers still don't have a collective bargaining agreement.**

**In Oregon, several large employers went union in 2011:**

• On Jan. 5 Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 49 won an election, by four votes, to represent 600 support staff at Central Oregon's largest hospital, **St. Charles Medical Center** in Bend. It was Oregon's biggest private sector union win in recent history.

• A group of 155 workers at **Dosh Salon and Spa** voted in March to join Communications Workers of America Local 7901. But owner Ray Motameni hired former Oregon Republican Party chair Bob Tiernan and an associate to represent him in negotiations, and it's not clear that workers are any closer to a first contract at the end of the year than

they were when they started bargaining.

• In June, a unit of 7,751 state-paid personal service providers voted to join SEIU Local 503, making it Oregon's largest union.

• A group of 160 workers at **Planned Parenthood** of the Columbia-Willamette voted in August to join SEIU Local 49.

On the other hand, union-busting also went on all year long at employers all over, with union supporters fired at **Rogue Ales**, **Dosha Salon Spa**, **MetroWest Ambulance**, **Grange Cooperative**, **Georgia-Pacific**, and numerous other employers. A local Starbucks barista, fired after wearing union pins, got a \$10,000-plus settlement.

In the second half of the year, U.S. Postal Service unions campaigned hard to oppose service cuts and post office closures, with rallies, and appeals for support from local and federal elected officials. USPS is proposing a major set of closures to cope with declining revenues and unusual retiree benefit prefunding requirements imposed by Congress.

In November, Washingtonians voted to privatize liquor sales, in a ballot measure bought and paid for by Costco. After the vote, Costco declared that the 1,000 soon-to-be-laid-off union members working at state liquor stores could apply for jobs at its big box warehouse stores. Two unions that represent liquor store employees — UFCW and the Teamsters — have filed a lawsuit to invalidate the election, claiming the measure was unconstitutional because it violated the state's "single subject" rule.

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