

Endicott retires as business manager of UA Local 290

John Endicott, business manager of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 for the past decade, retired Jan. 20.

Endicott, 58, was appointed interim business manager in March 2002, following the death of Business Manager Matt Walters. Walters died of a heart attack at age 54.

Endicott was one month into a new job as Walters' assistant, after working 10 years as an organizer and business agent. Three more senior business agents had all recently retired when Walters named Endicott assistant to the business manager.

"I didn't aspire to be business manager. It kind of fell into my lap," Endicott said.

The union's bylaws place the assistant to the business manager in



JOHN ENDICOTT

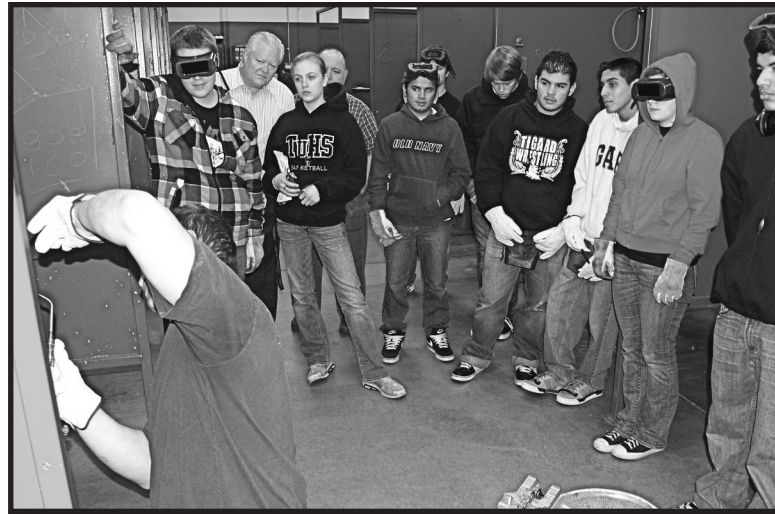
charge of the local in the event the business manager can't fulfill the duties of the job. Endicott stepped into the position and subsequently was re-elected for three more terms.

A native of Vancouver, Washington, Endicott grew up in a pipe trades family. His father was a fitter and his grandfather and two uncles were plumbers.

He enrolled in the steamfitters apprenticeship program after graduating from Hudson's Bay High School in 1972. At that time it was Steamfitters Local 235. [Local 235 merged with Plumbers Local 51 in the mid-'80s to form United Association Local 290.]

Endicott turned out as a journeyman in 1977.

Always an advocate of training



Retiring Local 290 Business Manager John Endicott (second from left in back) opened the training center to students from the Tigard-Tualatin School District.

and skills upgrading, Endicott taught classes at the training center and went on to complete a five-year instruments training certificate program out of Purdue University. He has served on the joint apprenticeship training committee since 1986.

"It's all about training — apprentice and journeyman," he said, noting that last year alone Local 290 completed 50,000 hours of journey-level training.

Endicott was doing service work at Control Contractors in Portland when, in 1988, he accepted an offer from the company to go into man-

agement. That lasted until 1992, when Walters hired him as an agent.

During his tenure at Local 290, Endicott has served as either a trustee or co-chair on a half-dozen of the union's pension, health and welfare, scholarship and apprenticeship training trusts.

He recently resigned as president of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council; from the Executive Board of the Oregon AFL-CIO; from the board of the Fair Contracting Foundation; and as a trustee and board member of the Pipe Fabricators Institute of America.

Endicott will finish out his term as secretary-treasurer of the Western Mechanical Association, which expires this July, and he'll complete his second term to the governor-appointed SAIF board of directors. SAIF is the state-owned workers' compensation insurance carrier. He was first appointed to the board in November 2004 by Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

Endicott also served a governor appointment to the Boiler Board, one term as chair.

Endicott is turning over the reins of Local 290 — which represents 4,200 workers in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and four counties in Northern California — having recently completed major collective bargaining agreements that will take most of the membership through 2014. He said most of the out-of-work books are clear for fitters, with only scattered unemployment for plumbers. Intel currently has 1,600 fitters on site.

"There's still not a lot of commercial work out there," he said.

"It's been a great run. We have a great group of contractors. I wish all the new folks at the local the very best," he said.

In retirement, Endicott says he will "retire, retire." He wants to spend more time with his 4-year-old granddaughter, improve his golf game — "and ... you know ... I haven't bought a fishing license in 10 years."

Shropshire elected business manager of UA Local 290

Al Shropshire has been elected business manager/financial secretary-treasurer of United Association of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290. He defeated Lou Christensen, assistant to the business manager, 897 to 655. The two were running to succeed John Endicott, who retired.

In other races, Robert Porter was elected president, defeating Paul Elder and Steven Cowell; Gil Freeland defeated incumbent Terry Neely for vice president; Amy Sprengelmeyer outpolled Barry Bledsoe for recording secretary; and Craig Weismann bested Preston Hunt for inside guard.

Eight members ran for two seats on the local's Executive Board representing Region 1. The winners were Mark Sundstrom and Teresa Neely. In Region 2, Dennis Mask defeated one other candidate; and in Region 3, Rick Two Bears outpolled four other candidates.

Dave Hauth, Rick Hindman and Chris McNicholas were re-elected to

the Finance Committee.

Elected to the Examining Board were Pete Bakker and Barry Sather representing Oil Burners; Jim Eastman and Craig Harguth representing Metal Trades; and Frank Boyle and Drew

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