

Oregon Senate confirms Gov. Kitzhaber's board appointees

Including a handful important to labor

SALEM — The Oregon Senate voted Feb. 13 to confirm several dozen executive branch appointments, including several of importance to organized labor. The office of Gov. John Kitzhaber announced the nominations Feb. 3.

• On the three-member **Oregon Employment Relations Board (ERB)** **Kathryn Logan**, senior assistant attorney general at the Oregon Department of Justice, will become the management-side member. ERB judges labor law cases that have to do with state and local public employee unionization. Logan has represented the City of Salem and the state Department of Administrative Services as a management-side labor attorney. She took office March 1, replacing Vickie Cowan, who retired Dec. 31.

Board service is a full-time job, and terms are four years. Logan will serve the remainder of Cowan's term, which expires June 30, 2013. Board chair Susan Rossiter continues to serve a term that expired Sept. 30, 2011. As for the labor-side member of the Board — Paul Gamson — his term expires June 30.

Kitzhaber labor liaison Duke Shepard said the governor used a new process for the ERB appointment, in

that both management and labor representatives were asked to serve as a screening committee. The labor representatives were Oregon School Employees Association Executive Director Steven Araujo and Association of Engineering Employees of Oregon co-executive director Joelle Davis. Shepard said the intent was to make ERB less polarized than its private sector counterpart the National Labor Relations Board — by having board members that were acceptable to both labor and management.

Shepard said no decision has been made about a replacement for the chair, but that Gamson is not being considered for reappointment. Shepard said he expects the same process will be used for Gamson's replacement as was used to select Logan.

• Washington County businessman Isao "Tom" Tsuruta was confirmed to the nine-member **Port of Portland Board of Commissioners**, replacing **Oregon AFSCME** Executive Director **Ken Allen**. Allen stepped down to be able to devote more time to the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange Board, to which he was appointed in August; that board will advise the creation of the health insurance exchange mandated by federal health reform legislation. Port of Portland commissioners represent dif-

ferent geographic areas within the Port's economic impact area, and the commission still has two other representatives of organized labor: Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain and Bruce Holte of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 8. The board is the governing body for the Port, which includes five marine terminals, four airports, seven industrial parks and the Portland Shipyard.

• Business consultant and Gresham Chamber of Commerce president **Travis Stovall**, and **Bruce Warner**, former executive director of the Portland Development Commission, were confirmed to the seven-member **TriMet Board**, replacing Richard Van Bevern, who resigned, and Teamsters Joint Council 37 political representative Lynn Lehrbach. Lehrbach's departure leaves no representative of organized labor on the board at a time when TriMet and its union are in a protracted contract fight. Lehrbach had wanted to serve a second term, but Gov. John Kitzhaber chose not to reappoint him.

• The 10-member **Oregon's Workers Compensation Management-Labor Advisory Committee**, commonly referred to by its initials MLAC, got four new members, two each from la-

bor and management, as the name suggests. The new labor members are **Elana Guiney**, Oregon AFL-CIO legislative and communications director, and **Paul Goldberg**, assistant executive director at the **Oregon Nurses Association**. MLAC makes workers' compensation policy recommendations to the Oregon Legislature. One of the new management members — Carol Duncan — is owner of General Sheet Metal, a signatory contractor with Sheet Metal Workers Local 16; she replaces another union-signatory contractor representative, Sheri Sundstrom of Hoffman Construction. Guiney and Goldberg replace outgoing members John Kirkpatrick of Painters and Allied Trades, and Mike O'Rourke of Plumbing and Fitters Local 290, both of whom retired. MLAC's other labor members are Tracy Brill of Portland Fire Fighters Association Local 43, Lon Holston of Laborers Municipal Employees Local 483, and John Mohlis of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.

• **Jed Scheuermann**, assistant training coordinator at **Local 290**, was confirmed to the nine-member **Mechanical Board**, which helps to administer state code regarding mechanical devices and equipment.

Kitzhaber's previous appointments include several other representatives of organized labor:

• In September **Oregon Education Association** Vice President **Johanna "Hanna" Vaandering** and **American Federation of Teachers Oregon** President **David Rives** were confirmed to serve on the **Oregon Education Investment Board**, a newly-formed 12-member body that will oversee implementation of a set of education reforms that were passed in 2011 over the objections of the state's largest teachers union.

• In November, **Oregon State Building and Construction Trades** Executive Secretary **John Mohlis** was confirmed to the seven-member **Energy Facility Siting Council**, which oversees permitting and regulation during the location, construction and operation of major energy facilities, and the transport of radioactive materials.

The governor also appoints some advisory boards which don't need to be confirmed by the Oregon Senate, and **Clif Davis**, business manager of **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48**, was appointed in February to one of those: the **Oregon Innovation Council**, which oversees grants and other help to start-up technology companies.



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