

Coalition of Labor Union Women joins campaign to protect reproductive rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — The Coalition of Labor Union Women has become a key participant in a campaign by women's rights groups to protect reproductive rights.

The Coalition to Protect Women's Health was created to campaign for reproductive choice after the Obama Administration, under pressure from Catholic bishops, tried to "split the difference" on whether health insurers serving religiously affiliated institu-

tions — such as hospitals and schools — had to offer their workers access to methods guaranteeing reproductive choice. The Administration said the insurers must offer, and pay for, the coverage individually to those workers, not through the institutions.

The new health care law says such medications and procedures are part of the guaranteed package of benefits insurers must offer to all workers without co-pays or deductibles. There is an exemption for churches that oppose reproductive choice, on principle.

But that exemption should not extend to workers at the religiously affiliated institutions, the Coalition to Protect Women's Health says.

"Women need access to affordable birth control coverage, no matter where they work," the Coalition's website says. "However, opponents are actively working to take away access to preventive health care, including birth control. This would severely undermine women's health and put our mothers, daughters, sisters and wives at the mercy of their boss' views."

The Coalition cited a survey it commissioned showing Catholics, by 54 percent to 42 percent, want to keep access via health plans to contraceptive coverage. Catholic Democrats favor it (80 percent to 17 percent), Catholic Republicans oppose it (16 percent to 79 percent), and Catholic independents favor it (56 percent to 38 percent). Catholic women favored it by 18 per-

centage points.

"There are significant and immediate threats from some in Washington, D.C., who would completely take away access to birth control and severely undermine women's health," the Coalition stated.

Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees also have joined the Coalition.

Chef Batali settles multi-million dollar lawsuit with servers

Food Network star and restaurateur Mario Batali has agreed to pay \$5.25 million to settle a class-action lawsuit in which he was accused of bilking servers out of part of their tips, as well as failing to pay overtime and the minimum wage, Bloomberg News reported.

Batali was sued in a New York federal court along with his business partner Joseph Bastianich, the report says. Batali co-owns 16 restaurants in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New York, according to his website.

Servers at his restaurants initially "sued in 2010 alleging their employers violated the Fair Labor Standards Act — in part by pocketing gratuities equal to as much as 5 percent of nightly wine sales," the report says.

IN MEMORIAM

DANIEL BONHAM, a member of Carpenters Local 156, died March 3 after slipping and falling while hiking in Silver Falls State Park. He was 56.



According to Oregon State Police reports, Bonham, a frequent visitor to the park, was reported overdue from a hiking excursion earlier in the day, March 2.

OSP troopers, state park rangers, and Marion County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue responded at approximately 11:15 p.m. and began searching for him. At about 2:45 a.m. his body was spotted near Winter Falls, 100 feet below the trail. Due to darkness, difficult terrain, and ice and snow on the trails, his body wasn't recovered until 7 a.m. on March 3.

Bonham served as executive director of the Oregon and SW Washington Fair Contracting Foundation from 2005 to 2010. He began working at the labor/management-owned agency in 2001 as a compliance investigator making sure that men and women working on construction projects received the full compensation to which they were entitled.

He left to start his own private investigation agency.

An active member of Salem-based Carpenters Local 1065, Bonham served as recording secretary, as a delegate to the Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters, and as chair of the political action committee. He held those posts until February 2011, when the local was merged with various other Carpenters locals to form Local 156.

At the time of his death, he also was

secretary-treasurer of the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign.

He was active in the trade justice struggle, Latin American solidarity, third-party politics and a host of other progressive causes.

DANIEL FRANK BONHAM was born Aug. 7, 1955, in Up-land, California.

After graduating from Chaffey High School in 1973, Bonham moved to Rexburg, Idaho, to attend college, followed by a two-year church mission from 1974 to 1976 in Central America: Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras, where he became fluent in Spanish. From there he went to Brigham Young University in Utah and studied English.

He married the late Michelle Paddeucci and divorced after seven years. They had two children: Ammon, 29, and Vanessa, 25.

He married Shalom Mueller in 1987. They had two children: Elsa, 21, and Jacob, 18.

Bonham worked as a construction carpenter before moving to Woodburn, Oregon, in 2000, where he joined Local 1065.

Bonham is survived by his wife and four children; one grandchild; his father, Lyle Bonham of California; step-mother, Darlene; a sister, half-sister, and two step-siblings.

A memorial service was held March 10 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Woodburn.

A memorial fund has been established to assist the Bonham family. Donations can be made at any West Coast Bank to the Daniel F. Bonham Memorial Fund.

Job Opening Executive Director

Portland Jobs with Justice, a 21-year-old labor/community coalition of over 90 member organizations, is seeking a new Executive Director.

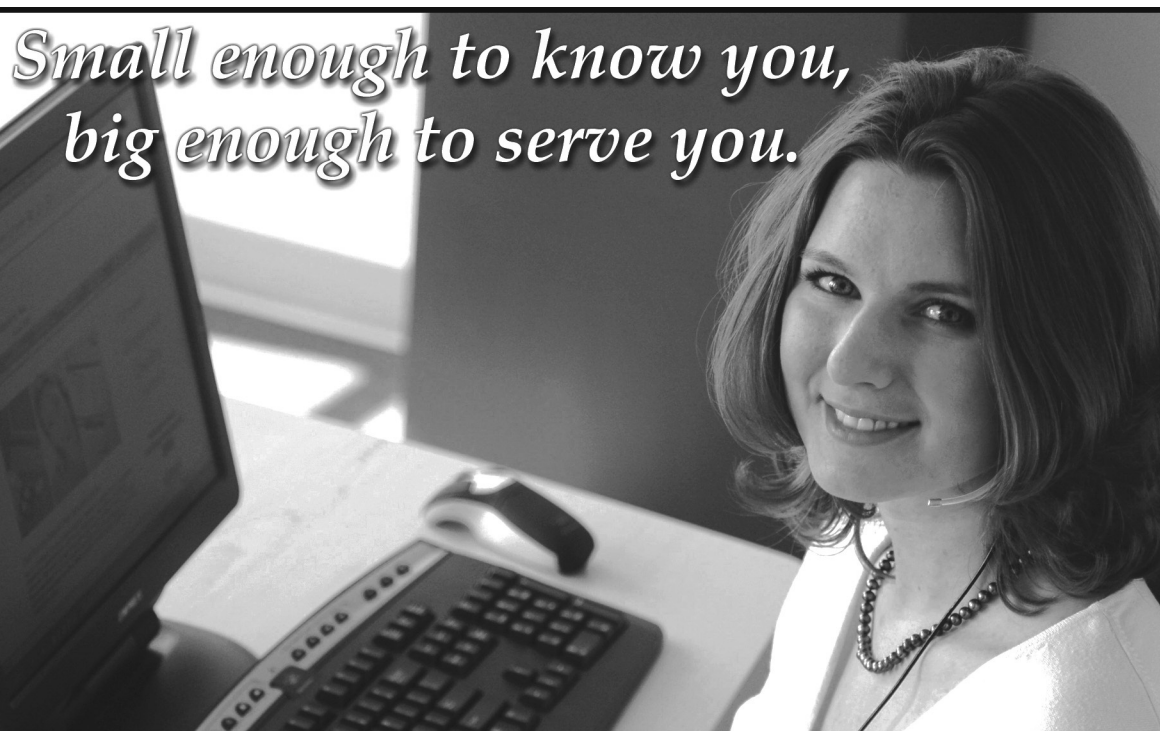
Women and people of color are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must have a demonstrated commitment to building a social justice movement. Labor experience and deep understanding of the labor movement are required.

Salary range is \$40,000 to \$45,000 depending on experience. Health benefits and vacation are provided.

A full job description is at www.jwjpx.org. To apply, please send resume and cover letter by April 2, 2012 to margaret@jwjpx.org.

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Represented by the Office & Professional Employees International Union, Local #11

American Air Line backs off plan to dump pensions

By MIKE HALL

In February, American Airlines announced plans to eliminate the jobs of 13,000 workers and dump pension plans for nearly 90,000 workers into the federal government's Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC) as part of its bankruptcy plan. Roughly 9,000 Transport Workers (TWU) members are employed at American.

But last week, following negotiations with the TWU and PBGC, American announced it was abandoning its pension proposal.

Says TWU President James C. Little: "The company initially wanted to terminate our pension plan, shift the cost to the government, and put our members at risk. Our negotiating team drew a line in the sand and said this was totally unacceptable — and today we are pleased to report that [American] has informed us they are willing to accept our proposal for a freeze of the

current pension plan."

Meanwhile in TWU's latest "I Support American Jobs" video, Gregg Aponte, a fleet service clerk and member of TWU Local 568 in Miami who has worked at American for 15 years, asks American management who have demanded and won concessions from workers over the years: "If the company's been losing money, how can you guys be getting bonuses?"

You can show your support for employees at American Airlines by signing TWU's pledge to support the workers by telling public officials, the news media and community leaders that employees at American Airlines and regional carrier American Eagle and all workers dependent on these airlines must be treated fairly.

Go on line to <http://isupportamericanjobs.com/> to add your name to the nearly 17,000 people who have signed the "I Support American Jobs" pledge.