

Motorcycle Poker Run, raffle June 9

The Unions for Kids Motorcycle Poker Run and Chili Cook-off, a bene-

fit for Doernbecher Children's Hospital, will be held Saturday, June 9, at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way.

The poker run starts and finishes at the hall. Registration is from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and costs \$10. A pancake breakfast will be available for participants.

The poker run itself is a scenic and challenging 90-mile round-trip ride with four checkpoints. Riders will re-

ceive a playing card at the IBEW hall and one at each checkpoint. An option of one extra (draw) card *before* the first card and one extra (draw) card *after* the last card will be available for \$5 each. Visa gift cards will be awarded to the high and low poker hand.

The chili cook-off pits chefs from the various trades. Chili will be sold and customers will vote on their favorite. Hot dogs, hamburgers and soda also will be on sale.

A drawing for a 2012 Harley-Davidson "Big Blue" Heritage Softail Classic motorcycle will take place at 4 p.m. In commemoration of the event's 10th anniversary, the bike will be autographed by Willie G. Davidson, the company's senior vice president and grandson of Harley-Davidson co-founder William A. Davidson.

Tickets are still available for \$10 each. Only 5,000 tickets will be sold.

Money also is raised through a silent

auction, a 50/50 raffle, and through a program called "Hour of Help," whereby individuals donate one hour of pay to the cause. Donations are tax deductible.

All money raised is given to Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Since its inception in 2003, the Poker Run has raised \$271,000.

For more information or to register to ride, go to www.unionsforkids.org or call Lee Duncan at 503-260-5905.

IN MEMORIAM

TOM DREW of Portland, a retired federal mediator who is a former local union president and international union representative, died April 28 from congestive heart failure due to complications from pneumonia. He was 76.



Drew retired in 1999 from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service's Portland office, where he had worked for 21 years. From 1958 to 1967, he served as a shop steward, recording secretary, president, and business agent for Chemical Workers Local 109 (now merged with United Food and Commercial Workers) working at the Pennwalt industrial chemical plant in Portland.

In 1967 the International Chemical Workers Union, headquartered in Akron, Ohio, appointed him to its staff, first as an organizer and later as its international representative for Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Drew's job with the Chemical Workers took him on assignments to Los Angeles to serve locals in Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah; and to Kansas City, Missouri, to help locals in that state, plus those in Kansas and Nebraska.

In 1973, the Chemical Workers re-assigned Drew to Los Angeles. In the course of his work, Drew met a federal mediator who suggested that he apply for a job with the Federal Me-

diation and Conciliation Service. Drew did so in 1977 and was hired, then sent to Seattle for training, followed by 21 years of duty at the Portland office.

THOMAS EDWARD DREW was born in North Portland on Oct. 19, 1935, to George and Alice Drew. His father was a bus driver for Rose City Transit Company and was a member of Amalgamated Transit Local 757.

Drew attended Holy Cross Grade School and Central Catholic High School, then transferred to Benson Technical High School, from which he graduated in 1953.

After graduation he worked at Crown-Zellerbach's Western Wax plant as a member of the AFL-CIO Pulp, Sulphite Union, followed by three years in the United States Navy.

After the Navy he worked at Pacific Telephone & Telegraph, where he was a member of the Communications Workers of America.

Drew is survived by his wife, Linda, of 38 years; three sons, Dan, Sean, Kevin; and seven grandchildren.

A private burial was held in Willamette National Cemetery.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Linda Drew, PMB #426, 5331 SW Macadam Ave. Ste. 258, Portland, OR 97239.

...Baby steps to restoring shop classes

(From Page 1)

West Albany High School — plus the use of instructors and equipment at the IBEW-NECA Central Electrical Training Center in Tangent, Laborers Training Center in Corvallis, and Linn-Benton Community College.

Linn County Regional Trades Academy will be a two-year program for juniors and seniors — and a major shift from the idea of shop class as a one-off elective. Each day, participating students will attend their first four classes as normal, then be bused to trades academy classes for the last three hours of the day. In Year One, students in cohorts of 20 to 25 will spend half the year rotating through three-week introductions to six different trades — electrical, carpentry, automotive, welding, building construction, and machine

technology. Each student will then pick one trade for more advanced training in the second half of the year. Those returning for Year Two will continue to develop their skills in internship or pre-apprenticeship programs, or do hands-on work in weatherization, home building, or renovation projects with Lebanon Habitat For Humanity. There's even a plan for students to use welding and carpentry to construct classroom tables, which would be sold to the district at a lower cost than they could obtain elsewhere. On completion, successful participants will earn community college credits, and be considered good candidates for apprenticeship programs.

Each of the three schools is committed to recruiting two cohort groups; if not enough students sign up, participation will be opened up to nearby Cres-

cent Valley High School and Corvallis High School. National Frozen Foods and Oregon Freeze Dry are also taking part in the academy, and so are the Albany and Lebanon chambers of commerce.

"These classes really are the arts," Avakian says. "You're learning how to create, to imagine, and to me those are the things that build well-rounded human beings."

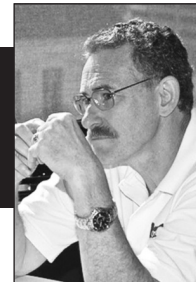
Oregon Building Trades Council Executive Secretary John Mohlis called the grants a first step.

"If the governor is really serious about education reform, and we think that he is, then getting shop classes back in the high schools needs to be part of the conversation," Mohlis said.

Avakian said he plans to return to the Legislature in 2013 to ask for more — \$10 million.

Who's On Our Side?

By Tom Chamberlain



As I write this article, the election is four days out. And by the time the Labor Press reaches you, the election will be three days past — a fading memory. We will have experienced victories and defeats. Tens of thousands of doors and phone calls made. As we knocked, called and talked with voters, a disturbing trend was revealed: Many Oregonians believe that they can't make a difference, that their vote doesn't matter.

The 2008 election was an election of hope and change. America was engaged and revitalized. Record numbers volunteered to work on campaigns, registered to vote, and went to the polls while our country slipped into the abyss of the Great Recession. Within heartbeats of President Obama taking office, Republican Congressional leadership stated that their agenda was to deny President Obama a second term. No wonder an agenda of hope and change that could have provided the path to get our people back to work stalled.

If 2008 was the election of hope, 2010 was an election of hopelessness. We learned what an agenda to defeat a president was, as job creating legislation such as the transportation bill came to a standstill. Washington's political brinksmanship combined with

high unemployment soured America on Congress. We watched hope-legislation get filibustered to death. With no hope in sight, middle America stayed away from the polls as corporatist candidates won elections, creating further dysfunction in Washington, D.C., and within our state and local governments.

Our nation slowly crawled out of the shadow of the Great Recession, thanks to quick actions by the 2009 Democratically-led Congress and President Obama, who were able to pass job-creation legislation. But the recovery has been slow and Americans have completely tuned out the dysfunction in Washington, D.C.

The 2012 election could become the election of apathy, an election where millions of voters don't engage, don't vote, and don't volunteer. If that occurs, Karl Rove, Wall Street, and those who subscribe to the Ayn Rand philosophy of "me first," will win. Their election strategy is to stop you from voting.

A change agenda doesn't happen overnight, or even in a month. It takes years. And it never occurs without a prolonged struggle. Take marriage equality. Over 52 percent of America now supports marriage between two consulting adults not limited to a man

and a woman. Such support was decades in the making. It occurred because the LGBT community had the courage to face a storm of personal risk and challenges as they told their family, friends and community who they were.

Courage and hard work are bringing change. We need every union member, working family, and middle-class Oregonian to take up that attitude of not giving up; the attitude of no surrender and fighting on. Otherwise, we will be giving our votes away, and our economy with them.

2012 can be the real election of change. If we work together, vote and fight this could be the election that will put our country back on track toward fairness and equity. If we sit on our hands and remain apathetic, big money will win and we will continue down the path of low wages, no benefits, and underfunded education and health care. The choice is yours.

Whose side will this election fall to?

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

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