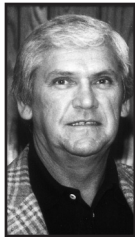


IN MEMORIAM

KEITH JOHNSON, a former president of Portland-headquartered International Woodworkers of America (IWA) died at his home in Portland May 28 following a lengthy illness. He was 81.



Johnson served as president of the international union from 1973 to 1987. He was the last president of IWA, which in 1987 split along national boundaries to create IWA-USA and IWA-Canada. IWA-USA merged with the International Association of Machinists in 1994 and IWA-Canada merged with the Steelworkers Union in 2004.

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After the union split, Johnson went to work as a special representative of labour in the Canadian government's overseas market development program for timber products.

He retired in 1990, remaining in Portland.

KEITH WILLIAM JOHNSON was born in Edmonton, Alberta, on July 20, 1930.

He served in the Canadian Navy for five years, seeing extensive combat duty in the Korean War. Following his stint in the military, Johnson returned to Alberta and worked in a plywood mill. He helped organize the mill into the IWA and subsequently was elected plant chairman and a vice president of the local.

He worked his way up the ranks of the local, going from assistant business agent in 1957, to elected financial secretary in 1960, to elected president in 1962.

He served on the IWA Western Canadian Regional Council Execu-

tive Board from 1960-64, then was elected to the international union's Executive Board.

Johnson moved to Portland in 1967 after being elected international vice president and director of organizing. In 1969 he was tapped first vice president and in 1973 he was elected international president. At age 43, he was one of the youngest international union leaders in the country.

In 1974 he was elected a vice president of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department, a post he held until his departure from the IWA in 1987.

Johnson served as a workers' representative on woodworking and forestry-related matters at International Labor Organization (ILO) meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, and was active in the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. He also was part of the first American trade union delegation to tour China following normalization of relations with the U.S.

Johnson was inducted into the Northwest Oregon Labor Council Retirees Association Labor Hall of Fame in October 1997 and has twice been recognized for his work by the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association.

Johnson is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Catherine, Brenda, Christopher, and Keith; Linda's children, Barbara, Brian, and Richard; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Caught leaking confidential info, NLRB's Flynn resigns

Terence Flynn announced his resignation from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) May 27, two months after it was revealed he leaked confidential government legal information to Mitt Romney's presidential campaign.

The NLRB has two parts: an office that administers unionization elections and investigates labor law violations, and a five-member board that judges disputes over the enforcement and interpretation of the law. Flynn, who received a recess appointment in January from President Obama, was a Republican member of the Board. [By law, three members are from the party in the White House, and two from the opposing party.]

But the NLRB's inspector general revealed March 19 that before Flynn's Board appointment, while Flynn was chief counsel for Republican NLRB member Brian Hayes, he repeatedly leaked draft Board decisions and details of internal deliberations to two

former Republican Board members, including one who had gone to work as a labor adviser to Romney's campaign. The leaks violated NLRB ethics rules because they revealed confidential information about pending cases, and they improperly converted sensitive government information for the private benefit of former Board members and their clients, including the National Association of Manufacturers.

After the inspector general released his report, labor leaders and Democrats in Congress called upon Flynn to resign.

Flynn's resignation takes effect July 24, but he immediately withdrew from all pending NLRB cases. His staffers were reassigned, and his workload was redistributed among the remaining members of the Board.

Former Board member Peter Schaumber also resigned from Romney's campaign in December when it was learned Flynn was under investigation.

Tim Frew re-elected at IBEW Local 280

TANGENT — Members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 280 re-elected Tim Frew as business manager in a June 1 union election. Frew received 180 votes, outpolling challengers Tim Nicol (70) and Bob Sapp (18).



TIM FREW

Headquartered about seven miles south of Albany, Oregon, in Tangent, Local 280 represents 1,125 electricians in construction and sound and communications in nine counties in Central Oregon and the Southern Willamette Valley. Business manager, a full-time job, is responsible for overseeing the local's five-person staff.

For his second three-year term, Frew, 54, said he'll be focused on getting members back to work. Right now, of the Local's 928 journeyman inside wiremen, about 260 are on the out-of-work list. Many members have traveled to other local jurisdictions to find work, shacking up together in the Portland area, for example, to work at Intel, or fanning across Oregon to work on

substation and transmission line upgrades.

Right now, the biggest local job is the Facebook data center going up in Prineville, where up to 110 members are currently employed. Frew is hopeful other data centers will follow. Apple purchased 160 acres across the street from the Facebook site, and is likely to

be next. Central Oregon is a prime location for data centers because of cheap land and electricity and because its dry and cool climate cuts down the expense of cooling.

As business manager, Frew touts the benefits of unionization, to workers and contractors. One selling point, he says, is the collaborative relationship Local 280 has developed with the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). Frew said he emphasizes the partnership role, and helps contractors find work. Plus, access to the union hiring hall lets contractors staff up quickly when they get work on large-scale projects. And many Local 280 members are

trained in solar installation, through the Local's NECA-partnered training center. Besides data centers, Frew said the local looks to solar arrays, electric vehicle charging stations, and a proposed hydroelectric dam on the Crooked River as sources of future work.

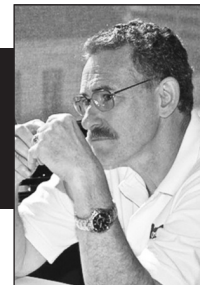
Frew also serves on the Executive Board of the Oregon AFL-CIO, on the Oregon Electrical and Elevator Board, and on the Construction Industry Energy Board.

Local 280 members also elected officers, all of whom ran unopposed: John Close, president; Jeremy Bate, vice president; Larry Fisher, recording secretary; Timothy Miller, treasurer; and Julie Emmett and Matt Forsberg, Executive Board members at large. The elections of Bate and Forsberg, Frew said, are a success for the local's efforts to involve younger members: Their election took place 10 days after they became journeymen.

Five candidates vied for seats on the local's three-member Examining Board, which reviews applicants for membership. The top three vote-getters were Mike Eastland, Travis Johnson, and Jeremy Kroon.

Who's On Our Side?

By Tom Chamberlain



Political cartoons, talk radio, and all the pundits have dedicated countless hours to interpreting the Wisconsin recall outcome. I think it's simpler than many of them make it out to be: Corporate donors spent between \$50 and \$85 million directly and indirectly to win an election by 6 points — or 171,665 votes. Unions and progressive groups mounted an impressive field campaign that contacted voters in the workplace, at the doorstep, and on the phone; but Walker backers also mounted an effective field campaign that got their voters to the polls.

The analysis of this election can teach us a few valuable lessons. 1) Recall elections are difficult at best. Since 1921 only three governors have faced recall. Sixty percent of Wisconsin voters believed that recalls should be limited to acts of misconduct — they were voting on the election, not the candidate. 2) 1%ers — from the Koch brothers, building contractors associations, and hedge fund managers, to telecommunication executives and manufacturing giants like Caterpillar — will spend vast amounts to deepen their influence at the local, state, and federal government. The June 5 Wisconsin election results will embolden their thirst for greater conquests. 3) An effective analysis can't focus on Wisconsin, without looking at the Ohio Novem-

ber 2011 referendum. Last November, by a vote of 2-to-1, Ohio voted to overturn legislation that took collective bargaining rights away from public workers. Again, 1%ers spent millions, while unions and their allies hit the street. That puts the count at 1-1. And finally, 4) While most projections for Wisconsin turnout pointed to 65 percent, the final tally of 58 percent was far short of what was needed to win. Despite turnout machines on either side, it appears that communities of color and low-income voters did not vote. Ultimately, that is what made the difference.

Low voter turnout means the poor, the middle class, women, communities of color, the LGBT community, children, you and I — anyone who does not benefit from corporatist policies — lose. When we don't vote, the 1%ers move a step closer to their vision of America. It's a vision of an America where social programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, and health care, are designed to put more money in their pockets instead of prioritizing assistance for our people. It is an America where workers' competition for jobs means accepting lower wages, fewer benefits, and no voice at work, as our rights dwindle.

What Wisconsin foreshadows in November is a battle of epic proportion.

Where the 1%ers see an opportunity to increase their power and influence, they will spend whatever it takes to win, pitting their money against those who believe that a capitalist society only works if there are checks and balances. They will stand against those who fight for workers' rights, who understand that in a recession, government has an obligation to create jobs and rebuild the infrastructure to increase our competitiveness, those who fight for financial accountability, those who advocate for women, education, the environment, and human rights.

To win we must not just limit our campaigns to union households. We know that the most effective message for a union member is still a message from another union member. But to win we must expand our voter education programs to include all voters. This will require us to continue to coordinate with community and progressive groups. To win requires expanding our volunteer ranks. It is not too early to call our office and join our activist list. Please call Jess at 503-232-1195 and join the fight.

This November, we need you standing up for our side.

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO.