

# UA #290 turns out new class of journey workers

The Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 Training Center threw a party June 9 at the Oregon Convention Center for 106 new journey level plumbers (57) and steamfitters (49).

The keynote speakers at the graduation ceremony were United Association Metal Trades Department Director James "Jimmy" Hart and Oregon Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici.

To reach journey level status takes five years in the apprenticeship program and requires 8,000 hours minimum on the job training, plus 1,080 hours in the classroom (10 terms, 108 hours per term). And, because they are working while in training, apprentices get paid to learn their craft.

To graduate, apprentices must score 75 percent or higher on a state exam, as well as an exam by the union that incorporates both written and practical elements.

The training center will be accepting applications for new apprentices July 30 through Aug. 3. For more information on how to apply, call 503-691-1997 or go on line to: [www.ua290.org/apprenticeship.php](http://www.ua290.org/apprenticeship.php).

## NEW JOURNEY PLUMBERS —

Jason Braukman, Kevin Buckem, Nicholas Card, Michael Carder, William Carr, Andrew Cheney, David Cross, Christopher Davis, Seth Deaton, Josh Easlon, Eric Falk, Christopher Flowers, Brandon Froom, Warren Geraghty, Nathan Hembree, Frank Henshaw Jr., Tony Hinchliff, Robert Hunt, James Jackson, Chance Johns, Jeremie



Pictured above with new journey-level plumbers and fitters are Local 290 Business Manager Al Shropshire (front row center), United Association Metal Trades Department Director James "Jimmy" Hart, (to Shropshire's right), and Local 290 Apprenticeship Training Coordinator Mike Pollock (to Hart's right). Photo by John Klicker.

Johnson, Steven Johnson II, Charles Keller, Georgiy Kirchev, Damian Kroha, Jeffrey Labs, Allan Lahr II, Andrew Lawyer, Kurt McFarland, Jasmine Mercado, Pete Messner, Daniel Mills, William Morrison, Joel Moser, Derrick Myles, Joshua Natho, Nichet Newsome, Sam Nichols, Jake Nickel, Neal Olsen, Michael Panko, Zachery Pardue, Jerod Parks, Patrick Propst, Chris Rockwood, Rory Rogers, Micah Rogers, Ryan Roy, Andrey Rudome-

tov, Brian Sagmiller, Casey Sallee, Seamus Skelley, Charles Taylor, Jeffrey Thompson, Daniel Vensel, Jay Walter, and Brad Yeager.

## NEW JOURNEY STEAMFITTERS —

Nicholas R. Banning, John T. Barnes, Bradley C. Boornazian, Mitchell A. Braun, Brandon M. Carroll, Marcel C. Cate, Tyrel W. Clark, Shaun M. Collins, Kurt A. Cronin, Stuart Crowley, Ian F. Duncan, Anthony J. Ek, Mathyas H. Elliott, Gregory A.

Fenne, Patrick J. Fromherz, Douglas T. Harmon, Gerald M. Harris, Scott C. Hubbard, Clayton M. Hubler, Blake D. Johnson, Curtis E. Larson, Zeb A. Marshall, Luke W. Merriman, Robert D. Molner, Mark M. Moyle, Ryan D. Mueller, Eric J. Nichols, Cody M. Norman, Jeremy B. Ohlsen, Anthony L. O'Neal J, Anthony J. Pelroy, Andrew C. Plassaras, Derek N. Proctor, Gerald D. Rasmussen, Sean M. Reid, Derek A. Roane, Blair M. Rothwilson, Moses M. Schade, Christopher R. Seeley, Travis B. Spencer, Chad W. Toothaker, James C. Treacy, Kyle S. Uptegrove, Mark J. Von Flatern, Edmond R. Vuscan, Brandon M. Warren, Benjamin D. Watts, Jesse L. Wiens, and Justin N. Wong.

# ...ATU #757

(From Page 1)

employees choose between a Regence preferred provider plan and a Kaiser HMO plan, and 58 percent choose the former.

Gaba interpreted the union's concession — agreeing to pay 1.5 percent of the Regence premium for 2011 and 3 percent for 2012 — as a recognition that the health plan had become prohibitively expensive. But he said the union's offer to share a portion of the premium didn't address the underlying source of the expense — the plan's benefit design, in which members and their dependents pay only \$5 co-pays.

"Sharing the premium does nothing to reduce usage," the arbitrator wrote. Translation: The plan is so expensive because workers use it too much, and they need to be discouraged from using it.

TriMet's proposal does that: The agency continues to pay 100 percent of the monthly premium for both plans, and keeps the Kaiser plan the same, but modifies the Regence plan: instead of \$5 co-pays, employees and dependents would pay 10 percent of the medical bills, after a \$150/\$450 deductible, up to an out-of-pocket maximum of \$1,500/\$4,500. Those changes reduce the premium by approximately 15 percent, and those savings account for most of the \$12 million difference between the union and management proposals.

The new contract takes effect immediately, and is retroactive to Nov. 30, 2009, though it's unclear how TriMet will collect 10 percent of past health care expenses. The dispute took so long, however, that the three-year contract runs only four more months, expiring Nov. 30. Arbitration was delayed twice when the union successfully sued TriMet before the Oregon Employment Relations Board, saying the agency's final offer to the arbitrator was different than the one it presented in actual bargaining.

TriMet's reaction to the arbitrator's decision suggests they'll be looking for even more concessions when bargaining begins: "This is the first step in re-aligning our benefits to be in line with the market," said TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane in a press statement. "It's a good first step, but we're in a marathon. We face many years and several contracts to truly make our benefits financially sustainable."

Newly elected Local 757 President Bruce Hansen called the arbitration loss "disappointing," and said the union will be meeting with attorneys to study the decision.

"We're not done with this," Hansen said.

"We're going to war," said Jon Hunt, Local 757 vice president and former president of the union. "You can guarantee there's gonna be no labor peace until Randy Stedman and Neil McFarlane are in the unemployment line." [Stedman is TriMet's recently hired labor relations director; McFarlane is TriMet's general manager, whose resignation Local 757 has been calling for.]

## Southwest Washington Electricians PAC #48

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AUG. 7 WASHINGTON PRIMARY:

### U.S. President

Barack OBAMA

### U.S. Senate

Maria CANTWELL

### Governor

Jay INSLEE

### Lt. Governor

Brad OWENS

### Attorney General

Bob FERGUSON

### Secretary of State

Kathleen DREW or Greg NICKELS

### Treasurer

Jim McINTYRE

### Insurance Commissioner

Mike KREIDLER

### Commissioner of Public Lands

Peter GOLDMARK

### State Supreme Court

Susan OWENS, Pos. 2;  
Steven GONZALEZ, Pos. 8  
Sheryl McCLOUD, Pos. 9

**BALLOT MEASURES:** NO on Initiative 1185  
NO on Initiative 1191

### Washington Legislature

**District 17:** Tim PROBST, Senate;

Monica STONIER, Rep., Pos. 1  
James GIZZI, Rep., Pos. 2

**District 18:** Ralph SCHMIDT, Senate;

David SHEHORN, Rep., Pos. 2

**District 19:** Brian HATFIELD, Senate;

Dean TAKKO, Rep., Pos. 1  
Brian E. BLAKE, Rep., Pos. 2

**District 49:** Annette CLEVELAND, Senate;

Sharon WYLIE, Rep., Pos. 1  
Jim MOELLER, Rep., Pos. 2

### Clark County

Joe TANNER, Commissioner, Pos. 1  
Roman BATTAN, Commissioner Pos. 2  
Philip A. PARKER, PUD Commissioner

### Cowlitz County

Mark McCRADY, PUD Commissioner

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