

Local Motion

July 2012

A list of Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces deciding whether to be union-represented – as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Voting in union elections

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Yes	No	
7/10	Franz Bakery maintenance engineers (Eugene) Bakers Local 114	5	8	☞
7/19	YoCream/Dannon (Portland) Teamsters Local 305	32	10	☞
7/26	BrucePac (Woodburn, Silverton) Laborers Local 296	57	189	☞

Requesting a union election

Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
Coca-Cola Bottling fleet mechanics (Wilsonville) Machinists District Lodge W24	3
City of LaPine Public Works (LaPine) Teamsters Local 962	5

LEGEND

☞ : workers will be union-represented ☞ : workers will be on their own

DECERT : A decertification election occurs when some union-represented workers declare that the union no longer has majority support. A 'yes' vote is a vote for the union.

Major union win: 500 Portland security officers join SEIU #49

Securitas, ABM, G4S, and AlliedBarton agreed in July to recognize and bargain with SEIU Local 49

Four enormous national and global security companies have agreed to recognize Service Employees International Union (SEIU) — and begin negotiating a union contract — for about 500 Portland-area security guards. Securitas, ABM, G4S (Wackenhut), and AlliedBarton will begin bargaining jointly with SEIU Local 49 in late August, though it's not yet known whether that will result in individual contracts or an area master agreement.

It could prove a triumph for security guards, if the result is sizable wage and benefit increases. The median wage is \$11 an hour for Portland-area security guards, says Local 49 property services organizing director Will Layng, and benefits are minimal: an annual one-week bonus, but no paid sick days, no paid vacation, and inadequate or unaffordable health insurance.

Michael Zak, 50, said he can't afford health insurance on the \$10 an hour he earns after three years at ABM. A 17-year Oregon Army National Guard veteran, he has access to the Veterans Administration Hospital, but his wife does not.



Private security officers at ABM hold up signed union authorization cards from co-workers. In July, ABM, Securitas, G4S, and AlliedBarton voluntarily recognized SEIU Local 49 for bargaining units totaling about 500 employees. From left to right are Jim McPhee, Michael Zak, Terry Bailey, and Kevin Stephens.

"Health insurance for me and my wife would be \$460," Zak said. "I have to make a decision: Do I pay medical or rent?"

"There are huge global corporations in this field, and they compete with each other to drive down wages and benefits," Layng said.

But an agreement with SEIU could take wages out of competition and allow the companies to compete on service and other considerations.

SEIU's campaign is known nationally as Stand for Security, and is modeled on the union's Justice for Janitors campaign. In the Portland area, Local 49 has been working to organize secu-

rity guards for about two years, with moral support from several religious leaders and Oregon Representative Jeff Barker (D-Aloha), former president of the Portland Police Association.

Thus, the union was ready to go once the companies agreed to "card check," in which they recognize the union once a neutral party verifies that a majority of workers have signed authorization cards. The card checks took place in July for all four companies. ABM, with 107 Portland-area employees, was the last of the four companies to do so, with a card check that took place July 31.

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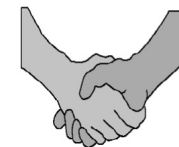
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from**

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