

# Young elected business manager of IBEW #48

## Flores, New face runoff for vice president's post

Gary Young, a 24-year member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48, won election to a full three-year term as the union's business manager. In mail ballots counted June 24, Young received 646 votes, Nancy Cary 402, and John Wilson 186.

Young, 52, was appointed April 8 to succeed Clif Davis, who resigned as business manager to take a job at the international union as business development representative for IBEW's 8th and 9th districts.

Members also chose 13 other union officers from among 35 candidates. Erik Richardson was re-elected presi-



GARY YOUNG

dent, turning back challenger Dennis Ward. For vice president, Armando Flores will face Paul New in a July 15 runoff election; the two outpolled a third candidate, Jodi Tillinghast. Kathy Duncan was reelected recording secretary, outpolling challenger Cory Wyatt. For treasurer, incumbent John Sargent ran unopposed.

Four candidates ran for and were elected to four positions on the Examining Board, which evaluates candidates for membership in the local: Ray Lister, Oscar Merida, Terry Reigle, and Forrest Chapman.

And six seats on the Executive Board were filled by the top vote-getters among 23 candidates: Members re-

turned incumbents Rod Belisle, Paul Behrman, Marjorie Ramirez, Christina Daniels, and added newcomers Bruce Barnes and Topher Edwards.

Voter turnout was 29.8 percent of the membership.

Newly elected officers will take the oath of office at Local 48's July 24 meeting. All terms are three years.

The Portland-based union represents construction electricians and sound and communications technicians in an area that encompasses Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The local's approximately 4,200 members work under 25 different contracts, the biggest of which is its agreement covering inside wiremen electricians in commercial and industrial construction employed by members of the National Electrical Contractors Association. Local 48 members also have a presence in residential construction,

work as material handlers at industrial and commercial facilities, or are employed by local broadcasters and government entities.

Young said one of his top priorities will be increasing market share, particularly as the Intel expansion winds down in about a year. The project currently employs about 1,300 union electricians.

"The future is bright," Young said, "and we will take every opportunity we can to move things forward."

Young said he will also work to ensure enforcement of standards in the electrical industry, to continue Local 48's tradition of volunteerism and community involvement, and to build unity within the wider labor movement. Local 48 will be locking arms with other unions, Young said, to defend the union movement against attacks like a proposed "right-to-work" ballot measure aimed at public sector unions.

## SW Washington Labor Council endorsements for August primary

VANCOUVER, Wash. — The Southwest Washington Central Labor Council has issued endorsements for the Aug. 6 primary election in the state of Washington.

Ballots are in the mail starting July 17.

The labor council endorsed the re-election of Tim Leavitt for mayor of Vancouver and the re-election of Jack Burkman for Vancouver City Council, Position 1.

Leavitt is being challenged by city councilor Bill Turlay.

Burkman faces three challengers in the primary. The top two vote getters move on to the general election Nov. 5.

Union delegates issued dual endorsements for two separate Vancouver City Council races.

For Position 2, the labor council is backing political newcomers Alisha Topper and Ty Stober. They are challenging incumbent Jeanne E. Stewart.

For Position 3, the labor council has endorsed Anne McEnerny Ogle and Galina Burley. They are among four candidates trying to unseat incumbent Jeanne M. Harris.

## Supreme Court overturns DOMA, LGBT working families celebrate

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional, paving the way for the federal recognition of same-sex marriages. In a separate 5-4 ruling, the court dismissed an appeal by opponents of marriage equality of a lower court decision that found California's Prop. 8 ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. The dismissal of the appeal means that same-sex couples in California can begin getting married again and that the states without equal marriage laws have some work to do to make sure everyone is receiving the full federal benefits that marriage brings, but that domestic partnerships do not.

The Court's ruling says that couples who are legally married are entitled to equal treatment under federal law. That allows all legally married couples to receive the same income tax and Social Security benefits, among other federal benefits.

"For LGBT workers, the decision means married couples must be treated as married in accordance with the laws in their state," said Darren Phelps, executive director of Pride at Work, a constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the labor movement and the LGBT community for social and economic justice. Pride at Work has more than 20 chapters nationwide, including Oregon.

"Marriage equality is about treating

all couples with respect, but it also has major financial and legal impacts that will allow more same-sex couples to more effectively support their families," Phelps said. "We will continue efforts to win marriage equality in more states, but there are also vital issues remaining for the LGBT community — our lives are about more than marriage."

The Oregon AFL-CIO is among 200 coalition partners working to qualify the Freedom to Marry and Religious Protection Initiative for the November 2014 ballot. The initiative would make marriage legal for Oregon's same-sex couples.

The Oregon AFL-CIO says union members will be essential to getting the ballot measure passed in Oregon.

## 'Labor: A Working History' opens July 11 in Vancouver

VANCOUVER, Wash. — "Labor: A Working History," will be on exhibit at the Clark County Historical Society and Museum July 11 through Dec. 31, 2014.

An opening reception will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, July 11.

Following the reception, author and University of Washington professor Dr. Michael Honey will present a special Second Thursday lecture entitled, "Links on the Chain: Labor and Civil Rights in Story and Song." Refreshments will be provided by The Grant House Restaurant.

Historical society members, military veterans, and active duty military personnel and their families all receive free admission to the museum; otherwise, regular admission rates apply. It is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors/students, \$2 for children, and \$10 for families.

The Clark County Historical Society & Museum is located at 1511 Main St., Vancouver, Washington.

## Oregon AFL-CIO confab in Bend Sept. 27-29

BEND — Union leaders and activists, mark your calendars for Sept. 27-29 and the 53rd biennial Oregon AFL-CIO Convention. The convention will be held at The Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center: 3075 N Business 97, Bend.

Registration opens Friday, Sept. 27. That evening a Welcome Party will be held. Convention business gets under way Saturday morning, Sept. 28.

The popular Union Label Show is scheduled Saturday evening.

For more information, call the Oregon AFL-CIO at 503-224-3169, or from Salem call 503-585-6320.

## ...Bargaining continues at City of Portland

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as a true assault on core union values," said Local 483 spokesperson Megan Hise.

Under the existing contract, the City has to notify affected union members if their work is going to be contracted out. It also must demonstrate that contracting out will save the City money, and that the savings won't be based solely on lowering wages and benefits. It's a practice that puts the reputed "magic" of private sector efficiency to the test.

"We feel that [the contracting out clause is] not only good for job security for our members, but it's a good protection for the taxpayer as well," said AF-SCME staff representative and DCTU chief negotiator Rob Wheaton. "We're able to watchdog that it actually saves the City money."

The City is proposing wage increases, but City negotiators are saying the raises won't be retroactive to the June 30 expiration of the previous contract. One City negotiator told union bargainers the City will save \$4,000 for every day longer that it takes to resolve the contract.

The next bargaining session is scheduled for July 10.

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