

Turnout is good at first Strong Voice Summit

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. — Over 70 union members, activists and representatives from more than 30 partner organizations attended the first Oregon Strong Voice Summit here March 22.

Oregon Strong Voice is a coalition of unions and community-based organizations that have formed regional “tables” to build power across the state on issues where no single group is large enough to make change alone. The tables work on local and statewide issues to build stronger communities, and ultimately, a stronger state, and each table takes on different priorities depending on the groups involved.

The Summit was the first time that members from all of the tables have come together to discuss their efforts.

“We can win if we coordinate. We can



National AFL-CIO Vice President Tefere Gebre speaks at Oregon Strong Voice Summit. Photo by Russell Sanders, Oregon AFL-CIO

win if we learn from each other, when we’re inter-connected, when we combine our fights,” said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain. “We can win when we understand that ‘we’ can build power.”

National AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre challenged participants to talk to friends, family members and neighbors “about what you feel is right. Don’t take your neighbors for granted.”

The Summit featured workshops to increase skill building and collaboration, a panel of representatives from different regional tables, and speeches from Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian and PCUN President Ramon Ramirez.



New journeymen painters and tapers recognized at dinner

Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian was on hand to congratulate new journeymen painters and tapers at a graduation dinner March 20 in Portland.

In the photo right, Avakian presents a plaque to painter Doug Bartholomew. In the background is Bud Bartunek, area director of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5.

In the photo above, Bartholomew is pictured with new journeymen Jose Ruiz and Peter Halterman. Ruiz is a taper and member of Salem Local 724. Halterman is a painter and, like Bartholomew, is a member of Local 10 in Portland.

The graduates each received a plaque, Carhartt jacket, and a bucket of paint brushes and other tools.

The graduating class of apprentices is the smallest in decades — a lingering result of the Great Recession. Bartunek said the current class of apprentices is the largest in more than six



years. However, most are in their first term.

The Painter/Decorator and Dry-wall Finisher Apprenticeship Program requires a minimum of 144 hours per year of related classroom training and a total of 6,000 hours of on-the-job training. When work is good, the program can be completed in three years. Apprentices receive wages and benefits while in training.

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Save the Date!

Please join the Oregon AFL-CIO, the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council (OBTC), the AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust, project developer Legacy Partners Residential, Inc., project manager Rembold Companies, PNC Realty Investors, Inc., and the AFL-CIO Investment Trust Corporation for a special:

*Groundbreaking Ceremony at
Lloyd District Commons
in honor of Workers' Memorial Day*

Monday, April 28, 2014

10 a.m. PDT

330 Multnomah Street

Portland, OR 97232

Lloyd District Commons is a \$43.2 million multifamily project to be built in Portland that will include a six-story, mid-rise structure containing 186 rental apartments and 100 parking spaces. Construction is expected to be completed in July 2015

Every year on April 28th, hundreds of events take place across the nation in honor of Workers' Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew our efforts for safe workplaces. At the groundbreaking we will celebrate the hundreds of safe construction, service, and maintenance jobs, performed by expert and highly trained workers, to be created at Lloyd District Commons made possible by the investment of the AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust.

Please RSVP to William Little at 202-499-5526 or wlittle@afcio-itc.com



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