

Basic Rights Oregon unionizes with AFSCME

The gay civil rights group voluntarily recognizes a union for its 15 employees

Portland-based gay civil rights group Basic Rights Oregon (BRO) is now a union employer. BRO's board of directors agreed in mid-July to recognize Oregon AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) after all 15 staff members signed union authorization cards. Most of Oregon AFSCME's nearly 25,000 members are state, county, and municipal employees, but the union also represents workers at a handful of non-profit organizations.

BRO and Oregon AFSCME have

worked together closely for years on political campaigns, and BRO's mission — to bring about equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Oregonians — is a cause Oregon AFSCME has long championed.

BRO's political manager, Amy Herzfeld, also has union ties, as a former state director for Working America — AFL-CIO's at-large community affiliate. BRO board member David Cutler is on staff at SEIU Local 49. And BRO board member Nancy Haque is a former organizer for the workers rights group Jobs with Justice.

Executive director Jeana Frazzini said the move to unionize is consistent with the group's values, and pledged to meet in good faith to negotiate a first union contract.

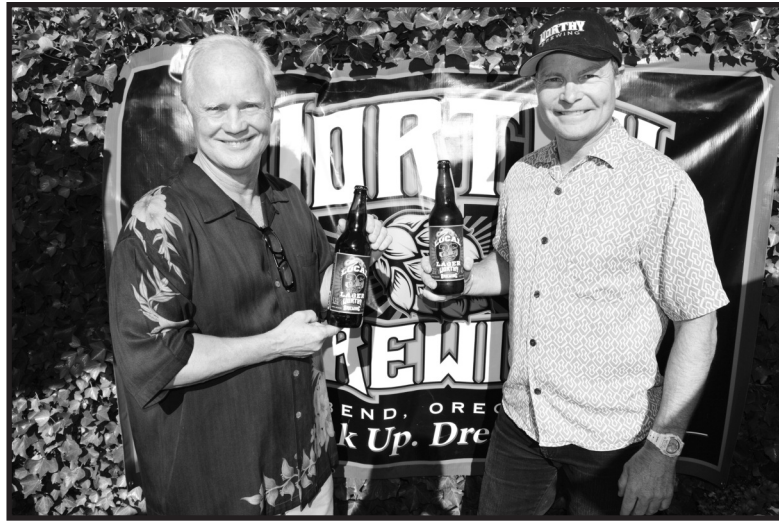
Musicians Union hall goes solar

American Federation of Musicians Local 99 is installing a 10 KW solar array on the roof of its Portland union hall, thanks to a federal tax subsidy and a State of Oregon pilot program of "feed-in tariffs."

The installation will be performed by Synchro Solar using a subcontractor signatory to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48.

Under a feed-in tariff system, the utility, in this case PGE, pays a fixed, above-market rate for electricity fed into the grid from the solar array.

To celebrate the installation, Local 99 is planning a party Aug. 17 from 3 to 7 p.m. featuring organic food, labor ballads, children's games, and videos and pictures of the installation. Event co-sponsors include the Portland Jobs with Justice Climate Jobs Committee and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.



Celebrating Local 36 with a lager

Attorney Roger Worthington built a career out of representing workers exposed to asbestos, including his own father. So when he founded Worthy Brewing of Bend, Oregon, he wanted to find a way to say thanks to the union that gave him a start: Portland-based Insulators Local 36. He directed his brewmaster to come up with a red lager worthy of the association. And on July 16 he hosted a catered launch party for Local 36 members and retirees. Pictured above, Local 36 Business Manager Stan Danielson (left) and Worthington hold the finished product. "I'll never forget how it felt to me as a 24-year-old kid representing the titans of industry, the greatest Americans, who helped us win wars, build ships, build aluminum plants, build paper mills, bridges, schools, and hospitals ... and breweries," Worthington told Local 36 members. "It's been a privilege and honor to represent these folks."

Machinists to host golf fundraiser for guide dogs

The 26th annual Machinists District W24 golf tournament benefiting Guide Dogs of America will be held Monday, Sept. 8 at Heron Lakes Golf Club in Portland.

Registration begins at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$125 per person

Hole sponsorships are still available, ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.

For more information, contact John Hall at 503-449-0969, John Kleiboeker at 503-863-7304, or Stacy Breunig at 503-702-9879.

Support Labor's Community Service Agency by shopping at Fred Meyer

Union members can help fund programs for Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) using their Fred Meyer Rewards Card.

Fred Meyer, a union employer, will donate \$2.5 million to non-profits in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho annually through a new program it calls Community Rewards. All you have to do is link your Rewards Card and use it when you shop at Fred Meyer. Here's how it works:

Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card online to LCSA (number 91427) at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

Whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Fred Meyer, you'll be helping Labor's Community Service Agency earn a donation. That's because at the end of each quarter, Fred Meyer will make a donation to participating non-profits based on their percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending of all participating Fred Meyer Community Reward organizations.

And the great thing about it is you still get to keep and use all of your Fred Meyer rewards points, fuel points and rebates.

Most purchases qualify for Community Rewards, but some items are not eligible, including prescriptions, lottery tickets, fuel, tobacco and gift cards, to name a few.

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4275 NE Halsey St., P.O. Box 13150,
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Telephone: (503) 288-3311

Editor: Michael Gutwig
Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice

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