

Union Veterans Council tackles issues of unionists who are military veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Union Veterans Council (UVC) was established by the national AFL-CIO via a resolution adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in March 2009.

The UVC brings together union leaders and union members who are veterans to speak out on veterans' issues and influence public policy to improve the quality of life for U.S. veterans and their families. The two primary areas of focus for veterans are access to good jobs and access to quality health care.

The Union Veterans Council holds government officials, candidates and elected officials accountable to the needs of all military veterans and their families. The UVC makes its positions on veterans' issues known to candidates for public office and supports the appointment of labor-friendly veterans to government agencies at all levels. The UVC also encourages union veterans to take leadership roles in other veterans' organizations and strives to form coalitions and alliances with other veteran groups around union veterans' issues.

To learn more about the Union Veterans Council, contact James Gilbert, director, at 202-637-5350 or email him at unionveterans@aflcio.org.



Vets fundraiser planned

Oregon Military Support Network (OMSN) will hold a benefit fundraiser Saturday, Nov. 15, featuring the Norman Sylvester Band. Voices for Veterans will be held at the Eagles Lodge 3426, 7611 N Exeter Street, Portland, from 7 to 11 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

In addition to the show, there will be a barbecue dinner, a no-host bar, door prizes, and an auction. Tickets are available at www.tickettomato.com (\$15 in advance and \$20 at the door).

For more information, call Glenn Shuck at 503-803-1969 or email him at gshuck36@aol.com. You can also go on line to omsn.info.

Charges against 'postal defenders' dropped

Ten "postal defenders" won a reprieve when Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Karin Immergut dismissed criminal charges in a two-year-old civil disobedience protest case, saying the defendants' constitutional right to a speedy trial had been violated.

The postal defenders immediately turned from celebrating their victory to organizing for a Veteran's Day action Nov. 11 to call on the postmaster general to halt the scheduled closure of half the nation's remaining mail processing plants and to retain existing mail delivery standards. The rally, which will also honor veterans' involvement with the postal service, is slated for noon at Portland's Waterfront Park.

Ten postal defenders — Rev. John Schwiebert, Jamie Partridge, Jack Herbert, Trudy Cooper, Rev. Michael Colvin, Tim Flanagan and Ann Huntwork — were arrested May 24, 2012, on criminal trespass charges inside the now-closed University Station Post Office in downtown Portland. The group was peacefully holding banners that called for "No Closures, No Cuts" and "Occupy the Post Office."

The 10 — members of labor unions, faith groups, neighborhood organizations, small business owners, a disabled vet, retirees and the Occupy movement — refused to leave until

postal management agreed to keep postal facilities open and full service.

More than two years later, after a legal fight that went to the Oregon Supreme Court, the postal defenders had hoped to get their day in court before a jury. The activists would have argued that they had tried every other means available — letter writing, phone calls, Congressional visits, rallies, marches, petitions, community hearings, city council resolutions — but had been unable to stop the dismantling of the postal service by the

postmaster general.

The postal defenders planned to argue that, in refusing to leave, they were attempting to stop the closure of one-half the nation's mail processing plants, the gutting of service at half the country's post offices and the delay of mail.

The postal defenders say they will continue to argue that the real criminal is the postmaster general, who is violating the Constitution (Article 1, sec. 8), Title 39 and Title 18, sec. 1701 & 1708 of the US Code by willfully obstructing and delaying the mail.



Tell the Postmaster General —
Honor Veterans !



Don't Delay America's Mail !

Stop the Plant Closures! Save Delivery Standards!

11:30 am March & Noon Rally

Tues. Nov. 11, Waterfront Park

(Veterans Day Federal Holiday)

March from Salmon St. Springs Fountain

March to Battleship Oregon Veterans Memorial (s. of Hawthorne Br.)

The Postmaster General is poised to make devastating cuts in service to the American people. On Jan. 5, 2015 the USPS is slated to lower "service standards". All mail will be delayed.

82 Mail Processing & Distribution Centers are scheduled to close, including Eugene/Springfield, Bend & Pendleton. Veterans will be particularly hard hit — Vets get their prescription drugs in the mail. Vets get preference in hiring at the USPS (25% of postal workers are vets). Vets will lose service, jobs & job opportunities.

For more info: American Postal Workers Union, 503-231-1797

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