

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)

Established in 1900 in Portland, Oregon as a voice of the labor movement. Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co. Inc., a non-profit mutual benefit corporation owned by 20 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 120 union organizations in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Office location:
4275 NE Halsey St., Portland, Oregon

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 13150, Portland, OR 97213
Phone: (503) 288-3311

Web address:
<http://nwlaborpress.org>

Editor: Michael Gutwig
Associate editor: Don McIntosh
Office manager: Cheri Rice

Printed on recycled paper, using soy-based inks, by members of Teamsters Local 747-M.

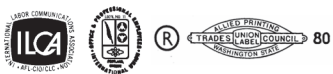
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Individual subscriptions are \$13.75 per year for union members, \$20 a year for all others. Send a check for that amount, indicating mailing address and union affiliation, to P.O. Box 13150, Portland, OR 97213. For 25 or more subscriptions, group rates of \$9.60 a year per person are available to trade union organizations. Call 503-288-3311 for details.

CORRECTIONS: See an error? Please let us know at editor@nwlaborpress.org or by phone at 503-288-3311.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT PORTLAND, OREGON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE: Three weeks are required for a change of address. When ordering a change, please give your old and new addresses and the name and number of your local union.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS P.O. BOX 13150 PORTLAND, OR 97213-0150



Minimum wage campaign fills Oregon Capitol hearing rooms

SALEM — Supporters and opponents of raising Oregon’s minimum wage traded volley after volley of public testimony at a joint legislative committee hearing April 13. Over 100 people signed up to testify at the hearing, and it lasted more than three hours.

The hearing was held jointly by the Oregon House Business and Labor Committee, chaired by State Rep. Paul Holvey (D-Eugene) and the Oregon Senate Workforce Committee, chaired by Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland). The two committees are considering a total of 10 bills that would raise the minimum wage in varying amounts and as high as \$15 an hour, or that would remove a state law barring cities from passing their own higher minimum wages.

“Oregonians can’t wait five or 10 years for the fair wage they deserve,” said House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland), the first person to testify in favor. “Just raising it a dollar would not do enough.”

After hearing from Kotek and fellow increase supporter State Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson (D-Portland), lawmakers took testimony from alternating panels of three or four supporters or opponents, with each person given



Supporters of the group 15 Now hold an impromptu rally in the Oregon Capitol rotunda April 13 before a joint House-Senate committee hearing on raising the minimum wage.

two minutes to speak. Members of the public who came to the Capitol to watch or testify filled the hearing room as well as three overflow rooms, where they watched the hearing via video link.

“I just want a wage that lets me live in dignity,” testified Oregon AFSCME Local 3214 member Linda Peterson, who works with developmentally disabled adults for a non-profit in Eugene.

Panel after panel of small businesses lined up to testify against raising the minimum wage, while some other small businesses—members of the progressive Main Street Al-

liance—spoke for it. Big businesses appear to have sat out the hearing, which was held in the evening to allow regular members of the public to testify.

Several restaurateurs warned of dire consequences, including higher prices, lower profit margins, and servers who would be replaced with touch screen ordering devices—if the minimum wage were raised. A rye grass grower said she’d bring in foreign labor. An athletic club owner said he might lay off towel boys and use vending machines to dispense towels. An Outback Steakhouse executive said the company would be un-

able to open any new restaurants in Oregon if the minimum wage goes up.

Among the stranger spectacles was a panel of young Republicans, including a self-described “future politician” in a white bowtie and suspenders, and a clean-cut Salem Chamber of Commerce supporter who fretted that raising the minimum wage would cause members of the working class to have less motivation.

But the testimony was more personal than theoretical for a trio of Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) members who talked about their daily struggles of living life in poverty—Corvallis School District “lunch lady” Deanna Lundgren, West Linn instructional assistant Cynthia Muñoz and South Eugene night custodian Windy Wiebke.

“I can’t pay my bills with self-esteem,” Wiebke said.

At Oregon’s current minimum wage of \$9.25, a full-time year-round worker would gross just \$19,000.

The two committees scheduled separate work sessions April 20 at which they could discuss the bills further, and vote to recommend one or more of them.

Broadway Floral
for the BEST flowers call
503-288-5537
1638 NE Broadway, Portland

IRS PROBLEMS?

- Haven’t filed for ... years?
- Lost records?
- Liens - Levies - Garnishments?
- Negotiate settlements.
- Prepare offer in Compromise.

Call Nancy D. Anderson
Enrolled Agent
NPTI Fellow/America’s Tax Expert
LTC-1807
www.nancydanderson.com
503-244-2577

Your Oregon & Washington
Union Mail House.

MORE LINK
Print anything, mail anywhere.
Formerly Witham and Dickey

Proud Mailers of the
Northwest Labor Press
www.morelink.biz | 503-736-0111 ext. 140

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family

Our Home Equity Line of Credit Loans Are Made to Help Your Dreams Become Reality!

- Low monthly payments
- Up to \$200.00 in closing costs waived*
- No application fee
- Call for additional details

IBEW AND UNITED WORKERS UNION FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Don’t Miss Out Apply Today at
503-253-8193 ext.340 or
www.ibewuwfcu.com

\$20,000 minimum initial advance required **Promotion Runs From March 1st to April 30, 2015**

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family