

...Legislature adjourns

From Page 1

OTHER WINS AND LOSSES

- ☑ **Domestic worker bill of rights** Starting Jan. 1, nearly 10,000 nannies, house cleaners, and housekeepers who work in Oregon homes will have a right to three days off a year, meal and rest breaks, and protections against harassment and discrimination. Those living in employers' homes will get eight hours of uninterrupted rest every 24 hours, overtime pay after 44 hours of work, and the right to cook their own meals. Others will get overtime after 40 hours and at least one day off a week. Oregon is the fifth state to pass such a bill, giving domestic workers some of the same legal rights other workers have.
- ☑ **Wage transparency** Employers will be barred from retaliating against workers for disclosing their wages. Such workplace policies can mask unfair wage disparities, including compensation differences between male and female workers.
- ☑ **Increase worker's comp attorney fees** It's gotten harder to get a lawyer when a worker's comp claim is denied in Oregon, because low fees make it hard for lawyers to take cases. But this year MLAC, the management-labor committee on workers' comp, recommended a bill to raise fees in a way that doesn't

come out of a worker's settlement; it passed.

- ☑ **Cannabis workers rights** United Food and Commercial Workers, which has unionized cannabis workers in other states, was able to get workers' rights provisions added to Oregon's new law regulating the newly-legalized cannabis industry. A section of the new law guarantees cannabis workers the right to unionize, and makes it an unlawful employment practice to retaliate against workers for that. It also lets the Oregon Liquor Control Commission set merit-based criteria for issuing or renewing licenses, including whether an applicant offers employees living wages and benefits.
- ☑ **Wage theft** The Oregon Coalition to Stop Wage Theft, a coalition of eight unions and 29 faith and community groups, teamed up with Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian to push bills cracking down on employers who violate wage and hour laws. They had almost no success. Associated Oregon Industries and Associated General Contractors tarred the bills as "job-killers." Just one bill passed, allowing the Bureau of Labor and Industries to garnish employer accounts to enforce wage orders.
- ☑ **Employer health insurance** The Oregon AFL-CIO's "health-care accountability" bill would

- have penalized large employers whose employees end up on publicly subsidized health care. No state has done this so far.
- ☑ **Scheduling abuses** A landmark San Francisco ordinance puts a halt to abusive scheduling practices like giving workers little notice of schedules, making last-minute schedule changes, requiring workers to be on-call, and sending workers home early when sales are slow. No one thought Oregon lawmakers would be as bold as San Francisco, but advocates dipped a toe in the water with bills giving workers the right to ask for predictable schedules. Instead, the Legislature went the other way, passing a two-year moratorium on local jurisdictions taking action on scheduling. That anti-worker move was led by State Sen. Chris Edwards (D-Eugene), who got it attached to passage of the sick leave measure.

BUILDING TRADES

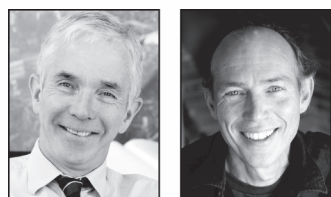
Every year, the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council goes to Salem to advocate for public infrastructure investment, help clear obstacles to private construction projects, and protect and expand the requirement to pay the prevailing wage to workers on construction projects that spend public money. Building Trades executive secretary-treasurer John Mohlis State ended this year's session more aggrieved

than celebratory. Mohlis called it "almost inconceivable" that lawmakers would leave without passing a transportation bill, and says a needed renovation of the State Capitol won't get easier or cheaper just because lawmakers kicked that down the road. Still, lawmakers did approve hundreds of millions in new infrastructure spending, and passed union-supported fixes to past tax and prevailing wage legislation.

- ☑ **Clean fuels** Oregon's Low Carbon Fuel Standard, also known as the Clean Fuels Program, was first approved by the Legislature in 2009, and needed to be re-approved in 2015 in order to go forward to implementation after six years of research. The bill had the backing of the building trades, as well as AFSCME Local 3336, which represents Oregon DEQ. The plan is to reduce the carbon needed to make transportation fuels by 10 percent over the next 10 years. It's likely to create jobs: Salem's SeQuential Pacific Bio-Fuels is expanding its refinery capacity by 20 percent, and Fort Collins, Colorado-based Red Rock Biofuels is pursuing permits to construct a new \$200 million plant in Lakeview.

- ☑ **Convention Center hotel** A new law makes it clear that the Metro regional government has the authority to finance construction of a convention center headquarters hotel.
- ☑ **Flaggers** A new law backed by the Laborers requires construction flagging contractors to get a license and show that they're bonded and carry insurance.
- ☑ **Solar arrays** A bill to incentivize utility-scale solar installations of up to 300 megawatts was backed by IBEW, but failed to pass. IBEW Local 48 political director Joe Esmonde thinks lawmakers balked at the price tag.
- ☑ **4-cent gas tax increase to fund road improvements** Because cars are more efficient than they used to be, Oregon's gas tax isn't keeping up with the need to maintain roads. The state gas tax is currently 30 cents per gallon, and hasn't increased since 2011. Lawmakers put together a plan for two 2-cent increases. [Any more than that, and the trucking industry and AAA threatened to campaign to overturn it with a ballot measure.] The tax increase — plus higher vehicle fees —

Turn to Page 8



James Coon Raymond Thomas



Cynthia Newton Chris Frost



Cheryl Coon Charley Gee



Melissa Haggerty Sydney Montanaro

The team at
**SWANSON, THOMAS,
COON & NEWTON**
can help you:

See you at the **AFL-CIO Summer School, August 7-9**, where **Chris Frost has a workshop on Workers' Comp. Go online for more info:**

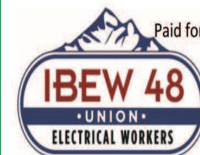
<http://lerc.uoregon.edu/events/summer-school/>

 **SWANSON, THOMAS,
COON & NEWTON**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
820 SW Second Ave, Ste. 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
www.stc-law.com

- Workers' Compensation
- Construction Injuries
- Death Claims
- Personal Injury & Product Liability
- Medical Malpractice
- Social Security Disability
- Mesothelioma

Call us today at **503-228-5222**
Straight answers.
No cost for consultation.
Our law offices are located on the MAX Light Rail at SW 2nd & Yamhill.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON LABOR ENDORSEMENTS



Paid for by the Southwest WA Electricians PAC 48 of WA

IBEW Local 48 endorses candidates who support living wages and working conditions

VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL

- Position #4 BART HANSEN
- Position #5 TY STOBER
- Position #6 GEORGE FRANCISCO

CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

- Chair, At Large MARC BOLDT
MIKE DALESANDRO
- Councilor, Dist. 2 CHUCK GREEN



BATTLE GROUND CITY COUNCIL

- Councilor, Pos. #7 CANDY BONNEVILLE

EVERGREEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Representative, Dist. 3 VICTORIA BRADFORD