



**IBEW LOCAL 125 PICKETS PACIFIC POWER HEADQUARTERS.** Nearly 200 outside linemen and wiremen from several electrical utilities in Oregon, Washington, and Utah picketed Sept. 23 outside the corporate headquarters of PacifiCorp in the Lloyd District. The union workers at Pacific Power, a subsidiary of PacifiCorp, which is owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Energy, have been bargaining for a new contract for more than a year. They have rejected two proposals. The most recent was on Sept. 1, at which time they also voted to authorize a strike if needed. The company is demanding a four-year deal, and it wants to shift more of its health care costs onto workers. Over the last two contracts the company has terminated its pension plan and raised wages just 1 percent a year. Union electrical workers from other companies joined in the protest knowing that this fight for benefits could easily become their fight for benefits in the future. "It's all about solidarity," said Don Eri, a lineman and Local 125 member at Portland General Electric. "We bargained in good faith for our benefits, and we want to keep them. None of us wants to go down this road." Local 125 represents 320 linemen, meter readers, substation wiremen and others at Pacific Power. The service area extends from Astoria to Bend to Walla Walla, Washington.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY**

**Cold hard cash for Labor's Community Service Agency**

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 donated \$600 to Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) last month. The money came from a 50/50 drawing the union held at its annual picnic at Blue Lake Park.

Each year Local 757 selects a non-profit to donate to. "Labor's Community Service Agency is very deserving. We recommend our members to the agency all the time," said ATU President Shirley Block. Block and ATU Secretary-Treasurer Mary Longoria presented the cash to LCSA Executive Director Vickie Burns Sept. 10 at Local 757's Schoppert Hall in Northeast Portland.



Vickie Burns (center) executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency, receives a cash donation from ATU Local 757 President Shirley Block (right) and Secretary-Treasurer Mary Longoria.

Burns said the money will go to the agency's Helping Hands temporary hardship assistance program.

**Scholarships for kids of workers injured or killed on the job**



**K**ids' Chance of Oregon, a two-year-old non-profit that provides post-secondary and trade school scholarships to children of Oregon workers who have been severely or fatally injured in a workplace accident, handed out scholarships Sept. 16 at McMenamin's Kennedy School. The scholarship recipients were Josika Wigner (left) and twins Kayla and Randi Johnston. Making the presentation is Bob Shiprack, president of Kids' Chance of Oregon.

Wigner, who has Tourette's syndrome and aspergers, lost her father to a workplace accident in 2012. She attends Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon, and plans to go to medical school to someday work as a geriatric physician. She received a \$14,000 scholarship.

Randi and Kayla are repeat Kids' Chance scholarship recipients. They were five when their father was killed in a job-related accident. Both are studying business management at Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington, and both plan to attend Oregon State University next year. They received \$1,200 and \$1,400 scholarships, respectively.

Oregon is the 27th state with a Kids' Chance chapter. Its board of directors is made up primarily of professionals with experience in workers' compensation-related industries. Labor is represented on the 12-member board by Shiprack, a

retired executive director of the Oregon State Building Trades Council, and Bob Tackett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. Other notables on the board are Nelson Hall, a labor attorney at Bennett, Hartman, Morris & Kaplan, and Jennifer Flood, State of Oregon ombudsmen for injured workers.

More than 100 people attended the Sept. 16 scholarship awards ceremony, which also doubled as a fundraiser for the organization. Among the guest speakers was Kevin Jensen, a retired business manager of Iron Workers Local 29. Jensen serves on the board of SAIF Corp., Oregon's not-for-profit, state-chartered workers' compensation insurance company.

"It hurts to lose a parent at any age, but when a young person loses a parent, or a parent is critically injured, it can be devastating," Jensen said. "These scholarships can help provide some stability, by providing some financial support to attend college or a trade school."

Jensen and Shiprack encourage Oregon labor unions to become more involved in Kids' Chance of Oregon and to help raise funds for future scholarships.

For more information about Kids' Chance of Oregon, visit their website at [www.kidschanceoforegon.com](http://www.kidschanceoforegon.com).

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