

# Biennial Oregon AFL-CIO convention will draw hundreds of unionists to Seaside

Members of Congress who voted in favor of Fast Track aren't invited this year.

Several hundred delegates from Oregon labor unions will converge Oct. 23-25 in Seaside for the biennial convention of the Oregon AFL-CIO. Among the highlights: a debate among candidates for Oregon secretary of state, a message of support from national AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Liz Shuler, and keynote addresses from Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, and Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek.

The Oregon AFL-CIO is the premier coordinating body for the state's labor movement: Its affiliates include 274 union locals from 40 international unions, representing over 100,000 union members. Its reach also extends to another 192,000 Oregonians who are



members of Working America, the AFL-CIO organization for those who don't have a union in their workplace.

At the Seaside Convention Center, convention delegates will spend the three days electing officers, debating official resolutions, and taking part in discussions on racial justice, climate change, and non-traditional forms of organizing.

Saturday evening they'll head out to the streets of Seaside to circulate cards pledging to support an increase in the minimum wage. They'll unwind at the opening night party, a comedy show, and a casino night with donated union-made products as

prizes.

The debate among candidates for secretary of state is tentatively scheduled for 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 24. It will include Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, state Rep. Val Hoyle (D-Eugene) and state Sen. Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). The stakes are high: Whoever does best in the debate could win the prize of the labor federation's endorsement, if they can find a two-thirds majority of delegates to get behind them. All three candidates have long-standing ties to organized labor.

Numerous other elected officials will turn up to the Seaside Convention Center. But notably not invited this year were the four Oregon Democrats who voted for Fast Track this June: U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and U.S. Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, and Kurt Schrader.

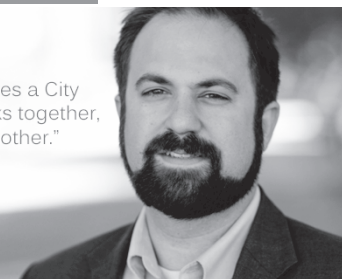
**"The 80 richest individuals on this planet now have the same wealth as the poorest 50 percent, more than 3.5 billion people."**

WINNIE BYANYIMA, OXFAM INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
"WILL GLOBAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE COURAGE TO TAKE ON THE 1 PERCENT?"  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Mike  
**SELVAGGIO**  
FOR WEST LINN CITY COUNCIL

Endorsed by the  
Northwest Oregon  
Labor Council

"West Linn deserves a City Council that works together, not against each other."



## IN MEMORIAM

### William James "Billy" McNicholas

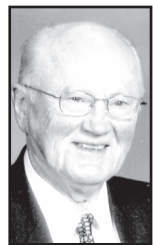
April 12, 1926- Sept. 29, 2015

William "Billy" McNicholas, a longtime member and officer of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 290 (and Local 235 before it merged) passed away Sept. 29 at age 89.

McNicholas joined Local 235 as an apprentice in 1946. He was active in the union, serving on its executive board, as vice president, and as a business agent. In 1966, he was appointed to the Steamfitters Joint Apprenticeship Committee and became its secretary-treasurer. He served on the committee for 20 years.

He was elected business agent of Local 235 in 1971. He retired as a business agent for Local 290 in May 1986. The UA chartered Local 290 in July 1985, when local unions throughout Oregon were merged.

William James McNicholas was born on April 12, 1926, in his family's home on Northeast Thompson Street in Portland. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1944, where he was an All-City second team



football lineman.

For a time, McNicholas worked on the docks as a longshoreman; his father and brother were members of

Longshore Local 8. Later, he joined the U. S. Army and served as a staff sergeant in the China-Burma-India World War II war zone.

In 1946 he returned home and met Norma Houser, who became his wife. They were married for 57 years and had three sons, five daughters, two foster children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Two sons are members of Local 290.

He was preceded in death by son Tony; daughter Joanna; and wife Norma. Tony died at age 15 in a 1969 fall off Cape Kiwanda on the Oregon Coast. McNicholas' lobbying at the State Capitol in Salem resulted in the state designating the cape as a park and fencing it.

During his career, McNicholas served as president of the Portland Metal Trades Council and held the post of secretary-treasurer of the Oregon State Pipe Trades. After he retired, he served as president of the Local 290 Retirees for 12 years.

Gov. Tom McCall appointed him to the Oregon State Apprenticeship Center's Advisory Committee. Additionally, he was vice president of the Columbia Power Trades Council.

McNicholas was honored with a lifetime membership in the United Association of Plumbers and Fitters in 1997.

At the time of his death, McNicholas was in his 40th year of service on the board of directors of the Union Labor Retirement Association, which oversees the construction and operation of the Union Manors retirement apartment complexes in the Portland-Vancouver metro area.

An Irish tenor, McNicholas sang with the Portland Symphonic Choir, as well as at many union events, including the annual holiday party sponsored by the Columbia Pacific and Oregon State building trades councils.

McNicholas took part in the Christian Family Movement at the St. Cecelia Catholic Church in Beaverton, helping in a program that brought families to the United States from Dutch Indonesia and helped them find homes and jobs.

Donations in his memory can be made to St. Cecilia's Tuition Assistance Program.

### JOB OPENING

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Individual must possess excellent communication skills and have the ability to lead others in a positive manner. Must possess the ability to develop a professional relationship with members offering financial guidance. Must have at least 5 years of progressively increasing experience in the lending area of a financial institution, preferably a Credit Union, along with being able to identify and offer solutions for other financial needs. Excellent salary and benefit package offered.

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### 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	MIKE DALESANDRO
Councilor, Dist. 2	CHUCK GREEN

#### BATTLE GROUND CITY COUNCIL

Councilor, Pos. #7	CANDY BONNEVILLE
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#### EVERGREEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Representative, Dist. 3	VICTORIA BRADFORD
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