

Continuing a 28-year tradition, volunteers from IBEW #48 help light up The Grotto Festival of Lights

A holiday tradition for some members of IBEW Local 48 is volunteering to help set up the temporary power for The Grotto's Festival of Lights — all 500,000

of them. This year, union electricians and their employers at the National Electrical Contractors Association did the work on Saturday, Oct. 24.



IBEW Local 48 has been involved with the distribution of power for the Festival of Lights since its first year, 1988. That first year the Festival ran for just 10 nights with approximately 60,000 lights. It now runs from the day after Thanksgiving through Dec. 30, and displays well over half a million Christmas lights. The Festival also has snacks and a petting zoo for children, and features nearly 160 indoor holiday concerts performed in the chapel by many of the region's finest schools, churches, and civic choirs.

More than 55,000 people enjoy the Festival each year. The event runs nightly from 5 to 9:30 p.m. through Dec. 30 (closed Christmas Day). Cost is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors 65 and over, and military personnel, \$5 for kids ages 3 to 12, and free for children 2 and under. Visitors are encouraged to bring a donation of canned or dry food benefitting Snow-Cap, the East county's affiliate of the Oregon Food Bank. Parking is free.



IRON WORKERS' BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Iron Workers Local 29 and the Pacific NW Ironworkers Federal Credit Union celebrated their 30th annual Breakfast with Santa party Dec. 12 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Northeast Portland. Initially hosted during the difficult economic times of 1985, the special event was created to help make the holiday season a little brighter for ironworkers' families, many of whom could not afford to buy gifts for their children. Since that first year it has become a very popular and eagerly awaited holiday event. 350 Iron Worker family members and more than 150 children and grandchildren enjoyed a holiday breakfast, followed by a visit from Santa Claus. Each child got to pick out a present.

Minimum wage initiatives get ballot language

Three initiative petitions sponsored by the labor-backed Raise The Wage Oregon coalition to raise the minimum wage have gathered enough signatures to qualify for ballot titles. Each received formal ballot language Dec. 9. The titles issued by the Department of Justice are:

IP 57: Local governments may

establish minimum wage higher than minimum established by state law;

IP 58: Increases Oregon's minimum wage to \$13.50 by 2018; local governments may establish higher wage;

IP 59: Increases minimum wage: \$11 in 2017; \$12.25 in 2018; \$13.50 in 2019.

Opponents have until Dec. 23 to appeal the ballot language.

Plumbers  Steamfitters

Wishing you a
Happy Holiday Season
 and a New Year
 filled with Health, Peace and Prosperity

Robert Porter, President **Gil Freeland, Vice President**

Al Shropshire, Business Manager
Financial Secretary/Treasurer