

Who's on our side?

By Tom Chamberlain Oregon AFL-CIO President



America is angry, and for good reason

Every political candidate is talking about wage disparity: The gap between the top tier of wage earners and the rest of us. And it's for good reason. According to a recent Esquire-NBC poll, 54 percent of Americans feel that their financial situation today isn't what they thought it would be when they were younger. Three-quarters of Americans believe that wage equality will grow larger as elected leaders favor the agenda of the rich over the needs of working people. The poll points to the growing rage in America, specifically among those who earn less than \$75,000 a year. And white women stand out as the angriest. They are angry about billionaires dumping over \$500 million into the 2016 election process, a dysfunctional Congress, and increased violence in our schools.

Donald Trump's slogan to "Make America Great Again" is a message that resonates with many people. That's because Americans no longer believe in the American dream — that if you work hard and play by the rules, you and your family will get ahead and will have a better life than your parents. Americans no longer believe that America is the most powerful nation on earth. The majority of those polled stated that immigrants strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents, which runs counter to Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Elected leaders and business associations talk a lot about wage disparity, but their message is about workers being better trained, and incentivizing businesses to create jobs. At the same time, too many leaders and business associations are supporting trade agreements that are wealth generators, not job creators. Just look at the data. Trade agreements are job destroyers. Too many oppose streamlining the organizing process for those workers who want to join a union, or follow the lead of the Koch brothers who are doing

everything in their power to destroy our union movement. In the history of the world, a vast middle class has not been created and maintained without a strong union movement.

When I hear business groups talk about job creation incentives, my gut tightens into a knot. In 1973, corporations paid 18.5 percent of Oregon income tax. Today it's 5 percent. That equates to \$900 million a year.

Oregon law contains 49 income tax breaks for corporations. According to the Oregon Center for Public Policy, two-thirds of Oregon corporations pay just \$10 a year income tax. Corporations only pay taxes on profits.

Washington state taxes corporations based on gross receipts, which is similar to a proposed ballot measure to increase the corporate minimum tax for businesses whose Oregon sales exceed \$25 million each year. The measure would increase our revenue by \$4-5 billion to fund schools, increase services to those in need, and increase revenue to address issues such as hunger and homelessness.

Corporations and Wall Street have been riding high for over half a century by gaining more power and influence. They care about job creation as long as middle-class taxpayers pay for them through state and local incentives. They are for the creation of family wage jobs as long as there isn't a union and they can increase their ability to outsource jobs and increase their profit through free trade agreements.

It's no wonder that Americans are mad as hell at corporations, Wall Street, and elected leaders. Perhaps 2016 is the year that Oregonians and Americans say "enough," and for once vote for candidates that put working people first.

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, a 120,000-member-strong federation of labor unions.

Bricklayer Eleazer featured in episode of Brotherhood Outdoors

Matt Eleazer, president of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1-Oregon, will be featured in an upcoming segment of Brotherhood Outdoors. The unique TV series, sponsored by the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA), is back for its 8th season on the Sportsman Channel.

Eleazer, a 25-year fishing veteran and owner of East Fork Outfitters in Battle Ground, Wash., takes hosts Daniel Lee Martin and Julie McQueen fishing for king salmon on the Columbia River near Astoria.

The episode airs Jan. 19 at 2



Matt Eleazer

p.m.; Jan. 21 at 2 p.m.; Jan. 22 at 10:30 p.m.; and Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. on the Sportsman Channel. Check local listings for channel numbers.

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance is a non-profit organiza-

tion that brings union sportsmen and women together outside the workplace to discuss important conservation issues. The organization travels the country volunteering time and unique trade skills to expand and improve public access to the outdoors, conserve and maintain critical wildlife habitats, restore the nation's parks, and provide mentoring programs that introduce youth to the outdoors.

USA currently is working with the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council to hold a conservation dinner banquet later this year in Portland.

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WINCHESTER MODEL 24, 12 ga, sxs, 28" barrel, nice gun \$400 or trade. 503-349-8180

MISCELLANEOUS

DOUBLE CREMATION niche, Portland Memorial, top floor, fuschia room, \$4,750 cash, includes title transfer. 503-723-3734

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OLD WOODWORKING tools, planes, levels, chisels, handsaws, slicks, adzes, wrenches, folding rulers, axes, hatchets, 503-659-0009

BUYING US & world coins to add to collection, paying fairly, any amount welcome. 503-939-8835

COLLECTOR, cash paid, old fishing tackle, wood plugs, reels, creels, salmon fishing photos, etc. 503-775-4166

COLLECTOR PAYS cash for older toys, oil paintings, American art pottery, and costume jewelry. 503 703-5952

MOTORCYCLES, tractors, boats, VWs, RVs, running or not, cash paid. 503-880-8183

COLLECTOR SEEKING old beer stuff, signs, cans, bottles; brand doesn't matter; the older the better. 503-357-7862

RV SPACE in Newberg area, George Fox student seeks quiet, private place close to campus. 503-927-1007 (Bill)

STATS OF THE MONTH

- The median U.S. family has a net worth of \$81,000. The Forbes 400 own more wealth than 36 million of these typical American families. That's as many households in the United States that own cats.

- Sitting on a U.S. corporate board of directors now pays an average \$258,000. The average time directors say they put in on directing: five hours per week.

- Presidents at 32 private U.S. universities are making over \$1 million annually, the Chronicle of Higher Education reports. Meanwhile, adjuncts averaging under \$25,000 make up 75 percent of all higher ed faculty.

(From *Too Much*, an Institute for Policy Studies publication.)

PAY CASH for firearms, especially Colt revolvers, call Kenny with what you may want to sale. 503-449-0584

WWII GERMAN items, medals, clothing, helmets, firearms, etc. Cash paid. 503-852-6791

CLASSIFIED AD GUIDELINES

Subscribers may place one free classified ad per issue. Ads should be 15 to 20 words, all in lower case (NO CAPITAL LETTERS). Ads *must* include a phone number, including area code, or they will not be published. No commercial or business ads.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CLASSIFIED AD

Indicate which union you are a member of, and send your ad to michael492@comcast.net or by mail to PO Box 13150, Portland OR 97213. We publish the first and third Fridays of each month, and the deadline is one week prior to that.



Infrastructure Senior Project Manager

WORKSYSTEMS is currently recruiting for a dynamic and enthusiastic Senior Project Manager with excellent project management, communication, and program development skills. The focus of the position is managing Worksystems' efforts in the infrastructure / construction sector, and coordinating the development and implementation of CBA projects across the region

Candidates should have:

- Bachelor degree in a related field preferred, will consider substantial work experience in the construction industry as an organizer / project manager in lieu of a Bachelor's degree.

- Knowledge of the Infrastructure and Construction industry, Registered Apprenticeship, Construction Contracting, Unions, Construction Training Programs, & Community Based Organizations

- At least 3 years of experience in planning and research or other work directly related to human services, program administration, workforce development, private business and/or community development.

- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing at all levels, making complex material clear and concise to varied audiences.

Senior Project Manager Salary Range:

\$62,270 - \$93,404

Position will begin as a 1 year Limited Duration. Continued funding for this position will depend largely on Worksystems' and the incumbent's success in securing ongoing CBA agreements in the Portland Metro Area and leveraging support for the position by community partners and local businesses.

A detailed job description can be found at www.worksystems.org.

Application instructions:

To apply, please submit a cover letter, résumé, and three professional references to: Worksystems, Attn: Human Resources, 1618 SW 1st Ave, Suite 450 Portland, OR 97201, or e-mail to hr@worksystems.org. First review of résumés will be January 18, 2016.

Worksystems is an Equal Opportunity Employer and offers a competitive salary and benefits package.