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Wayne Anderson receives a lifetime service award from Linn, Benton, Lincoln Counties Labor Chapter President Lisa Gourley.

LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN CENTRAL LABOR CHAPTER

Steelworker honored for lifetime of service

Wayne Anderson once headed the Oregon Democratic Party

ALBANY, Oregon — Retired Steelworker Wayne Anderson was presented with the “Garner Pool Distinguished Lifetime Service Award” March 16 by the Linn, Benton, Lincoln Counties Central Labor Chapter, AFL-CIO. The award recognizes individuals for lifelong service to the

labor movement and their community.

Anderson, 80, was a staff rep for the Steelworkers Union in Arizona and Southern California before relocating to Albany in October 1973. That led to stints as staff director, sub-district director, and political director for Steelworkers District 11.

He was a member of the Democratic National Committee for 12 years, and chaired the Democratic Party of Oregon from 1988 to 1992. He served three years as head of the Association of State Democratic Chairs, and twice represented the state on the U.S. Electoral College.

Anderson was on the committee that led to the formation of the Labor Education and Research Center at the University of Oregon in 1977. He served on advisory boards for the Pacific Northwest Labor College, United Way, and the Linn-Benton Economic Development Committee, to name a few.

After retiring in 2000 he remained active in his union and in the community. Today he is financial secretary-treasurer of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR); he volunteers for the SMART reading

program for school children; as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), where he helps neglected children who are under the protection of the Juvenile Dependency Court; he assists senior citizens with their taxes through a free program of AARP; and he has made more than 114 contributions of blood and platelets to the American Red Cross.

“Wayne is a hard working, dedicated individual, who has lived his life to serve members of our community,” said Labor Chapter President Lisa Gourley. “He is overwhelmingly deserving of our thanks and gratitude for his example and contributions to making Oregon a better place to live.”

The plaque thanked Anderson for his service and concluded with the quote: “Every day given to us is our opportunity to help others.”

“I’ve never been at a loss for words ... until now,” he said.

The award is named after the late Garner Pool, a 61-year member of United Food and Commercial Workers, a charter member of the labor chapter in 1948. It is only the second time the award has been made. The first was to Pool in 2011.



Anderson with colleagues from the Steelworkers. From left are Rudy Hashberger, Anderson, Jim Gourley, and Gayland Prescott.

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