

CULTURE

Troublemakers take over Local 290 hall

Over 200 rank-and-file union activists were welcomed to United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 290 training center April 8 for Portland's third biennial "Troublemakers School."

The spirited gathering was a day of networking and panel presentations organized by the magazine *Labor Notes* to — as the publication's masthead puts it — "put the movement back in the labor movement."

"As a worker, the second you ask about your rights, they call you a troublemaker," explained *Labor Notes* director Mark Brenner. "That's why we call ourselves troublemakers."

Occupy Public Office

The day's keynote speaker was rank-and-file AFSCME member Jovanka Beckles, who is vice mayor of Richmond, California, thanks to a union-backed coalition known as the Richmond Progressive Alliance. Richmond is a racially diverse blue collar city of 100,000, best known in the Bay Area as the location of a Chevron refinery. Over the last



"We need a revitalized labor movement that has the confidence of its members. Members are the union." Jovanka Beckles, vice-mayor of Richmond, California — and a rank-and-file AFSCME member.

decade, the Richmond Progressive Alliance has successfully challenged the city's traditional power structure, electing slates of City Council candidates who refused corporate money, winning a rent

control ballot measure, increasing taxes on Chevron, and experimenting with the power of eminent domain to rescue homeowners from underwater mortgages. All that came about because residents, with union

support, got organized.

"Isn't doing something better than sitting around watching cable news?" Beckles said.

—Don McIntosh

AT THE LABOR NOTES SCHOOL

"Union is my life. I'm third generation. We've been raised a union family. I can't imagine what other people go through where they don't have their union backing them."

— Brenda Bridger, ILWU Local 4



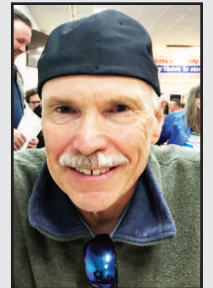
"Union means workers being able to defend themselves, by organizing collectively. Because there's a power differential between an individual worker and a boss. . . . Unless we are organized together, we are screwed."

— Hyung Nam, Portland Association of Teachers




"I am grateful that my predecessors before me organized the United Association, grateful that I have the ability to make a living wage, that I am a member of an organization that shares pride in what they do, and grateful that I have chance to be involved in my local union and make a change for the better."

— Craig Spjut, UA Local 290




Thomas Mitchell
Regional Sales Director
Taft-Hartley Services

OneAmerica Retirement Services, LLC
a ONEAMERICA® company
15 Robbins Lane
Lakeville, MA 02347
Main: (508) 923-3452
Cell: (339) 309-9590
thomas.mitchell@OneAmerica.com




VALDEZ BRAVO for PCC

Lifelong public servant with PCC roots



"PCCFFAP couldn't think of anyone more qualified than a former PCC student and instructor to be our voice on the PCC Board of Directors."



— Jaime Rodriguez, PCC Federation of Faculty and Academic Professionals (AFT Local 2277)





VoteValdezBravo.com
Vote Valdez for PCC Zone 5 on May 16!

The team at
THOMAS, COON, NEWTON & FROST
can help you:

 James Coon
  Raymond Thomas

 Cynthia Newton
  Chris Frost

 Melissa Haggerty
  Sydney Montanaro

 Scott Sell


Get Workers' Compensation benefits for on-the-job injuries or illness.

Get Social Security benefits if you can't work.

Recover damages if you are injured by someone's negligence.

Helping injured people for over 25 years.

- Workers' Compensation
- Construction Injuries
- Death Claims
- Personal Injury & Product Liability
- Medical Malpractice
- Social Security Disability
- Mesothelioma



THOMAS, COON, NEWTON & FROST
PORTLAND LAW FIRM SINCE 1980
820 SW Second Ave., Suite 200, Portland, OR 97204
www.tcnf.legal

Call us today at **503-228-5222**
Straight answers. No cost for consultation.
Our law offices are located on the MAX Light Rail at SW 2nd & Yamhill.