

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Portland caterer signs contract with Bakers Local 114

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 114 signed a union contract with Spin Events & Catering on Nov. 20. The Portland-based caterer has three full-time employees at its facility at 1125 SE Madison—home of the Tony Starlight Showroom. The room is also available to rent for banquets and other events, with a capacity of 149 people.

The new union members are Steve and Hiroko Brown, and Charlie Douma.

Steve Brown owned and operated Madison's Grill, a restaurant and catering business, for over 17 years. He sold the restaurant four years ago to focus on catering. He collaborated with David 'Kawika' Kahoolua, owner of Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grille, to create Spin.

Brown and Spin aren't strangers to the Portland and Southwest Washington labor communities. At one time, the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and half a dozen union



Bakers Local 114 Secretary-Treasurer Terry Lansing (second from right) signs a first union contract with Steve Brown (center), owner of Spin Catering. To the right of Brown are new union members Hiroko Brown (Steve's wife) and Charlie Douma. Sitting next to Lansing is Local 114 Business Agent Darren Hamann.

locals leased office space in the same building that housed Madison's. From the acquaintances Brown made, Spin got gigs catering union events, including the Presents from Partners holiday party, the Northwest Oregon Labor Council's (NOLC) Labor Appreciation Night, the Union Sportsmen's

Alliance banquet, even the Northwest Labor Press' annual luncheon. Last June, Spin Catering was recognized at NOLC's Labor Appreciation Night dinner, receiving the 2017 Business Award.

Spin also caters much larger events, with a specialty in finish line meals and banquets for re-

gional athletic events such as the Hood to Coast run and Cycle Oregon.

"We will cater a board meeting of six, to a banquet of multi-thousands," Brown said.

The Evergreen State College graduate told the Labor Press it was his idea to bring in the union.

"In my dealings with labor, I've always been impressed by how the unions take care of each other," he said.

Terry Lansing, secretary-treasurer for Local 114, said Brown and the union share the same philosophy.

"It's good for the employees to be union. It's good for business to be union," he said. "We want to build a long-term relationship and help Spin Catering grow. That's why we ask other unions, union-friendly politicians, and union companies to look to Spin Catering first."

For more information, go to their web page at SpinPDX.com, or contact Brown at 503-73-7040 or email steve@spin-pdx.com.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Young Machinists raise funds to give foster kids Xmas

The idea began with a chance encounter. Scott Lacey, a Machinist at the Gresham Boeing plant, is a member of a Young Machinists group that's looking for ways to serve the community. When Lacey brought his Harley Davidson to a repair shop in Boring, the owner mentioned he was helping liquidate his parents' Christmas tree farm. After talking with Lacey, he agreed to donate 200 trees to help bring Christmas to teenage foster kids in the Gresham area. Many of them get few or no Christmas presents. Up to 50 trees will go to the homes of the kids themselves, along with \$10,000 in lights, ornaments and toys donated by Machinists Local 63. The other 150 will go out to local union members for a \$20 suggested donation — to raise money to put some presents under those trees. For more information and to schedule a tree delivery, call Beth Lacey at 503-875-6306.



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