

## WORKERS' RIGHTS



**PICKETING PRECISION CASTPARTS** Several dozen union machinists from the Boeing plant in Gresham brought solidarity to Southeast Johnson Creek Boulevard Nov. 14. Outside a factory owned by Portland aircraft parts maker Precision Castparts, they joined with a handful of welders for an informational picket to let the public know what's happening. On Sept. 22, rework welders at several Portland-area Precision Castparts locations voted 54 to 28 to join the International Association of Machinists District Lodge W24, but the company has refused to meet and bargain with the union. "We won the vote," says pro-

union Precision Castparts welder Bryan Britton. "They're completely ignoring it. They won't even let us talk to each other." Precision Castparts has filed legal appeals, hoping a newly seated Trump-appointed majority on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) will agree that a welders-only bargaining unit can't be allowed. Outside the plant, the hour-long picket was met with frequent honks of support from passing motorists. The union has filed six complaints with the NLRB, charging that the company has committed multiple violations of federal labor law since the union election.

## ...Volunteers of America

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which workers wouldn't be required to join or pay dues to the union that represents them.

VOA has rejected a union wage scale that pays all workers equally based on what they do and how long they've been doing it. Instead VOA proposes to give managers extraordinary latitude over starting pay, which would then be locked in going forward. Cost-of-living increases would also be at the discretion of the board, which would give raises if there's money left in the budget at the end of the year.

VOA also emailed all employees, union and nonunion, announcing a 3 percent cost-of-living raise, then emailed union employees back to say *they* would *not* be getting the raise.

VOA even broke federal law. Residential counselors, the most numerous and poorly paid job category, were making \$10 to \$12 an hour when workers voted to unionize last September. VOA later announced they would get raises of \$3 an hour — without dis-

cussing or bargaining that with the union. The National Labor Relations Board found that violated federal labor law, because the point of having a union is to be able to negotiate over terms and conditions, not have those decisions determined by management with no say-so. VOA settled the case, and agreed to post a notice promising not to do it again.

The two sides began negotiating with the help of a mediator in mid-November. They will next meet on Dec. 6.

AFSCME represents Volunteers of America employees in New York and New Jersey, as well as workers in Portland at Central City Concern, Transition Projects, and Janus Youth Programs who do similar work.

### HELP VOA WORKERS GET A DEAL

Show support for the workers at Volunteers of America and learn more about their fight at a community forum organized by Oregon AFSCME: Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. at St Francis Assisi Catholic Church, 1131 SE Oak St, Portland Oregon.



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