

UNION ORGANIZING

At Springfield's PeaceHealth Sacred Heart hospital, medical techs unionize

The new 350-member bargaining unit will be part of OFNHP.

At PeaceHealth Sacred Heart hospital facilities in Springfield and Eugene, medical technicians unionized in a landslide 221-to-64 vote Nov. 28 and 29.

The new 350-member bargaining unit will be part of Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP), which is also known as Local 5017 of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

OFNHP president Adrienne Enghouse says the union campaign began with a supportive nudge from one hospital worker's husband. Coming home upset, she would complain about conditions at Sacred Heart to her husband, a Eugene firefighter. As a member of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), he told her she needed a union. She took the advice and found her way AFT, and the national union assigned



At AFT offices, pro-union workers celebrate a major union election win at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart hospital.

organizers to help.

By Nov. 6, the union had enough support to ask the National Labor Relations Board to oversee a union election for 51 occupational classifications, including pharmacy and surgical techs; CT, EEG, MRI and ultra-

sound technicians; licensed practical nurses; and respiratory therapists.

Enghouse says PeaceHealth didn't hire "union avoidance" consultants like many employers do, but did hold one-sided "informational meetings" about

what it's like to be in a union. The meetings failed to persuade.

The addition of the new union of medical technicians means PeaceHealth Sacred Heart may now be one of Oregon's most heavily unionized hospitals. Nurses at Sacred Heart are rep-

resented by Oregon Nurses Association, which is also an AFT affiliate. Hospital support workers belong to Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 49. Stationary engineers and skilled maintenance employees who maintain building systems and equipment are members of Operating Engineers Local 701. Even the doctors are union-represented, part of AFT Local 6552.

"We're happy that these workers are going to have a voice in their workplace," Enghouse said. "It makes me feel proud to work with people who are brave enough to stand up for their themselves and their patients."

AFT now represents more than 5,000 healthcare professionals throughout the PeaceHealth system in Washington, Oregon and Alaska. Nationally, the AFT represents 130,000 healthcare professionals, making it the third-largest healthcare union in the country.

Photo by AFT via Twitter

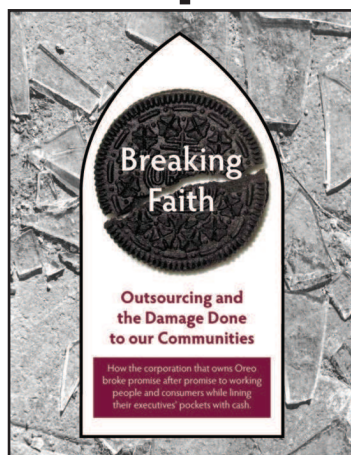
BUY UNION

Interfaith Worker Justice releases report on Mondelēz to shift production to Mexico

Faith group says owners of the iconic Oreo brand treat working people like a commodity.

Nonprofit faith-labor group Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) released a scathing report Dec. 12 about Mondelēz-Nabisco's decision to shift production to Mexico and lay off hundreds of workers in Chicago and other U.S. cities. The report is entitled "Breaking Faith: Outsourcing and the Damage Done to our Communities." To produce it, IWJ staff met and documented the stories of Nabisco bakery workers in Chicago; Fair Lawn, New Jersey; Portland, Oregon; Richmond, Virginia; and Atlanta, Georgia. They also traveled to a Nabisco plant in Mexico.

In 2015, Mondelēz told the BCTGM union it would spend \$130 million to install new production lines at its new bakery Mexico, and close nine of its 16 production lines in Chicago. Nabisco has been making some products at a plant in Monterrey, Mexico, since 2003. In



2014, it opened a \$350 million plant outside of Monterrey, while closing plants in Philadelphia and Toronto.

The immense new facility sits in an industrial park in the desert, an hour from Monterrey city limits and 120 miles from the U.S. Mexican border. IWJ said workers are bused to and from the bakery, which is surrounded by fencing, and earn just a little over a dollar an hour.

"Mondelēz-Nabisco has come to treat its workers just the same way they would the other commodities that go into Oreos, such as cocoa, sugar, flour, and so on," IWJ says in

the report. "We found this to be one of the clearest demonstrations of how the company has broken faith with its workers, and by extension ... with consumers."

Mondelēz-Nabisco also broke faith with the communities that supported it, IWJ said: downsizing after taking in over \$91 million in public subsidies going back as far as 1993.

Why devastate workers and communities? To pay obscene compensation to those making the decisions, IWJ concluded. Former Mondelēz-Nabisco CEO Irene Rosenfeld made more than \$185 million in the last nine years and is leaving the company with a \$35 million personal pension, \$50 million severance and over \$70 million in additional stock options. Incoming CEO Dirk Van de Put stands to make \$55 million in his first year.

ONLINE EXTRA

Read the full report at <http://www.iwj.org/resources/breaking-faith-outsourcing-and-the-damage-done-to-our-communities>

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Senate Democrat wins Scrooge of the Year award

State Sen. Rod Monroe — a Portland Democrat — has earned the dubious distinction of being named "2017 Scrooge of the Year" by Portland Jobs with Justice. Each year the non-profit workers rights group confers the Scrooge award on a boss, politician, or corporation that stood out for their hard-hearted attitude toward working people. The winner is the nominee who gets the most votes, one dollar per vote, at the group's annual holiday party and fundraiser. This year's party raised over \$5,000 for Portland Jobs with Justice. Attendees at the Dec. 9 event chose Monroe because he's a landlord who with the help of the landlord lobby helped kill renters' rights legislation in the 2017 session of the Oregon Legislature, including a bill to allow cities to use rent control. Amid a crisis of housing affordability, Democratic House Speaker Tina Kotek declared that bill a priority, and it passed the Oregon House, only to fail in the Senate thanks to Monroe.



The year's other nominees:

- **AT&T Mobility**, for stalling on contract bargaining, and negotiating with workers in bad faith for over a year.
- **Freedom Foundation**, for pushing anti-worker legislation, and for attacking and harassing local union members.
- **Kay Toran**, CEO of Volunteers of America, for paying workers minimum wage while earning over \$200k per year, and refusing to negotiate with a newly formed union.
- **Mondelēz-Nabisco**, for outsourcing factory jobs to countries with more lenient labor laws to avoid union labor and exploit workers for greater profits.
- **Tom Mears**, chairman of Burgerville parent company The Holland Inc., for Burgerville's year-and-half-long anti-union campaign.