

UNION DEMOCRACY

Koenig succeeds Livingston at Oregon State Fire Fighters Council

Karl Koenig, a member of Fire Fighters Local 1159 in Clackamas County, was elected president of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council (OSFFC). He succeeds Bob Livingston, who did not run for re-election. Koenig, a station captain at Clackamas Fire District #1, previously served as legislative director for OSFFC.



Karl Koenig

Hamilton, who did not seek re-election. **Alan Ferschweiler**, president of Portland Fire Fighters Local 43, was appointed legislative director at the convention. Seven vice presidents were elected to serve on the OSFFC Executive Board:

- Dist. 1: Isaac McLennen, Portland IAFF #43
- Dist. 2: Matt Brozovich, Salem IAFF #314
- Dist. 3: Irik Rinnert, Roseburg IAFF #1110
- Dist. 4: Kevin Larson, Gresham IAFF #1062
- Dist. 5: Tricia Connolly, Bend IAFF #227
- Dist. 6: Brian Smith, Tualatin Valley IAFF #1660
- Dist. 7: Mike Caven, Lane County IAFF #L851

Officers and board members were installed by IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger.

Election of officers and Executive Board members took place at OSFFC's 30th bi-annual convention held last month in Bend. **Rocky Hanes**, president of Tualatin Valley Fire Fighters Local 1660, was elected secretary-treasurer. He succeeds Jeff

Fire Fighters #43 turns 100

LONG MAY IT WAVE. Portland Fire Fighters Association Local 43 turned 100 years old on Feb. 28. In honor of the historic occasion, Oregon U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley presented the local with an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol. The presentation was made May 3 at Fire Station 1 in downtown Portland. Local 43 President Alan Ferschweiler said the flag will fly at the union hall in Southeast Portland. Local 43 represents 700 firefighters at 30 fire stations in the City of Portland and at the Port of Portland.



Photo by Ross Grami, courtesy of Oregon AFSCME

Oregon union leaders arrested

From left, Oregon AFL-CIO president Tom Chamberlain, Oregon AFSCME executive director Stacy Chamberlain (his daughter), and Oregon AFSCME organizing director Corey Nicholson were among 10 unionists arrested May 14 for an act of civil disobedience in which they refused to leave the offices of non-profit Volunteers of America (VOA). About 70 workers at two addiction treatment centers run by VOA voted to join AFSCME in September 2016, but VOA has stonewalled union contract negotiations and is insisting on an open shop. Also arrested were Graham Trainor, Jamie Partridge, AJ Mendoza, Justin Kertson-Norton, Andrea Lemoins, Allen Smith, and Emily Wiant.

Revival of the Poor People's Campaign

A movement Martin Luther King, Jr., started 50 years ago near the end of his life is getting a revival. On May 14, the Poor People's Campaign kicked off 40 days of action in 40 states, including Oregon's capital in Salem. It will reach a crescendo in a mass march in Washington, D.C., on June 23

The campaign brings together faith leaders, community leaders, labor unions, and low-wage workers to address four core issues: systemic racism, poverty, militarism, and ecological destruction. Nationally, the campaign is endorsed by Communications Workers of America,

United Steelworkers, and the Service Employees. A number of local unions from Oregon attended the rally in Salem.

More than 530,000 Oregonians were living below the poverty line in 2016—including nearly 140,000 children—according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A report measuring how the country is doing on the campaign's four core issues compared with when it launched a half century ago found that in many respects, the nation is worse off than it was in 1968.

(Public News Service and Press Associates Inc. contributed to this report.)



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