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'Tis the Season



SALEM, Oregon — For 78 years, unions affiliated with the Marion-Polk-Yamhill Counties Labor Chapter have hosted a free holiday party for children and their parents and grandparents (some of whom attended when *they* were kids). The party is held the first weekend in December at the historic Elsinore Theatre

in downtown Salem.

On Dec. 1, children sang holiday songs, watched a movie, met Santa and Mrs. Claus, (left), then headed out with a goodie bag filled with union-made products purchased at the local unionized Fred Meyer store.

Santa is played by Jack Rusen of Albany Steelworkers



Photos by Michael Gutwig

Local 6163 (Mrs. Claus is his wife). The emcee is Jeff Anderson, secretary-treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555. Anderson

has played the part of “Elfie” for nearly 30 years.

The event is funded by local unions and unionized businesses in the tri-county area.

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