

BUY UNION

UNION-MADE GIFT IDEAS

Buying any gifts this holiday season? If you buy union, you help keep good jobs in the community, and vote with your dollars for enterprises that pay your fellow workers a living wage with benefits. Union-made can be hard to find. Here are some ideas.



KITCHENWARE

Store shelves may be crowded with foreign-made goods, but you can still find gifts for the home cook that are union-made in America. All **Pyrex** products are made in Charleroi, Pennsylvania by 310 members of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 53G. "There's a lot of pride in our product," says Local 53G president Thomas Seal, a 34-year employee at the plant. Other USW members in Pennsylvania and New York make **All-Clad** Stainless Steel Cookware and **Cutco** cutlery. And U.S.-made **Fiesta** brand dinnerware is made in West Virginia by members of the Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastic and Allied Workers union.

BOOTS

Danner got its start in 1936 making boots for loggers. Eighty years later, their boots are still built to last, whether for work, hunting, hiking, or around town. Danner makes about half its products at its Northeast Portland factory, where workers are represented by UFCW Local 555. Check the label: If the boots are U.S.-made, they were made here with union labor.



BLANKETS

Nothing says Pacific Northwest pride like a **Pendleton Woolen Mills** blanket. Warm and durable, Pendleton blankets (but not apparel) are made in Washougal, Washington, and Pendleton, Oregon, by 210 members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 49. Their union contract means wages of \$15.94 to \$18.90 an hour, plus overtime after eight hours, and health and pension benefits. You can see how the blankets are made with free tours at both locations.



MOVIES

Portland's last unionized movie projectionist was laid off by Cinema 21 in 1997. But most Hollywood films themselves are still overwhelmingly union productions, from the stars in SAG-AFTRA to the gaffers in IATSE. Who wouldn't love to get a gift card to Regal Cinemas, or nonprofit Hollywood Theater, or even Living Room Theaters across from the unionized downtown Powell's Books?

SMART PHONE

The smart phone itself is most likely assembled in China, but the workers who maintain the cellular network will be members of Communications Workers of America (CWA) if you choose **AT&T** or **Cricket**. When you visit a company-owned AT&T store in Oregon and Southwest Washington, you're talking with a member of CWA Local 7901. And union members can get a 15-20 percent discount on some cell plans. To download a discount coupon, visit unionplus.org/benefits/home/att-discounts.



MUSIC

Oregon Ballet Theater, the **Portland Opera**, the **Oregon Symphony**: All of them employ members of American Federation of Musicians Local 99, IATSE Local 28 crews, and IATSE Local B-20 members, who work as ushers, ticket takers and elevator operators. The biggest employer of union musicians is the Oregon Symphony, with 76 full-timers. Session players earn \$200 per two-hour appearance, plus pension and healthcare contributions.

WINE

Unions are rare in the wine industry, but Washington's award-winning **Chateau Ste. Michelle** is an exception. It employs members of United Farm Workers in its vineyards, and members of Teamsters Local 117 in the barrel room, warehouse, production, shipping and maintenance departments at its Woodinville facility. Company labels include **Columbia Crest**, **Chateau Ste. Michelle** wines, **Domaine Ste. Michelle**, and **Snoqualmie**, and others.



SHOP AND SHIP IT UNION

UNION RETAILERS
Fred Meyer and Powell's,
not Walmart and Amazon

When you buy at **Fred Meyer**, Portland's only unionized general retailer, the money you spend will employ members of UFCW Local 555 (and Bakers Local 114, at Fred Meyer bakery departments). And why shop at Amazon when you could buy books and gifts at **Powell's Books** and support Portland-area members of ILWU Local 5.

UNION SHIPPERS

Cards and packages? Ship union with **USPS** and **UPS**, not with antiunion **FedEx**

U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is a publicly-owned employer that provides nearly half a million career union jobs with benefits in every community in America. **UPS** is the single largest employer in the Teamsters Union, with about 250,000 union-represented employees.

UNION ORGANIZING

A union for political campaign workers?

Campaign Workers Guild signs with an Oregon state rep.

There's a lot that's unusual about a union agreement reached Nov. 30 in Woodburn, Oregon. It's the first union contract covering political campaign workers in Oregon. It covers just three workers. And it was agreed to 10 days after they were laid off.

The contract is ostensibly between Oregon House Democrat Teresa Alonso Leon and a new union known as the Campaign Workers Guild. But union member Erin Delaney (Alonso Leon's campaign manager) said ultimately it wasn't Alonso Leon they were bargaining with, but FuturePAC, the political action committee for Oregon House Democrats. FuturePAC coordinates big campaign contributions, recruits campaign staff and matches them with candidates, hires pollsters and consultants,

and draws up media plans.

Political campaign work is almost by definition seasonal.

Campaign workers hire on in March of an election year, work crazy long hours in a race to the finish line, and then, win or lose, are laid off after the election.

Should they have a union? Workers at a number of Democratic campaigns around the country seem to think so. Since December 2017, Campaign Workers Guild says it has signed collective bargaining agreements with state party organizations in Minnesota, North Carolina, and Ohio, and with 23 individual political candidate campaigns. Seattle's Democratic Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal is one of them.

Campaign Workers Guild isn't affiliated with any other union, but it has enjoyed some union support.

In Oregon, the Alonso Leon campaign bargaining sessions took place at the Woodburn offices of the farmworker organization PCUN, observed by activists from Portland Jobs with Justice, staff from several unions and by Communications Workers of America Local 7901 President Celeste Jones.

Campaign staff felt confident approaching Teresa Alonso Leon with the union idea because they believed she would be supportive: A former member of Service Employees International Union Local 503, Alonso Leon is both a big supporter of unions and a big recipient of union backing.

Delaney hopes the agreement they worked out over five bargaining sessions will be a template for other political campaigns. Though she declined to share details of the agreement, Delaney says it provides for severance equal to one month's pay and health coverage, plus "win" bonuses. But more importantly, Delaney says, it will set some standards going forward: most notably a clear set of disciplinary and sexual harassment policies, guaranteed days off, and a cap of 55 hours a week except for the final month before the election. That last item is crucial, Delaney said, because it's common for campaign staff to work as much as 80 hours a week.

"We hope it will be an industry standard," Delaney told the Labor Press.

The agreement runs through April 1, 2020, so it would cover anyone hired when campaign starts up again in March — assuming she runs again for re-election.

