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JULY 5, 2019

UNION ORGANIZING

Psychiatric nurses unionize



UNITY AT UNITY: Union supporters Amer Filipovic, Tracie Henry, Haley Choi, and Jeff Ferrier gathered outside Unity Center for Behavioral Health after registered nurses there voted overwhelmingly to unionize.

A unit of 202 registered nurses at Unity Center for Behavioral Health voted overwhelmingly to join Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) in ballots counted June 19. The tally was 128 in favor and 25 opposed.

Unity Center is Portland's only 24-hour psychiatric emergency facility. It's operated by Legacy Health Systems as a joint venture with several other health networks.

ONA supporters say they

want a union in part to create a safer environment for patients and staff. Since it opened in 2017, Unity Center has faced multiple investigations over violations of safety rules.

OREGON LEGISLATURE

2019 at the Oregon Capitol

Lawmakers passed paid family leave and boosted school budgets, but also cut public worker compensation and punted on climate.

By Don McIntosh

Union members might have thought Oregon's 2019 legislative session would be a pivotal year for working people, thanks to a historic Democratic supermajority in both chambers. It didn't work out that way. In the session that ended June 30, Democratic lawmakers passed an important paid family and medical leave bill, and enacted a \$1 billion corporate tax to shore up school funding, but also cut public employee compensation to shore up public pension finances and let several priority union proposals die with no vote.

Meanwhile, Republican state senators learned first-hand the value of the strike, walking out not once but twice in a semi-successful ploy (depriving the body of the needed 2/3 quorum) to get concessions from leaders of the Democratic majority.

"The PERS vote makes every-

thing else taste like ash your in mouth," said Joe Baessler, a veteran Oregon AFSCME lobbyist. Public employee unions like AFSCME that had just worked to elect Democrats weren't brought to the table when decisions were being made about changes to PERS, which included a cut in current worker compensation. "It was also tense the whole time, with bad feelings all around," Baessler said.

"I don't think labor was appreciated this session," said UFCW Local 555 Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Anderson. Two bills that were priorities for Local 555 were "shut out" without explanation, Anderson said, perhaps traded away in negotiations the union wasn't part of.

In a statement after it ended, Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain said while the session contained both wins and losses for working people and unions, "the betrayal of cutting the hard-earned retirement security of public workers is simply unacceptable."

WHAT PASSED, WHAT FAILED: PAGE 7

AFL-CIO Executive PayWatch: Rich CEOs get richer, unlike the rest of us

WASHINGTON, D.C.— In 2018, CEOs of S&P 500 companies received, on average, \$14.5 million—a \$500,000 increase from the previous year, according to the latest AFL-CIO Executive Paywatch report, released June 25. Compare that to the average rank-and-file worker, who received barely more than a \$1,000 raise, bringing total take-home pay in 2018 to \$39,888. The S&P 500 is an index of 500 of the largest publicly traded U.S. firms.

"The average CEO earns 287 times what an average employee earns," said AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler. "This disparity represents a fundamental problem with our economy: Productivity and corporate profits are through the roof, but wages for working people are flat—and

THE 10 HIGHEST-PAID OREGON CEOs

NIKE, Inc. Mark Parker \$9,467,460
Schnitzer Steel Industries Tamara Lundgren \$9,088,535
FLIR Systems, Inc. James Cannon \$7,959,846
Greenbrier Cos. William Furman \$7,473,644
Lithia Motors Bryan DeBoer \$5,464,394
Northwest Natural David Anderson \$3,629,634
Umpqua Holdings Corp. Cort O'Haver \$3,551,514
Columbia Sportswear Timothy Boyle \$3,304,203
Electro Scientific Industries, Inc. Michael Burger \$3,221,383
Portland General Electric Maria Pope \$3,216,062

staying flat."

What's worse, as Shuler pointed out: While rich executives rake it in, these corporations and their executives are paying less and less in taxes to support the public services and infrastructure that their compa-

nies rely upon to make their profits.

"The recent tax cut only made things worse by widening the gap between the 1% and the rest of us," Shuler said. "The corporate income tax rate was reduced from 35% to 21%, and

THE 10 HIGHEST-PAID WASHINGTON CEOs

T-Mobile John Legere \$66,538,206
Microsoft Satya Nadella \$25,843,263
Seattle Genetics Clay Siegall \$18,107,037
Funko Brian Mariotti \$16,395,614
Fortive Corp. James Lico \$13,720,993
Starbucks Kevin Johnson \$13,382,480
Zillow Group Spencer Rascoff \$12,863,822
Monolithic Power Systems Michael Hsing \$11,715,714
Weyerhaeuser Co. Doyle Simons \$11,191,321
PACCAR, Inc. Ronald Armstrong \$9,929,242

60 of the largest U.S. companies paid nothing in federal income taxes last year—despite being profitable. In other words, Amazon users pay more for a Prime membership than Amazon paid in federal income taxes last year."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

- **\$14.5 million** S&P 500 CEOs' average 2018 compensation.
- **287 to 1** The average S&P 500 CEO-to-worker pay ratio.
- **\$5.2 million** Increase in the average S&P 500 CEO's pay over the past 10 years.
- **\$7,858** Increase in the average U.S. rank-and-file worker's pay over the past 10 years.
- **\$93 billion** Decrease in corporate income taxes following the passage of the 2017 GOP tax cut.
- **\$0** Federal income taxes paid by 60 of the largest U.S. companies in 2018, including Amazon and Delta Airlines.

View the full report, including state-by-state data, at aflcio.org/paywatch/highest-paid-ceos