



## OSBCTC hosts Union Sportsmen's Alliance dinner

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance teamed up with the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council July 12 to host the fourth annual conservation dinner. The event, held at the IBEW Local 48 Hall in Portland, included dinner, a raffle, drawings, and auction. USA is a non-profit affiliate organization of the national AFL-CIO. The conservation group raises funds at events throughout the country, then works with volunteer union tradesmen and women on projects that conserve wildlife habitat, improve access to the outdoors, restore parks, and provide youth mentorship. The Oregon group completed its first "Boots on the Ground" project in May 2018 — performing work on a new shooting sports complex for the Cascade Pacific Council Boy Scouts of America at Camp Meriwether on the Oregon Coast. Travis Hopkins of Roofers Local 49 (pictured above center) helps coordinate the banquet and Boots on the Ground projects in Oregon. He said the group is still looking for a second conservation project, but they will host a fishing derby next spring for challenged youth and adults in the Bend/Redmond area. The exact location has not been determined. The July 12 banquet drew some 250 members from 16 unions and vendors. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 was the evening's Gold Sponsor. The final tally of money raised had not been completed at press time. Whatever that amount is, Oregon will keep 90% of the profit to add to their account, which now holds \$24,000. For more information about USA, go to <http://unionsportsmen.org>.

## Federal judge springs 'Scabby the Rat' loose from NLRB trap

By Mark Gruenberg  
Press Associates Inc.

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—A federal judge turned labor's famous 'Scabby The Rat' loose from a trap—really a ban—set by the Trump-appointed majority at the National Labor Relations Board. Instead, U.S. District Court Judge Nicholas Garaufis said on July 1 that the Constitution's First Amendment right of free speech protects the large inflatable rat—and a big cockroach, too.

The case got started when Laborers Local 79 picketed a ShopRite store at a Staten Island strip mall for union-busting. The union set up two 10-foot-tall rats—known throughout the labor movement as a symbol of someone who crosses a picket line, or uses nonunion labor.

NLRB's Brooklyn regional office sued to ban the rats, thus setting their trap. A check of Board records showed this wasn't the first time the Trump majority on the agency had tried to ban the rat, all unsuccessful.

Judge Garaufis sprang the rat loose from the NLRB's trap, citing the same constitutional provision—the free speech clause—which right-wingers use against workers and unions, most notably in last year's U.S. Supreme Court's *Janus* decision. *Janus* made every public employee in the U.S. a potential "free rider," able to use union services without paying for them. Forcing payments for contract negotiations and enforcement, the High

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