

# Scenes from inside the 2019 Oregon Building Trades Convention

HOOD RIVER, Ore.—The Oregon State Building & Construction Trades Council held its 58th annual convention Sept. 11-13. This year's gathering was at the Columbia Gorge Hotel, where 175 delegates and guests heard from national building trades officials, state and local politicians, and state agency heads. Rock Hardgrove of Intel Corp. reported on a planned 2.5-million-square-foot facility expansion at Ronler Acres in Hillsboro that will require 7 million worker-hours. And State Treasurer Tobias Read said his agency, which invests the \$80 billion PERS fund, is working to strengthen its responsible contractor policy. "We want to ensure that people that we invest with are treating their employees and the people that they work with the right way; that they get fair wages and benefits and everyone gets education and training," he said. Some other highlights from the convention are featured on this page.



(PHOTO LEFT) Jodi Guetzloe Parker of Laborers Local 335, Jeremy Moddrell of Plumbers and Fitters Local 598, and Steve Purdy of Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, convene as part of the Legislative Committee. (ABOVE) The Resolution Committee reads through a handful of resolutions submitted to the convention. From left are Randy Carmony of Elevator Constructors Local 23; Ron Lee of Operating Engineers Local 701, Geoff Kossak of Cement Masons Local 555, Charlie Johnson of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 (chair), Ron Mathis of Insulators Local 36, and Garth Bachman of IBEW Local 48. Photos by Michael Gutwig



Eryn Byram and Christina Daniels rolled out a new program called Labor Littles. The non-profit is teaming up with unionized childcare providers in the greater Portland and SW Washington areas to provide union construction workers childcare that is open during the hours they work. Labor Littles will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provide transportation to and from school. "Labor Littles was created to cater to their unique needs," said Daniels, a member of IBEW Local 48. Daniels and Byram, executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency, are looking to partner with unions, apprenticeship coordinators, and contractors for financial and in-kind contributions to continue building the program. Pictured with them above is Oregon Building Trades Executive Secretary Robert Camarillo.



Kevin Adkisson, field service director for North America's Building Trades Unions, reported that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) received 325,000 comments from union construction workers, contractors, and family members opposed to the Trump Administration's industry-backed Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs). "I think it's gotten their attention, but I don't know if it's going to be enough to save [construction unions' registered apprenticeship programs]," Adkisson reported. Adkisson said the Trump DOL isn't a friend of labor. "Their main objective is to knee-cap all the unions. That's their objective. The only thing that they're waiting on is for President Trump to be re-elected," he said, pointing out later that in a recent poll, 55% of union construction workers support Trump. Adkisson said union leaders must do a better job informing members that Trump's DOL wants to crumble their union. "Come next November, if President Trump is still the president, you better batten down the hatches, people ... It's going to get ugly, and it's going to get ugly quick. Because these guys ain't going to waste no time. They've got four years left to do it. And they're going after it."



Oregon Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle tells delegates that she recruited a leadership team of women from throughout the country to manage key departments at the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries. Hoyle said BOLI will work with legislators next session, "to see what we can do to make sure that we're not giving any state funding or any kind of state resources to IRAPs (Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs)" currently under consideration by the U.S. Department of Labor. "We can't keep them from coming to this state, but what we can do is say, 'If you're an institution that would seek state dollars, then you should not be referring people to an apprenticeship that doesn't have appropriate standards.' We're not having that kind of thing in our state."



(LEFT) Through a raffle, the convention raised \$3,000 to be divided between two union families experiencing hardships, and for the Aurora Composite Squadron Color Guard, who opened the 58th annual convention.



(LEFT) Retiring Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain (right) receives a souvenir baseball bat from Joe Esmonde of the Portland Diamond Project. PDP signed a "harmony agreement" in July with the AFL-CIO to ensure that any new baseball stadium will operate with a union workforce.

## RESOLUTIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Delegates approved changing officers' terms from three to four years, and to hold conventions biennially rather than annually. The next convention and election will be in 2021. Delegates continued monthly assessment to fund the Council's political action committee.
- OSBCTC awarded \$1,000 scholarships to Maria Luna Vargas (daughter of Israel Luna Marquez of Iron Workers Local 29), and Anna Alexander (daughter of Blake Alexander, Plumbers and Fitters Local 290). Scholarships are funded by Zenith American Solutions and Quest Investment.