

ELECTED

President Graham Trainor

Secretary-treasurer Christy O'Neill

Vice presidents

Jeff Anderson, UFCW 555

Garth Bachman, IBEW 48

Robert Camarillo, Oregon Building Trades

Stacey Chamberlain, Oregon AFSCME

Lisa Gourley, OSEA

Jon Hunt, ATU 757

Karl Koenig, IAFF

Deborah Riddick, ONA

Bob Tackett, Steelworkers 330

Noel Willet, IAM W24

At-large Board members

James Anderson, Operating Engineers 701

Marcia Blaine, AFGE

Lou Christian, UA 290

Dan Clay, UFCW 555

Daniel Cortez, APWU

Zack Culver, LiUNA 737

Jim Kilborn, Steelworkers

Jeff Klatke, Oregon AFSCME

Drew Lindsey, IBEW 280

Pat McMahon, CWA 7906

David Norton, NALC

Wayne Thompson, IAM

Rose Etta Venetucci, IATSE

Alan Yoder, ONA

CLC and constituency group reps

Jim Gourley, Linn-Benton-Lane CLC

Rodney McCambridge, AFSCME

Jeff McGillivray, UA 290

Ateusa Salemi, ONA

Tina Turner Morfitt, CBTU

HONORED

Legislator of the year: State Senator Kathleen Taylor

Rookie of the Year: State Representative Rachel Prusak

Working Family Champion: State Senator Shemia Fagan

Printing powerhouse award: UFCW

Leading by example award: Karl Koenig, IAFF state council and Brian Smith, IAFF 1660

Pat Quigley Award: Nate Stokes of Operating Engineers Local 701

Most new members: AFT-Oregon, which organized OSU faculty and grad students

Innovative organizing award: to Oregon AFSCME for behavioral health industry

Tenacious organizer award: OFNHP for rapid growth among techs and others.

AND WHILE THEY WERE AT IT ...

No union convention would be complete without a passing of the hat. At the 2019 convention, a raffle raised \$6,175 for the federation's political program. And at a meet-and-greet hospitality suite hosted by Trainor and O'Neill, volunteer bartender Rob Martineau put out a basket and raised \$300 in tips for the immigrant civil rights group Causa.

From Page 8

Oregon labor has friends in the U.S. capitol, at least: U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley was warmly welcomed at the convention, and presented a 10-point plan to save America. As he left the stage, a delegate made a motion to endorse him for re-election, which passed by an enthusiastic and unanimous vote.

Repudiating a 'labor traitor'

As painful as it was to see Democrats cutting public retirement benefits, one betrayal hit even closer to home. Tim Nesbitt — when he was Oregon AFL-CIO president from 1998 to 2005 — took an oath to never knowingly wrong a fellow union member or see a member wronged if it were in his power to prevent it. That was then. Today — while continuing to refer to himself as a past president of the Oregon AFL-CIO — he's one of the foremost voices lob-

bing to reduce pension benefits for Oregon public workers, and the mastermind behind an initiative aimed at the 2020 ballot that will slash benefits even further. At the convention, delegates loudly gave "aye" votes to a resolution condemning his actions as anti-worker and anti-union, demanding that he cease to refer to himself as past AFL-CIO president, and excluding him forever from any and all Oregon AFL-CIO events.

Farewell to Tom and Barbara

It's impossible to imagine Chamberlain and Byrd ever going down that path. Again and again over the course of the convention, delegates and guests rose to give accolades to the two of them for their lifetime of service to the cause of organized labor — and to present them with plaques and other tokens of gratitude. Shuler credited Chamberlain for turning the Oregon AFL-CIO from an organization

focused solely on politics to one that has come to serve as a "laboratory for organizing" and an example to other state labor federations. California AFL-CIO President Art Pulaski called Chamberlain the "happy organizer" and said that under Chamberlain and Byrd, the Oregon AFL-CIO has earned a reputation as the best state labor federation in America.

Byrd was feted not just with remembrances but with a hearty rendition of "Happy birthday to you," because the date happened to coincide with her final day as secretary-treasurer. Presenting Byrd a framed print with a famed quote about bread and roses, Eugene delegate Pat Riggs-Henson wept and needed help from another delegate to finish her remarks.

Choking up occasionally in his farewell speech, Chamberlain spoke about his legacy and the fights ahead.

"Together we have redefined

workers' issues from wages, hours and working conditions to a broader vision: comprehensive immigration reform, gender and racial equity, inclusion, environmental issues, trade policy, LGBTQ, housing — any and all issues that impact the lives of working people, union and not.

"Like my favorite union song, it's time to ask: 'Which side are you on?' Are you willing to hold electeds accountable, and those who betrayed you defeat them with an unshakable resolve? Which side are you on? Do those elected understand that the answer to the problems of this country is a good-paying union job? Which side are you on? Stop raiding our damn pensions, and start protecting and expanding benefits!

"Understand: We're in a class war in this country for the very future of our nation, our children, and future generations."

Brothers and sisters ... and other siblings

Remember the long-ago (or maybe recent) English class where you learned parts of speech, like nouns, verbs, adjectives and so on? A pronoun is one of them. It's a word that replaces a noun in a sentence. Examples include he, she, we, I, and they.

The 2019 Oregon AFL-CIO convention featured a panel discussion entitled, "Pronouns Matter." Moderated by Oregon AFSCME member Dominic Lopez of Basic Rights Oregon, it was made up of transgender and non-gender-binary union members: Zackariah Sloane of Oregon AFSCME, Sam Hughes of UFCW Local 555

and A.J. Mendoza of CWA Local 7901.

Panelists discussed evolving thinking and customs about gender. Some people feel they are a different gender than the one people might assume them to be; they may ask others to use a gendered pronoun such as "he" or "she" that corresponds to how they see themselves. Other people, referred to as "non-gender-binary," may feel that neither male nor female describes them; they may ask that others use the pronoun "they" when referring to them. Panelists said union members can make transgender and non-gender-binary people feel more welcome by trying to refer to them using the pronouns they prefer.

Panelists also presented new terminology, like the word cisgender, which refers to a person whose sense of their gender matches the sex they were assumed to be at birth (Most people are cisgender, in other words.) About half the delegates in the audience raised their hands when asked if they'd never heard some of the terms presented.

Before panelists even took the stage, delegates passed without opposition a resolution intended to make the Oregon AFL-CIO a more welcoming environment for transgender and gender-non-conforming people. The resolution says the Oregon AFL-CIO will advocate for legislation to protect transgender and gender non-

TRANSGENDER UNIONISTS

Convention delegates were shown a five-minute video made by Oregon AFSCME, which features transgender union members explaining new gender terminology and why pronouns matter to them. You can watch the video at bit.ly/2m6GjeU

conforming people from discrimination and harassment. It also encourages affiliates and partners to use gender-inclusive language such as "union family," "sibling," or "cousin" wherever "brother" or "sister" is spoken, as is the union custom. The resolution took effect immediately, and speakers began trying out different phrases as the convention proceeded.

RESOLVED

Sanction a traitor: Former Oregon AFL-CIO president Tim Nesbitt is condemned for exploiting his past union leadership role to advance an agenda of cutting public employee pensions, and barred from all future Oregon AFL-CIO events.

Defend PERS: The Oregon AFL-CIO will oppose Nesbitt's proposed ballot initiative to cut public employee retirement benefits further.

Hold politicians accountable: No state legislator who voted to cut public worker retirement benefits will get endorsement or help in the May 2020 primary, and the Oregon AFL-CIO will revise its endorsement procedure for the 2020 general election to include a more stringent process for legislators who didn't stand with workers during the 2019 Legislative Session.

Defend transgender rights: The Oregon AFL-CIO will advocate for legislation to protect transgender people from discrimination and harassment.

Make health care a human right: The Oregon AFL-CIO continues its membership in the Health Care for All Oregon coalition.

The safety net isn't supposed to be corporate welfare: Support a ballot initiative to tax companies if they pay so little that lots of their employees are on public assistance.

Support the Green New Deal, with labor standards: The Oregon AFL-CIO will support climate legislation when it includes requirements for union neutrality, project labor agreements, prevailing wage, apprenticeship training opportunities, and a just transition making whole any workers who would lose jobs because of it.

Immigrant rights are workers rights: The Oregon AFL-CIO will form an immigration work group, make sure immigrant rights are considered when developing new public policy, and oppose all anti-immigrant policy proposals or attacks.

Drivers licenses for immigrants: The Oregon AFL-CIO will defend a 2019 law allowing undocumented Oregonians to get driver's licenses from attack on the ballot or in the legislature.

Defend tax increase on cigarettes and e-cigarettes: The Oregon AFL-CIO will support at legislative referral that would raise an estimated \$175 million a year to pay for health care and tobacco and nicotine prevention campaigns.