

PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

Runoff: Loretta Smith endorsed by Northwest Oregon Labor Council

In a special-call Zoom meeting June 2, the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC) endorsed Loretta Smith for Portland City Council. Smith, a former Multnomah County commissioner, was the top vote-getter among 18 candidates vying to fill the remainder of Nick Fish's term. Fish died of stomach cancer in January. Smith didn't obtain 50% plus one of the vote, so she'll be in a runoff with Dan Ryan, former CEO of the educational nonprofit All Hands Raised and a former Portland Public School Board member.

Because it is a race to fill a vacancy, the runoff election will be held Aug. 11. The winner will serve the remainder of Fish's term, which expires in 2022.

Smith was endorsed by United Food and Commercial

Workers Local 555 in the primary. Ryan had no union endorsements.

Labor was mostly behind Julia DeGraw, an environmental activist and union ally. She ran with support from AFSCME Local 189, Portland Association of Teachers, and Protect 17, but finished third.

At the NOLC endorsement meeting, public employee unions mostly abstained from voting, saying they had yet to take a position in the race.

Smith ran for City Council in 2018, losing to current Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty. Smith served two terms as a Multnomah County commissioner starting in 2010. She was prevented by term limits from running for re-election. Prior to that, she worked for U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden for 23 years.



Loretta Smith

UNION DEMOCRACY

Travis Eri unopposed for a sixth three-year term at IBEW 125

In union officer elections that concluded June 3, Travis Eri was elected unopposed for a sixth three-year term as business manager of 3,557-member IBEW Local 125.

As an electric linemen local, Local 125 represents electric utility workers, power line clearance tree trimmers, and workers who construct and maintain transmission lines and electrical substations. Its territory includes parts of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Nevada.

Eri, 49, began work as a union rep at Local 125 in 1998, and has served as business manager since 2005.

Over the next year, he and the union staff under his direction expect to be busy negotiating a new round of collective bargaining agreements. Existing union agreements with the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) covering about 1,000 employees of union-signatory line and tree trimmer contractors expire this year. And Local 125 contracts covering about 1,450 utility workers at PGE, Pa-

cific Power, and Bonneville Power Administration are up for renewal in 2021.

Eri says another focus will be recruitment of new apprentices and retention of the existing work force, with PGE in particular slated for expansion.

"We've got a lot of work coming up," Eri told the *Labor Press*.

"We want to make sure we've got a work force in place that can handle those needs."

The officer election took place by mail, with ballots counted June 3. Local 125 members also elected all other officers (those with asterisks were unopposed):

- President** Larry Browning*
- Vice president** incumbent Randy Bryson
- Recording Secretary** Pacific Power employee Raymond Cowell*
- Treasurer** PGE employee Joe Gass*
- Executive Board** Pacific Power employee Jeremy Barr (Private Utility); Clark PUD employee Cliff "Zeek" McCarthy (PUD); BPA employee John Brooks (challenger) (Government); Robert Clarkson (Construction)
- Examining Board** Lee Cole*, Ryan Hagel*, Rick Larson*, John Howard, and Tommy Lux



Travis Eri



APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING BACK IN SESSION Operating Engineers Local 701 resumed apprenticeship training classes June 8 at the Mark Holliday Operating Engineers Training Center in Canby, Oregon. Forty new apprentices accepted from 200 applicants are in the class. The training program is practicing social distancing and providing masks for all the apprentices.

Fund set up for 2 ironworkers hurt in roof collapse

James Sackett and Justin Rothgeb, members of Iron Workers Local 29, were badly injured June 10, when a roof partially collapsed on the new Portland General Electric headquarters under construction in Tualatin. Both men are hospitalized at Oregon Health and Science University. Rothgeb has undergone back surgery and is in a trauma unit and Sackett was in a med-

ically induced coma at press time. The union said doctors are optimistic that both men will recover, but it will be a very long road back.

PGE is building a new headquarters at the corner of Southwest Tualatin-Sherwood Road and 124th Ave. in Tualatin. Lease Crutcher Lewis is the general contractor.

The accident is under investi-

gation by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Ironworkers USA Credit Union has set up an account for both members. You do not need to be a member of the credit union to donate, and all donations will go directly to the injured workers. To donate, go to ironworkersfcu.org/donate.

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