

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

DePaul Treatment accused of bad faith bargaining

By Noah Wass

In an unfair labor practice charge filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) June 25, Oregon AF-SCME says De Paul Treatment Centers is refusing to negotiate in good faith over a first contract.

De Paul Treatment Centers voluntarily recognized the union last September after a majority of the addiction recovery agency's 122 employees signed union authorization cards. But only three bargaining sessions have been held since then. AF-SCME organizer Anna Peña says getting management to schedule a bargaining session has been a serious challenge.

"In early February we proposed a date," Peña said. "That

didn't work, so we proposed five additional dates for March. None of those worked, but then they decided on April 9, but they canceled. April 10, I suggested three more dates and they said they did not foresee any meetings until May, which never happened. We didn't have an opening session until June 11."

The problem is that DePaul is insisting on scheduling bargaining sessions during work hours—and refusing to pay union bargaining team members for their time—so workers must either lose wages or use paid time off in order to take part in negotiations. Only two members were able to attend the July 9 session. A third bargaining session was set for Aug. 5, after

this issue went to press.

"We are in the middle of a pandemic and management is telling us to use our sick time so we can attend bargaining sessions," said Erika LaCarney, an addictions counselor in the adult residential program. "We just want a fair contract."

Non-profit De Paul Treatment Centers provides addiction recovery services to adults and youth experiencing drug addiction and related mental illness at its primary facility at 1312 SW Washington St. and satellite locations at 4310 NE Killingsworth St. in Portland and 205 SE Third Ave. in Hillsboro. Workers unionized in order to do something about low wages and high turnover.

Lebanon veterans home faces decertification campaign

A group of over 200 workers at the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon, Oregon, will vote on whether to remain unionized. Mail ballots go out Aug. 13 and are due back Aug. 27.

It was just last year—May 20, 2019—that workers there voted 75 to 63 to join United Steel Workers of America (USW).

USW District 12 subdistrict director Ron Rodgers says as the union and management neared agreement on a first con-

tract, anti-union workers roamed the halls with decertification petitions, while union supporters were told not to talk about the union at work.

USW has for years represented a veterans nursing home run by the same non-profit in The Dalles, Oregon.

The Lebanon location was the site of one of the first COVID outbreaks in Oregon; 38 residents and workers were infected, and 8 residents died.

Food box distribution set for Aug. 15

"Workers Helping Workers" will hold its third food box distribution on Saturday, Aug. 15, at Operating Engineers Local 701 union hall, 555 First St., Gladstone.

Nearly two dozen labor groups are participating in the food box distribution program, including the Northwest Oregon Labor

Council, Oregon AFL-CIO, and Labor's Community Service Agency. The program also has received donations from Franz Bakery and grocery discounts from Safeway and Fred Meyer.

The first distribution was held June 6 at Laborers Local 737 Training Center in Northeast Port-

land and the second took place June 25 at United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555's office in Tigard. At each event volunteers boxed and distributed 1,000 boxes of food staples.

The food boxes are available for anyone in need, not just union members. For more information about Workers Helping Workers, go to www.workershelpingworkers.com/foodbox-signup.



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