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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Wages rise \$4.96 an hour in new Roofers contract

Members of Portland-based Roofers and Waterproofers Local 49 got a pretty healthy set of raises in the new contract that will take effect July 1. Journeymen wages—which are currently \$36.23 an hour in the Portland metro area—will rise \$4.96 an hour over three years: \$1.50 July 1, 2021; \$1.65 July 1, 2022; and \$1.75 July 1, 2023. Foremen get 10% to 20% above the journeyman wage. Apprentices start at 60% of the journeyman wage and get raises in regular increments as they complete 4,000 hours of on-the-job training to be-

come journeymen. All other terms remain basically the same, including \$19.23 for full-family health insurance, pension, and other fringe benefits. That means as of July 1, the total package will be \$57.21 an hour.

“Most of our members were pretty happy with it,” said Local 49 business manager Russ Garnett. Garnett said contractors initially offered much less, pointing to the effects of COVID-19. But union roofers haven’t seen much if any impact from the pandemic, Garnett said. Aside from a slight

reduction in hours, members are basically at full employment right now, particularly on prevailing wage public works jobs and big hotel and tech projects. Garnett said the contract passed pretty easily.

The agreement covers most of the local’s 650 members when they work for any of the 12 roofing contractors that make up the Union Contractors Group. A separate recent agreement covers contractors in the Eugene area; they got a \$2 an hour raise in a one-year contract that runs to June 1, 2022.

The new agreement runs through July 2, 2024.

—DM

UNION ROOFERS

- ABC Roofing
- Anderson Roofing
- Arrow Roofing & Sheet Metal
- Carlson Roofing
- FD Thomas Waterproofing
- Garon Roofing & Sheet Metal
- Griffith Roofing
- McDonald & Wetle
- McGilchrist & Sons Roofing
- Pacific Roofing
- Snyder
- Umpqua Roofing

Serious outbreak of wage increases across nursing home industry

Since April, when the Avamere nursing home chain signed a breakthrough contract with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 503 raising starting wages up to \$4 an hour, three other Oregon nursing home chains have agreed to match those standards. The life-changing raises come as signed letters of agreement with Avalon, Prestige, and EmpRes, all which have cur-

rent union contracts that run through Sept. 30, 2021.

“It’s really clear why,” said Local 503 spokesperson Ben Morris. “They’re having a hard time hiring across the industry.”

At Avalon, the new \$18 an hour wage floor took effect June 7 for all certified nursing assistants and certified medication aides—a 23% increase in starting wages. At Prestige, the new wage floor is also \$18 an

hour—for certified nursing assistants, certified medication aides, and restorative aides. It’s the single largest one-time pay increase at Prestige since workers there unionized.

Avalon and Prestige reached their agreements May 11.

And on May 16 at the EmpRes chain, starting wages rose to \$21 an hour for certified medication aides and \$18 an hour for certified nursing assis-

tants.

Dakavia is the only remaining hold out among unionized nursing home chains in Oregon.

Nonunion Marquis Companies has also raised wages.

All told, Local 503 represents 550 workers at Avamere nursing homes; 649 workers at 10 Avalon facilities; 882 at 17 Prestige facilities; and 307 at 10 EmpRes facilities.

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