

UNION DEMOCRACY

Lindsey re-elected to third term as IBEW Local 280 business manager

Drew Lindsey has been re-elected to a third term as business manager of IBEW Local 280. He defeated challenger Mark Crenshaw in mail balloting counted June 1. Crenshaw vacated his seat as president to run for business manager.

Chad Privratsky, the Local's vice president, vacated that seat to run for president. He was elected by acclamation.

Bob Sapp outpolled Bruce Hatfield for the open vice president's position. Hatfield was the Local's treasurer.

Mike Jones and Megan Denton finished in a run-off to succeed Hatfield as treasurer. Neither captured the 50%-plus one majority vote required in a three-person race.

The run-off ballot also will include David Hoover and Wendall Whistler for alternate delegate to the IBEW International Convention. They tied with 99 votes each in the first round of voting.

Ballots were mailed June 8 and will be counted June 22. Results will be posted on the union's web site at ibew280.org.

Hoover was elected recording secretary, running unopposed, and Whistler was one of three candidates elected to the Local's Executive Board. Whistler was joined by Jeremy Kroon and Ralph Golf as the top vote-getters in an 8-person race for three at-large positions.

Work is booming in Local 280's jurisdiction, and the local hit a membership record of nearly 1,800 members in December 2020. Headquartered in Tangent, Oregon, the local represents construction and sound and communications workers under 43 contracts in nine counties in Central Oregon and the Southern Willamette Valley. The local has training centers in Tangent and Redmond, with more than 370 apprentices in training. The training center in Redmond, which was created in Lindsey's second term, has already outgrown the space and the Joint Ap-



Drew Lindsey

prenticeship Training Committee is looking for a new facility.

Lindsey, 57, is a 28-year member of the IBEW. He has served the Local previously as president, vice president, and as an instructor for first-year apprentices. Business manager is the only elected office that is also a full-time paid position. He is the first business manager to serve three terms since the mid 1980s.

"My philosophy is if you want to be successful, you have to surround yourself with successful people," he said. "I have that with my staff and membership, even our contractors." He said communication plays a big part in the Local's success.

Lindsey doesn't like to predict the future, but says the work landscape looks strong in the area for the upcoming year.

"The only thing that might get in the way is a shortage of raw materials. We're already starting to see some of that."

In other Local 280 election results:

- **Examining Board** Zac Bakke, Robbie Smith, Kail Zuschlag
- **Delegates to IBEW International Convention** Kail Zuschlag, Chad Privratsky, Robbie Smith, Mike Jones, Ralph Golf, Megan Denton
- **Cascade Pacific Pulp Unit Chair** Dustin Royer
- **CPP Unit Vice Chair** Steve Lindberg
- **CPP Unit Recorder** Chris Visser
- **CPP Safety Committee Rep** Nick Nighswonger

New leadership at Painters Local 10

Members of Painters Local 10 took nominations for union officer positions May 19. Because all nominees were unopposed, they were declared elected.

Local 10's new president is Mark Fleming, a 38-year member of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT). After graduating from high school in Pittsburgh, California, Fleming joined Painters Local 741 at age 19. Once he completed his apprenticeship, he relocated with his wife to Vancouver, Washington, and joined Painters Local 360. Local 360 merged into Local 10 in



Mark Fleming

2007. Fleming has worked for Thompson Metal Fab since

1998, painting bridges and ships among other things. He became a shop steward, and served several terms as warden. Now he'll preside over local union meetings.

Based in Portland, Local 10 represents over 700 painters working in the building trades as well as industrial coatings and for public agencies in Southwest Washington and Oregon north of Salem. Local 10 formerly included about 450 drywall finishers as well, but last year they formed their own

union, IUPAT Local 101.

Also elected to three-year terms:

- **Vice president** Jasmine White
- **Financial secretary** Robert Woods
- **Recording secretary** Melissa Austin
- **Treasurer** Daric Williams
- **Trustees** Raymond Wheeler, Jerico Navas, Matt Botsford
- **Warden** Tearsa McVey

All the offices are unpaid volunteer positions. The staff representatives who help negotiate and enforce union contracts work for District Council 5, which comprises 13 locals in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Alaska.

Workers picket Kaiser Westside over safe staffing

Nurses and health professionals at Kaiser Westside Medical Center in Hillsboro held an informational picket June 10 to address short staffing. Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP) says short staffing is a chronic problem that affects the care patients receive in the hospital.

"This is an ongoing issue that did not begin with the COVID-19 pandemic, but being short staffed is a problem both for us as healthcare pro-

fessionals and the patients who are relying on us," said Jodi Barschow, RN and president of OFNHP in a press statement.

Kaiser Permanente and its union employees have a partnership agreement that allows them to work collaboratively on solving problems. Employees are asking for these issues to be addressed through this partnership and that the systemic issues with staffing are addressed. This picket followed another recent informational

picket at the Kaiser's Sunny-side Medical Center, where staff in the Emergency Department protested problems with short staffing, high turnover, and a lack of a voice on the job.

OFNHP members are beginning bargaining with Kaiser both at the local and national level through the Alliance of Healthcare Unions. OFNHP is a member of the healthcare division of the larger American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

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