

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)
 Established in 1900 in Portland, Oregon as a voice of the labor movement. Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co. Inc., a non-profit mutual benefit corporation owned by 20 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 120 union organizations in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Office location:
 4275 NE Halsey St., Portland, Oregon

Mailing address:
 P.O. Box 13150, Portland, OR 97213

Phone: (503) 288-3311

Web address:
<https://nwlaborpress.org>

Editor & Manager: Michael Gutwig
Senior staff reporter: Don McIntosh
Office manager: Jill Lukens

Printed on recycled paper, using soy-based inks, by members of Teamsters Local 747-M.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Individual subscriptions are \$15 a year for union members, \$23 a year for all others. Pay by credit card online at nwlaborpress.org/subscribe, or send a check to our mailing address (above) along with your name, address and union affiliation, if any. **Group rates of 48 cents an issue per member** — \$11.52 a year are available for 25 or more subscriptions; call 503-288-3311 for details.

CORRECTIONS: See an error? Please let us know at editor@nwlaborpress.org or by phone at 503-288-3311.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT PORTLAND, OREGON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you move, let us know at nwlaborpress.org/subscriber-services or by mail at our mailing address (above). Be sure to provide your old and new addresses and the name/number of your local union. Please allow three weeks for the change to take effect.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS, P.O. BOX 13150 PORTLAND, OR 97213-0150



UNION ORGANIZING

Comic book workers of the world, unite!

Workers at Portland-based Image Comics announced Nov. 1 that they're forming a union Comic Book Workers United, affiliated with Communications Workers of America (CWA). The announcement drew immediate congrats from national AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler.

Founded in 1992 by a group of prominent comic book creators, Image Comics has become the third largest comics publisher in the United States.

It's best known for the Spawn comic book series and for Invincible, a comic series that Amazon adapted as an animated series this year.

But a statement signed by nine of the company's 12 employees says too often they feel their labor is taken for granted and undervalued.

"We love what we do," they wrote. "But loving what you do doesn't mean you can't or shouldn't ask for improvements

to your working conditions."

Workers are asking the company to voluntarily recognize their union.

CWA Region 7 organizer Ted Hooker says there haven't been any recognized unions in the comic industry. These workers organized themselves, and then reached out to CWA.

Visit <http://bit.ly/cbwupdx> to find out more about the campaign and sign up for updates.

-DM

Bus drivers win raises up to \$6 an hour

Given a tight labor market and especially a driver shortage, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 recently negotiated big wage increases in several Portland-area bargaining units.

The biggest were at **First Student**, which provides school bus service to **Portland Public Schools**. Local 757 agreed to reopen its current contract there, and negotiated an immediate \$6 an hour increase for about 300 workers. The two sides extended the contract

through Aug. 31, 2027, and the top wage in the final year will be **\$36.95 an hour**. Local 757 president Shirley Block said members were ecstatic, jumping up and down at the Oct. 15 ratification meeting.

Another group of drivers who work directly for Portland Public Schools also got raises of \$3 an hour, bringing them to a starting wage of \$22.64 and a top wage of \$31.58.

About 215 paratransit drivers working for a TriMet contractor

also won big raises. Earlier this year, TriMet canceled its contract with First Transit to operate **TriMet Lift** and gave it instead to a company called **TransDev**. Local 757 met with the new contractor and after a rocky start was able to negotiate similar contract terms, plus improved medical insurance and raises of close to \$3 an hour over the next three years. Ratified by members Oct. 25, it will increase the top wage rate from \$28.02 currently to \$30.90 in 2024.

Block said every transit district the union represents is currently hiring drivers.

-DM

Workers authorize strike at Vancouver Public Schools

By an 89% margin, members of Vancouver Association of Education Support Professionals (VAESP) voted Oct. 26 to authorize their leadership to call a strike if they can't get an acceptable contract with Vancouver Public Schools. The priority issues are inadequate pay and a short staffing crisis.

They've been working without a contract since Aug. 31.

VAESP, an affiliate of Washington Education Association, represents approximately 600 school support workers at the district, including clerks, secretaries, aquatic coordinators, tech support personnel, and paraeducators who work with special education students. Paraeducators are the most numerous classification in the union, and they say a severe staffing shortage is compromising safety in the classroom.

The two sides were scheduled to meet again with the assistance of a state mediator Nov. 3, after this issue went to press.

-DM

Your Oregon & Washington Union Mail House.

MORELINK
PRINT & MARKETING PARTNERS

Proud Mailers of the Northwest Labor Press

morelink.com • 503-736-0111 ext. 140

PLEASE SHOW OUR ADVERTISERS YOU APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THIS LABOR MOVEMENT NEWSPAPER!



WHITE & WESCO
 "Always the best Quality"
10" SMOKE JUMPER
16" LINEMAN
 HUGE SELECTION WATERPROOF BOOTS
 SIZES IN NARROW, MEDIUM & WIDE
AI'S SHOES
 5811 S.E. 82ND • 771-2130

Hours: Mon-Sat 12-6 pm Closed Sunday

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floor coverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family

Presents from Partners!

The Credit Union elves will be working hard to shop, fill and deliver gift bags for our credit union families this Christmas.

Would you like to help us make a child smile this holiday season?

Donate cash or gifts and let one of our Elves do the shopping for you!

Cash and gifts accepted until 12/10/2021

IBEW AND UNITED WORKERS **FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

9955 SE Washington St.
 Portland, OR 97216
 503-253-8193 800-356-6507

NCUA

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floor coverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family