

Local Electrician Builds Own Business

Union mentorship leads to subcontracting

BY JOHN FALL
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jean Malary has come a long way, both geographically and professionally to find success in the world of construction.

Not just any construction, either, but the most visible construction site in the region—the Portland Mall Light Rail Project.

Not long after his journey from Haiti led him to the Portland area, he began working as an electrician.

"I worked for various companies and a local union," Malary recalls. He soon connected with the larger network of electricians by joining the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, where a mentorship program initiated him to subcontracting. In 2004, he started his own business, Affordable Elec-



A mentorship program through the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers introduced electrician Jean Malary to the world of subcontracting.

tric, Inc. Working as a subcontractor at the light rail project's future field offices, Malary learned from Stacy and Witbeck, one of TriMet's prime Mall project contractors, just how big the electrical portion of the project would be.

He also learned of TriMet's reputation for encouraging disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) firms to bid for subcontracting work.

TriMet's DBE effort began with the Yellow Line on Interstate Avenue. DBE firms, including several from the local impact area, received a substantial portion of the overall 19 percent of the contracting funds, totaling \$36 million. And at just over the halfway point in the Mall project, DBE subcontractors accounted for \$20 million in contract value through June of this year.

When he learned of the subcontracting opportunities on the project, Malary sprang into ac-

continued ▼ on page A19

Minimum Wage Increase Coming

45-cent increase tied to inflation

State Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian announced last week that Oregon's minimum wage will increase by 45-cents per hour next year.

The 5.37 percent increase in the cost of living will bring the state's minimum hourly wage to \$8.40, effective Jan. 1. As a result of Ballot Measure 25, passed by voters in 2002, the minimum wage is adjusted annually based on changes in inflation as measured by the Consumer Price



Brad Avakian

rounded to the nearest five cents. The new wage becomes effective the following January.

"By helping workers and their families preserve their purchasing power in difficult times, our strong minimum wage law also benefits our local economies, where workers spend most of their paychecks," Avakian said.

Minimum wage workers represent about 7.5 percent of Oregon's workforce and 143,000 individuals struggle to support themselves and their families on these wages.

Several other states, includ

continued ▼ on page A19

Index.

The Oregon Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is charged with adjusting the minimum wage for inflation every September,

Building Partnerships to Build Our Community



Proud to partner with CJ Jackson Construction Co. and Faison Construction Co. to build the Humboldt Gardens community. For subcontracting and employment opportunities, contact Carolyn Wilson at 503-793-6824.



MED WEEK

MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK RECEPTION, TRAINING, LUNCHEON & TRADE SHOW



THIS YEAR'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER
RONALD LANGSTON

National Director of the Minority Business Development Agency Under the Bush Administration

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1 2008
10AM-3PM

OREGON CONVENTION CENTER
777 NE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.
PORTLAND, OREGON

Join us to celebrate and recognize outstanding minority-owned businesses in Oregon and Southwest Washington at the annual MED Week awards luncheon and trade show at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Get your booth early!

TRADE SHOW: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

A great opportunity for you to showcase your products and/or services to an estimated audience of over 500 awards luncheon attendees. Purchase of a booth includes two tickets to the awards luncheon.

AWARDS LUNCHEON: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

The awards luncheon showcases outstanding minority-owned businesses in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our keynote speaker this year is Mr. Ronald Langston. He is the National Director for the US Dept of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency.

RECEPTION: 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

At the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1441 NE 2nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97232

Host Sponsor: Portland Development Commission

EVENT INFORMATION

For more event information, please contact:

JERRY WALKER AT 503.802.8509
jerryw2@hapdx.org

LEANNE BROWN AT 503.962.2213
brownl@trimet.org

Or go to

BDIWEB.ORG

THANK YOU 2008 SPONSORS

WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 10/01 8:00-9:45 A.M. AT OCC
777 NE MLK, JR. BLVD, PORTLAND

TARGET Diversity Practitioners and M/WESB Program Administrators, Owners; Private and Public promoting Diversity

TOPIC Diversity Leadership. Develop skills to aid Diversity Professionals and Owners at becoming Change Agents within their organizational culture. Learn to enhance the impact of your Diversity Program, internally and externally.

WEDNESDAY 10/01 3:00-5:00 P.M. AT OCC
777 NE MLK, JR. BLVD, PORTLAND

TARGET Minority, Women, and Emerging Small Business Firms

TOPIC Sales; "Closing the Deal." At this exciting and dynamic event, develop sales and marketing techniques that benefit M/W/ESB firms in the competitive business market. Learn how to increase your company's income and have a great time in the process!

THURSDAY 10/02 3:00-5:00 P.M. AT OAME
4134 N VANCOUVER AVE, PORTLAND

TARGET Private and Public Owner / Contractor; Project Managers, Purchasing Agents, Superintendents and Engineers

TOPIC Successfully Fulfilling Diversity Goals. Learn about Diversity programs and techniques for successful implementation. Does your company or agency have projects with aspirational goals or a diversity program? Come share and learn how to create a "win, win" environment on your project.

Attendance at these trainings is priced extremely low (\$10) and is intended to add value to the training. Pay on-line or at the door. Refreshments shall be provided.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for these classes. Contact Cinna'mon Brannon-Williams at **CinnamonW@hapdx.org** to sign up. More information at **bdiweb.org**.

