

September 2010

AFSCME Local 3336

<http://www.afscme3336.org>

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET



Next Members Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2010
Time: Noon to 1:00 PM
Place: HQ, EQC-A
Call-In #: Call In Number: 1-800-610-4500;
Participant Access Code: 214451

In This Issue

- ✚ Election Volunteers Needed
- ✚ Join MAT Team
- ✚ Actions You Can Take
- ✚ Labor Day Picnics

NOTE: *This is the first of hopefully monthly or at least bi-monthly newsletter to our members.*

Message from our President, William Brown

Every Day Brings More Bad News About The Economy.

The August 26, 2010, state revenue forecast projects another \$377.5 million income tax shortfall in addition to the \$377.5 million that has already been cut from this biennium's budget. Next biennium we are looking at a possible \$2.5 billion dollar general fund budget shortfall. In addition to general fund woes, we are also receiving less revenue from fee dollars. Some politicians and news organizations are using this as an opportunity to attack government as well as government employees and their unions. Instead of looking at tax reform, tax credits, kicker reform (wouldn't that \$1.2 billion returned to tax payers in 2007 have made a nice rainy day fund?), we are seeing a well organized campaign calling for elimination of state agencies, privatization, and attacks on PERS and our health insurance.

I expect that contract negotiations and the next legislative session will be the most difficult that we have seen in our lifetimes. The economic crisis was not caused by unions or state employees but was caused by unregulated greed in the financial markets in addition to

federal tax policies that cut taxes for the wealthy and fought two wars while borrowing trillions of dollars to do so, thereby turning a budget surplus into a huge deficit. Here in Oregon we have made economically unsound decisions using the ballot initiative process. We built prisons without finding a funding source for operating them. We cut property taxes, shifting the funding for schools from the counties to the state, again without finding a stable source of funding for those schools. Instead of building up financial reserves during good times, we gave that money back in the form of kicker refunds. We created tax credits for corporations for the purpose of creating jobs without reviewing those credits to see if they were actually creating the jobs that were promised.

We are being called upon to do our part to solve the budget crisis and, again, we will do our part but this is a national problem that will require a national solution. We need policies that help working people and not just billionaires and corporate CEOs. Here in Oregon we need to demand that schools have a stable source of funding. We either need to close prisons and release prisoners, or find a

way to pay for them. We need to eliminate tax credits unless there is evidence to support that they are actually benefitting the economy. Finally, we need to reform the kicker so that we can create financial reserves for times such as these.

What can we do? With an election coming up, we need to demand real reform from the candidates.

We need to develop a legislative agenda for the next session to put these reforms in place. We need to support candidates who understand that it is the workers who are the source of wealth and that we need jobs for the economy to recover. We need to vote and work for candidates that understand the importance of the services that we provide to the public. We need to defeat candidates who stir up hatred for government employees and

use this anger to get elected. We need to defeat candidates who want to place the blame on us for the economic crisis instead of on their own failed economic policies of tax breaks for the wealthy and failure to regulate industry.

The choice in many races is clear. Please join me and others in working for those candidates by canvassing, handing out flyers, phone banking, and getting their message to the voters. I know that these actions are difficult for some of you and that we all have many commitments to keep but please find the time to spend at least one day or evening helping. This is important for bargaining and promoting a pro-worker and pro-environment legislative agenda in these difficult times. Those who oppose us are well funded and well organized. We need to act if we want to get ourselves out of this mess.

Message from our Union Staff, Issa Simpson

Greetings:

First, I would like to express my appreciation for the dedication and work of the Local's Executive Board (E-Board).

Your E-Board is a dedicated group who has spent many volunteer hours in Board meetings, strategic planning, and grievance review in order to conduct the business of the Local. We should also recognize the Local's stewards; as the needs for representation increase, your stewards have stepped up to the task and provided the much needed front line support and communication necessary to ensure your rights are protected. Although the Union certainly represents folks who have been subjected to discipline, in the past few years we have handled more issues related to contract violations and interpretation affecting all members.

As we go forward into bargaining the next contract, it is time to hone our skills on another

tool at hand. Your **Member Action Team (MAT)** is an important factor in both the everyday communications of the Local and even more critical during contract negotiations. We rely on this team for two-way communication between the bargaining team and the membership and believe me we rely on all of you for direction. The E-Board has identified a few areas for improvement of the MAT and will be offering targeted training for your involvement. We will be putting out a message soon requesting that you consider becoming a MAT member. Please consider this request and do not hesitate to ask an E-Board member or me what is involved if you have questions.

Thank you for all you do-on both the environmental and the labor fronts. It is my privilege and honor to represent this Local.

In solidarity, Issa Simpson

Current Hot Issues (by Karen Williams)

Campaign Season Has Begun!

You all know how much politics influences our ability to do our jobs. We can sit back, cross our fingers and see what happens to us. On the other hand, we can engage, activate, and make a positive difference. I am proud to serve as your representative on the AFSCME Council 75 political action committee because I think active engagement in politics is second only to internal organizing in building the strength of our Union. In addition, political activism extends what I call our Union's "power for good" to the whole community of working and want-to-be-working people, middle and lower income, union and non-union, private and public sector. Find **AFSCME's 2010 endorsed candidates** at Election Central on www.oregonafscme.com and statewide canvass and phone bank dates under Political ACTION.

Members drive the endorsement process and make the endorsement decisions, though the experience and insights of our Council 75 political staff are crucial. We endorse candidates who have demonstrated that they understand the value of public services,

support workers rights, and have at least a vision for taxation that does not disproportionately affect lower and middle-income families. That does not mean we have or will always agree with everything they say and do, and you will note that candidates we endorse come from more than one political party. Candidates have told us how much AFSCME's endorsement means to them, and they are not talking only about financial donations. Our name commands respect and our endorsement brings the power of "feet on the ground" -- volunteer power that no corporate donation can match. *Be Proud. Be Active. Make a Difference.*

Thank you to the 17 people from our Local who attended the Jobs Town Hall with candidate for Governor John Kitzhaber and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka: Wendy Anderson, Deb Bailey, Paula Carson, Angela Delfin, Colleen Foster, Daniel Hermosillo, Jack Herbert, Ray Hoy, Jim Orr, Wade Peerman, Holly Pence, Monica Russel, Ken Thiessen, Jennifer Weaver, Bob Williams, Karen Williams, and Elliot Zais (retired).

Informational Item (by Don Yon)

Oregon's Business Taxes.

"At the end of the 2009 fiscal year, the [Council on State Taxation](#) calculated that Oregon's state and local business taxes were 3.5 percent of the total value of goods and services produced by the private sector. That is significantly less than Washington (5.3), Nevada (4.9), Arizona (4.8), and California (4.7).

Measure 67 only boosted that percent by two-tenths of one percent, COST and the Legislative Revenue Office agree." **Steve Duin, The Oregonian, [Oregon: Taxes feel different here](#), Published: Monday, August 23, 2010, 7:54 PM.**

Event Calendar

Date/Time	Event	Location
Sept. 6	LABOR DAY PICNICS!	
	Bend — 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Central Oregon Central Labor Council. Contact Linda Bradetich at (541) 350-0965 for more information.	Pioneer Park.
	Eugene/Springfield — Begins at 12-noon. Sponsored by the Lane County Central Labor Council. Contact CJ Mann at (541) 913-0056 for more information.	Jasper Park, Springfield/Pleasant Hill.
	Medford — 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Donations accepted and there is a \$3 charge for parking. Sponsored by the Southern Oregon Central Labor Council. Call Kathy McUne at (541) 664-0804 for more information.	Tou Velle State Park, 8425 Table Rock Road, Central Point.
	North Bend — 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council. Call Shawn Jennings at (541) 396-3244 — or e-mail shawngj@msn.com — or Jan Long at (541) 347-9120 for more information.	Ferry Road Park in North Bend.
	Oregon State Fair — The Oregon AFL-CIO labor booth in the Central Canopy area continues to be staffed with union volunteers during the entire two weeks of the fair, including Labor Day, the 11th and final day of the State Fair. Oregon AFSCME Corrections members will staff the booth on Sept. 1, and Local 2067 members from the City of Salem will staff the booth on Sept. 2. Jim Gourley of the Steelworkers, who coordinates the booth, is always looking for volunteers who can work a shift on Labor Day itself. Call Gourley at (541) 206-9544 if you would like to help on Sept. 6.	Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem
	Portland — 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. , with a brief program at 1 p.m. Sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. See attached fliers for more information, or contact Hilary Mortensen , (503) 239-9858.	Oaks Amusement Park in Southeast Portland.
	Salem — 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by Marion-Polk-Yamhill Central Labor Council and AFSCME Local 2067. Cost: 2 food items per person. RSVP by Aug. 1 to afscme2067@gmail.com . See attached flier or call Keith Bondaug at (503) 400-1115 for more information.	Riverfront Park in Salem.
	The Dalles — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Mid-Columbia Central Labor Council. The Labor Council will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, soft drinks, paper plates, and plastic utensils. Please bring chips, salad, and other potluck items; please note no beer or alcohol is allowed at the park. The Labor Council is also looking to borrow a barbecue grill and some lawn chairs. Contact Walth Denstedt at (541) 298-4783 or e-mail to darnwdff@gorge.net for more information.	Sorosis Park Shelter in The Dalles.