



# LOCAL 7901 The Grapevine

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2014

Serving Oregon and Southwest Washington—Serving You!

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**CALENDAR**

**December**

11th - November/December  
Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**January**

15th— E—Board Mtg 6:00 p.m.  
22nd—Membership Mtg 7:00 p.m.

**STEWARD APPLICATIONS**

**AT&T Mobility**

Amanda Reese  
Neftala Rivera

**DEX**

Richard Gregory

**PERU**

Jamaal Anthony  
Keith Quick  
Sarah Lanius  
Bao Nguyen  
Melissa Silbernagel  
Mariko Yoshioka

**GOODBYE PARTY FOR RETIRING PRESIDENT MADELYN ELDER**

This party will be held on Wednesday, December 17th, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hawthorne Lucky Lab rumpus room. No Host Bar, and some snacks, but mostly come on by to celebrate Madelyn's 21 years of service as a local officer (two terms as Secretary-Treasurer, and 5 terms as President). All are invited.

**DECEMBER 11, 2014 FOR NOV.-DEC. COMBINED MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

This membership meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2014, at the AFLCIO meeting hall, 3649 SE 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave., just south of Powell, in Portland. This is a location change from the normal, so please plan ahead for your traveling. The new officers-elect will be sworn in by CWA Staff Representative Rick Sorensen. He is widely considered one of the best arbitration staff for CWA District 7. Meet Rick, enter for door prizes, enjoy snacks, and get up-to-date with the Labor Movement, including expanding the Portland paid sick leave to the entire state, and possibly an update on the organizing at PDX airport's food and retail stores.

The Tentative Agenda includes the following:

Elections Committee to open nominations for Area Vice President for Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. (Please see page 2 for a description of the areas and job duties.)

Elections Committee to open nominations for Finance Committee for Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

- Move** to send Jeanette Turner, Jeff Hall and the Secretary-Treasurer-elect to the CWA Local Officers Training, in Portland, January 26—30, 2015, at an approximate cost of **\$525** for registration; LTW to come from their wage budgets.
- Move** to appoint Jeanette Turner, Jeff Hall, Mark Sturbois, and Phil Japely as delegates to the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.
- Move** to join the Oregon Democracy Coalition, which meets via conference call once per month, (Rural Organizing Project, Common Cause, Main St. Alliance, SEIU, Alliance for Democracy) for the purposes of defeating the concept of corporate personhood.
- Move** to propose the Local 7901 Organizing Plan for 2015. (Please see page 3 for full Plan.)
- Move** to repay dues to an OCP member, who overpaid dues for **\$2,157.50**.

**Please bring a can of food for the Food Bank. Thank you!**

**ALL VETERANS**

Did you know you can use your VA loan more than once? Disabled Veteran or Surviving Spouse - Are you aware you may qualify for a Property Tax Exemption?

Contact me for details.

Gradine Storms, Broker, RE/MAX equity group and CWA Retiree

Office: 503-233-8883

Call/Text: 503-784-8326

[grady@gradystorms.com](mailto:grady@gradystorms.com)

## NEW AREAS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

In September, Local 7901 voted to change the areas, and reduced the areas of the Local to 6 (Public Employees Representatives Union—PERU—didn't change, but did become Area 6.) The areas are as follows:

Area 1 – Portland Drivers Self Help Association;

Area 2 – Qwest/CenturyLink; Avaya; AT&T Legacy T;

Area 3 – at&t Mobility;

Area 4 – Dex; Oregon Catholic Press; Owl Tree Press;

Area 5 - Environment Construction Services; Free Geek; IBT Local 162; KBOO; Portland Jobs with Justice; GSI; The Fund/TOP;

Area 6 – PERU (Public Employees Representatives Union).

Each area is entitled to an Area Vice President and a Finance Committee member. Area 6 elected theirs during the regular elections. At the combined November-December membership meeting on December 11, the nominations will open for seven days for both Area VP and Finance Committee members from the other Areas.

Area Vice President Duties: The Local Area Vice Presidents shall:

- Work under the direction of the Local President and perform such duties as assigned to them by the Local President, the Executive Board and the General Membership.
  - Be bonded in accordance with the CWA Constitution and any State or Federal laws.
  - Act as the direct representative of the group from which they are elected as defined in Article IV, and exercise their responsibility as defined in Article VII.
  - Be responsible for the processing of grievances within their groups working with the Executive Vice President.
  - Develop and oversee the activities of Job Stewards within their group.
  - Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or Executive Board.
  - Attend all Executive Board Meetings, General and Special Membership Meetings, unless excused by the Local President.
- The Area Vice President is the liaison between the Local office and the field. They make sure that the contracts in their area are enforced fairly, new members are signed, and represent their co-workers on the Executive Board in all decisions affecting the Local.

Finance Committee Duties: (The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the Chair of the Committee.

- The Finance Committee shall be responsible for making recommendations on all matters relating to the finances of the Local.
- The Finance Committee will meet not less than once a month for the inspection of vouchers, records, income, expenditures, etc., and report its findings to the Executive Board and the Membership.
- The Finance Committee shall develop and implement rules and procedures to insure the financial stability of the Local with approval of the Membership.
- The Finance Committee shall meet prior to the end of the fiscal year to develop and establish a Local Budget for the following year. The proposed Local Budget shall be presented to the Executive Board then at the General Membership Meeting for inspection and questioning at least once prior to its vote for approval.

The Finance Committee is basically an audit committee. It is a great way to add some financial skills to a resume, and to be in the thick of the Local's business. Historically, the Finance Committee has been a driving force for integrity and making sure that the dues that everyone pays are put to a good use.

## CWA STATEMENT ON THE GRAND JURY DECISION IN FERGUSON, MO

By declining to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting of Michael Brown, the legal system has failed the family of Mike Brown and the entire Ferguson community. The people of Ferguson deserved a full accounting of the tragic death of Michael Brown. Instead, the community's hope that the rule of law, that fairness, finally would prevail, has been shredded. For too long, residents of Ferguson and too many other communities across our country have seen their civil rights violated, their communities disparaged and their call for justice ignored. Now, for the family of Michael Brown, there is no path to justice. CWA members will continue to be active partners in the fight to restore real democracy, not only in Ferguson, but across the country. Particularly, that means ensuring that residents can fully exercise their rights to vote. In Ferguson, many residents of Ferguson are unable to vote. As a result, turnout is low and those elected to public office, including the offices of city council, mayor and police chief, do not reflect the community.

Change will come. For now, we pray for justice and peace, for the family of Michael Brown and the entire Ferguson community.

## LOCAL 7901 ORGANIZING PLAN FOR 2015

We will be voting on this plan at the Membership meeting, and sending it on to the CWA District 7 organizing coordinator for approval.

### National and District 7 Priorities:

- Wireless Organizing: Encourage contacts through Unity@Mobility participants; organize at least 5 weeks of night contact with retail stores for TMobile or Verizon.
- Satellite TV: Ask for contacts via membership. (unlikely to produce anything here)
- CenturyLink: Long Beach Peninsula, McMinnville—look for contacts.
- Airlines: Possibly assist with Skywest flight attendants

### Local Priorities:

- TBA Church workers; not covered by NLRB but likely to get a contract.
- IT support call center with former TOP workers—still forming the inside committee
- Salon/spa Community of Interest organizing with former DOSHA workers and Working America

### Internal Organizing:

- Continue to build up membership at AT&T Mobility, and add stewards
- Smaller units such as DEX and TOP—expand membership and add stewards

If you'd like to get involved with our Organizing Committee, please call Jeanette or Jeff at the Local office for details. Much thanks to former CWA Local 7901 Organizer Joe Crane, who has been volunteering his time to help with all of our local campaigns.

## “SHADOWS OF LIBERTY”

Join members of The Newspaper Guild sector of CWA, KBOO CWA members, and other activists at this exciting event on Friday, December 12, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the AFLCIO Hall, 3649 SE 32<sup>nd</sup>, just south of Powell.

The documentary film *Shadows of Liberty* reveals the extraordinary truth behind the news media: censorship, cover-ups and corporate control. In highly revealing stories, renowned journalists, activists and academics including AMY GOODMAN, DANNY GLOVER, JULIAN ASSANGE, DAN RATHER, DAVID SIMON, NORMAN SOLOMON, BOB BEAR, ROBERTA BASKIN, JOHN MACARTHUR, DANIEL ELLSBERG, JANINE JACKSON, CHRIS HEDGES, KRISTINA BORJESSON and JOHN NICHOLS give insider accounts of a broken media system. Controversial news reports are suppressed, people are censored for speaking out, and lives are shattered as the arena for public expression is turned into a private profit zone. After the screening, there will be a highly interactive panel discussion. *Shadows Of Liberty* is dedicated to the journalists and information freedom fighters, the heroes of our time, who dedicate their lives to our right to freedom of information - the central pillar of a free society.

## CENTURYLINK, WHERE SAFETY IS NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT

When a technician, who had recently been placed back into a climbing job function without update training, fell from a ladder and suffered serious injury, the minutes of the state safety committee reported that he had “contusions” from the accident. There was no suggestion written in the minutes that perhaps refresher training should occur for techs re-assigned from non-climbing jobs. Management will always try to blame the victim in these situations, but we all know the real story. When was the last time there was a serious safety meeting for your crew?

## CWA MOBILE APP

Download the CWA Movement Builder app and receive information directly on your phone. Get news in real time. Be the first to know about events and opportunities for action in your area and breaking news. Earn points by taking action, checking in to events, and sharing information on Facebook and Twitter. Send photos easily from your phone to CWA. Download it & try it for free! The CWA APP is available for iPhone and Android phones. Read more at: [http://cwa-union.org/pages/mobile\\_app](http://cwa-union.org/pages/mobile_app)

I have the CWA APP on my iPhone, and it really lets me know what is happening nationally, including other large contract fights—next year will be Verizon East (NYNEX) and AT&T in the South, Midwest and the Legacy T (longlines) division.

# TPP-CORPORATE TRADE AGREEMENTS-AND YOU; A LETTER FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT LARRY COHEN

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

This note is a call to arms to fight the TPP and the Fast Track legislation that will grease the wheels of Congress to adopt it. Our President announced right after the election that he will collaborate with the new Republican leadership of the Congress to pass TPP in the months ahead. He and Senator McConnell and Majority Leader Boehner will try to jam Fast Track through as early as February.

Why focus our attention on this now as we prepare for Thanksgiving and the holiday season? If we do not focus now, it will be too late and that is what the Chamber of Commerce and their political allies are hoping.

We will devote our monthly town hall call to TPP this week and every month until we defeat TPP or fail on this issue.

If adopted, TPP will send our manufacturing jobs by the hundreds of thousands to Vietnam where the average wage is less than \$1.00 per hour and workers have no rights, and there is virtually no environmental or safety regulation. The Chamber of Commerce loves Vietnam as they do China. They can increase profits without increasing sales just by cutting costs.

The Chamber also loves TPP because the leaked chapters include continuing Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) which provides that if Vietnam or any of the other 11 governments pass legislation that impacts corporate profits, that government is liable for any future lost profits for the multinationals. These cases don't go to court but instead to secret arbitration in a neutral nation where the multinational can be awarded billions of dollars!

We fully expect the Philippines to join TPP. We have already lost 500,000 call center jobs to the Philippines and with TPP, moving a customer service job there would be viewed just like moving it across the street. As one of our CEOs told me, "Larry, it is like gravity—our jobs will move to the cheapest point of service."

Most of you know all of the above, but now is the time for much greater ACTION! We have a massive coalition of much of labor, environmentalists, and consumer groups mobilizing as many as three million already. We have about 175 House Democrats and 25 Republicans on record against Fast Track and most of those against TPP. But with the make-up of the new House and Senate, we will lose without much stronger Republican opposition. Polling clearly shows the Republican base is against Fast Track and TPP but the Chamber of Commerce and its corporate members are the main Republican funders and they are counting on the Republican Congress to ram this through.

Click here <http://files.cwa-union.org/Leaders/20141119-repubs2.pdf> for the list of key Republican members of Congress, by state, that we must move. We need to build coalitions led by Republican and other voters to mobilize broadly in those districts. If we do not get at least 45 House Republicans opposed to Fast Track, it will pass in early 2015, and TPP right behind it. Fast Track will provide that TPP is considered with no amendments and guaranteed a vote in both the House and Senate. The White House and the Republican leaders of Congress expect to pass Fast Track without even revealing the content of TPP. As one government official said, "If we reveal the contents of TPP, Congress will never pass Fast Track."

So it is up to us:

1. We will keep up the great work that has provided us with a team of CWAers and allies that covers the 175 Democrats and 25 Republicans where we have had good results.
2. We need those of you who have active Republican stewards and other leaders in the attached districts to reply to this email. We will contact you to help build a coalition in your area; just provide me with a direct local union contact and we will reach out quickly.
3. We will also mobilize in the Senate and will work through our LPAT structure to do that. For 20 years, our limited success in defeating bad trade deals has all come in the House which is the reason why we are focused there. Senate fund-raising in both parties leaves the candidate reliant on corporate money and susceptible to corporate pressure for a trade deal.

We will continue to provide updates and detailed information on all chapters of TPP as they are linked or eventually released. This is not a lost cause despite the collaboration of the President and Boehner and McConnell. Millions of Americans are fighting back and we need to stand and organize with them.

In Solidarity,  
Larry Cohen, President

The Grapevine is published monthly by Local 7901 of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) for the dissemination of information relevant to the interests and welfare of its members. Views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Union, the Local, or the Editor.