Local 4671, Hillsboro Classified United

Conventions Update

HCU News

Convention 2014

On April 4th, a delegation of HCU officers traveled to AFT-Oregon’s 62nd Annual Convention. This is where the members from all AFT-Oregon affiliated locals come together to set the priorities for the year. Ranking Delegate, Devin Hunter, has included a report on the back of the newsletter. Devin was also elected to serve as a delegate for AFT-Oregon at the AFT National convention in July.

Next year’s convention, in 2015, will be held in the Portland metro area. This means it will be easier to afford sending a larger delegation to convention. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, let an officer know. We will be finalizing the budget for 2015 over the summer and will have to decide how many delegates we will send to convention next year.

Learning Opportunities

The Northwest Leadership Forum is being held in Vancouver Washington from July 31st to August 3rd. Course topics include communications, contract language, negotiations, organizing, and interactions with management. It’s a great opportunity to build skills and learn more about the union movement. If you are interested in attending, please contact the HCU office. The deadline to be registered by HCU is July 1st.

You can find a brochure on the AFT-OR website:


Union and the Community

HCU would like to thank the team that participated in the fundraiser held by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) on April 13th. The fundraiser was held at Sunset Lanes and the proceeds went to Deliver the Cure and MDA. The HCU team was Sandy Kennemer, Bill Watkins, Chuck Balconis and Debbie Langworthy.

If you have an event that you think HCU should participate in, contact the HCU office so we can help organize a group of members.

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To the mighty classified staff,

This year, I had the privilege of serving as the Ranking Delegate at the 2014 AFT Oregon convention. Our President was out on paternity leave so I stepped up to this leadership role. As ranking delegate, I want to report some of the great things that we did at convention. This is the event where the locals can come together to express what they want AFT Oregon to focus on for the next year. We do this by passing resolutions. You can find the text of the resolutions on the AFT Oregon website.

The biggest and most obvious resolution was one to fight anti-union laws that attack our rights to collective bargaining. This is a fundamental right to the labor movement and we need to protect it from out of state interests. Part of the strategy to fight anti-worker measures is to support voter registration efforts. The more people we register to vote, the harder it is for out of state interests to use low turnout elections to further their agenda.

The next area of focus is the cost of secondary education. The cost of a college degree is quickly becoming financially impractical for many poor students. Schemes like "Pay it forward", where a college graduate pays back their loans by giving up a percentage of their wage for the rest of their life, do nothing to address affordability. AFT-OR doesn't want to find ways to help students pay for an overly expensive college education, we want to lower the cost of going to college. AFT-OR believes that the best way to attract business to a state is by having a highly educated workforce with strong schools and an affordable college system.

When it comes to human rights, AFT-Oregon supports marriage equality for everyone. We stand with "Oregon United for Marriage" in the belief that all Americans have the right to marry. We also passed a resolution in support of the Safe Roads Coalition. This group is working to change the law to allow anyone living in Oregon to get a driver's license regardless of their citizenship status. New drivers would still need to pass a driving proficiency test. We believe that this will lower the number of uninsured drivers on the road and bring down the cost of auto insurance for everyone.

On the legislative front, the convention recognized the need for employee representation on University governance boards. Right now, only some employee groups are represented on university boards and many are non-voting. AFT-Oregon wants to make sure that employees have a say in how universities are run. We believe that this is one way to maintain a high quality secondary education system for our high school graduates.

The last resolution I want to talk about was one that talked about banking at a credit union. This resolution pointed out that AFT-OR currently uses a for-profit bank to manage its funds, just like HCU banks with US Bank. One of the problems with for-profit banks is that they are beholden to out of state shareholders who are not always supportive of labor causes. Credit unions, on the other hand, are non-profit and often keep money within the community. This interest at the state level has encouraged us to look into moving HCU bank accounts to a credit union. Once we've done a review of what is in our area, expect to see a presentation at a membership meeting.

Finally, the 2015 convention will be held in the Portland area. This means it will cost a lot less for us to attend and we can bring more delegates with us. I encourage any member that wants to step up and participate in the governance of our state federation to let yourself be known. I really want to see a bigger delegation from HCU next year. We need new points of view to help us create better resolutions that reflect the desires of Classified staff. AFT-OR doesn't move us forward without the input of members to tell it where go.

In Solidarity,

[Signature]

Devin Hunter
1st VP, HCU 4671
Ranking Delegate