



A Union of Professionals
AFT-Oregon
AFL-CIO

Actively Retired in Oregon

January 2018

Questions and Answers regarding Tax changes coming

Jennifer Parrish-Taylor, AFT-Oregon's Political Organizer will bring information on the new tax changes to AFT-Oregon Retirees at the January 17 meeting. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. in the lower level meeting room at the Oregon AFL-CIO in southeast Portland. Sara Ryan, Director of the Oregon Labor Candidate School will also be there to share information on that program.

If you are aware of anyone newly-retired who might enjoy the company of other retirees, invite them to join

you. Receive information of importance to retirees and enjoy a morning with other retirees. We hope to see you at a meeting soon.

If you have questions regarding membership or meetings, or suggestions for

speakers at future meetings, contact Vice President Claudella Walland by email: cwalland@msn.com, or leave a message for her at the AFT-Oregon office, 971-888-5665.

Jan. 17, 10 am: Membership Meeting, Speaker, Jennifer Parrish Taylor
Feb. 21, 10 a.m. Membership Meeting, Speaker TBA
Mar. 21, 10 a.m.: Membership Meeting, Speaker TBA
Oregon AFL-CIO
3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland



Presents From Partners — After checking in, stockings are the first thing the children see. Retirees wearing reindeer antlers and red shirts hand them an orange and a candy cane as each child picks a stocking. Then on to the toys and lunch.

From left: Everett Jack, Debbi Covert, Deanna Woods, Val Jack, Vicki Blevens. Not pictured: Greg Monahan, Leanna Hakala, Claudella Walland, Everice Moro. Picture courtesy of Mike Gutwig, The Labor Press

The rules for your taxes have changed

By

Here are some highlights of changes coming to the tax laws. Learn more at the January 17 meeting.:

PERSONAL

Benefits - 83% of benefits from the changes go to the wealthiest Americans and corporations. **ALL tax cuts for everyone else expire in 8 years.** It is essential for you to plan for that time when your taxes will increase. Tax rates will see new brackets, with the wealthiest benefiting most.

Standard deduction – will almost double. *Personal exemptions end*, so families will eventually see tax increases.

Inflation — Inflation will now be linked to the Chained CPI rather than the Consumer Price Index, which will eventually *increase your taxes*.

Itemized Deductions – ALL state and local tax (SALT) deductions together are limited to \$10,000, which will hurt Oregonians and citizens in many other states. *Medical expenses* are dropped from a threshold of 10% to 7.5%, but this drop applies *only* to 2017 and 2018. After that, it reverts back to 10%. *Mortgage interest* drops to a limit of \$750,000 of debt. Only the military can deduct *moving expenses*. *Child tax credits* will double, which will help lower income.

Education – Because SALT deductions are limited, there will be less money for local schools. Education savings plans are now expanded to include K-12 *private for-profit school tuition*.

Healthcare – The individual mandate dies in 2019, which experts predict will end health care for 13 million. Premiums are expected to rise.

CORPORATIONS AND WEALTHY

Tax rate – For top earners, the 1%, the tax rate drops from 39.6% to 37%, which is a major drop for the wealthy bracket. For corporations, the rate drops from 35 to 21%. These are permanent. Your tax cuts are not permanent.

Estate tax – Eliminated for the most wealthy Americans, who will benefit massively. In the

(Continued on page 2)



Happy New Year

By Louise Currin, President

AFT-Oregon Retirees could not function without the dedicated staff at AFT-Oregon. So it is with sadness that I report that staff member Deirdre Mackey, along with her 12-year-old daughter, died on Christmas Day. The Mackeys died in an automobile accident on their way to celebrate with family. Deirdre with her bright smile was always available to help your retiree board in any way needed, helping us get the newsletter out, informing us of important correspondence, or arranging for meeting space, she was always eager to lend a hand. She will be missed.

Elections as you know are important. If you haven't mailed your ballot for the January special election, please do so right away. There is only one item on the ballot: Measure 101, YES FOR HEALTHCARE. I am encouraging you to vote yes. A yes vote will insure that Oregon's children and seniors continue to receive vital health services.

The website for the Yes for Healthcare campaign website states the following:
 "Measure 101 is a fee on hospitals and insurance companies that funds Medicaid, which provides healthcare coverage to 1 in 4 Oregonians. The money from 101:

- Ensures every child in Oregon has access to healthcare
- Protects healthcare for working families, seniors and people with disabilities
- Stabilizes healthcare costs and insurance premiums for people who buy their own insurance"

For more information, please go to the campaign website, www.yesforhealthcare.org.

If you are in the greater Portland area, please join us for our members meeting that occur on the Wednesdays of the month at the AFLCIO office in Portland. This month we will get a political update from AFT-Oregon, Jennifer Parrish-Taylor and a visit from Sara Ryan, Director of the Oregon Labor Candidate School.

AFT-Oregon Retirees, 10228 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, OR 97219; 971-888-5665.
 President—Louise Currin
 First Vice President—Deanna Woods
 Secretary-Treasurer—Leanna Hakala
 VP Membership Program —Claudella Walland
 VP Legislative Activities— Greg Monahan
 Editor, Val Jack
 Contributors: Louise Currin, Claudella Walland, Deanna Woods.
 See us on Facebook.
Actively Retired in Oregon is printed quarterly by Classified Employees who are members of Portland Community College Federation of Classified Employees, AFT Local 3922.

(Continued from page 1 - Rules changed for taxes)

past, the first \$5.5 million was exempt from tax, now the first \$10 million will be exempt from tax (\$22 for married couples).

Alternative Minimum Tax – has been eliminated, which is a HUGE break for corporations. Most wealthy individuals will pay less. The bottom line is that this allows people to use more loopholes to avoid paying taxes.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE, MEDICAID CUTS PLANNED BY GOP

Cuts planned – Ryan and other Republicans have announced that the \$1.5 trillion debt created by the GOP tax bill must be addressed by cutting “entitlements,” as they call them. Experts say up to \$25 billion for Medicaid may be lost because of the GOP tax bill.

OTHER NOTES:

Planned cuts – to Meals on Wheels and the Heating Assistance to the elderly and disabled, and other, similar programs.

Comcast to increase charges now that net neutrality is ended by the Trump FCC. Look to see other companies follow suit.

Republicans planning to leave Congress have been increasing in number, the latest being Hatch.

Democrats who support unions, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are preparing to run for office in LARGE numbers not seen in decades.

Further, **Democrats are winning special elections.**

Deanna Woods is a retiree of Local 111, PFTCE, and serves as First Vice President.



Children's eyes sparkle as they receive a candy cane and an orange to insert in the stocking they get to choose at the Presents from Partners party.
 Photo by Mike Gutwig, The Labor Press.

Former Local 111 President Caroline Miller speaker in April

Caroline Miller, AFT-Oregon Retirees member, former President of Local 111, former Multnomah County Commissioner and a published author, will be the speaker at the April 18 meeting. Miller was originally scheduled to speak in February, but Mother Nature changed plans with snow and ice and the meeting was cancelled. Plan to attend this meeting as she discusses her books and gives tips on how to write a memoir.

Speakers have not yet been identified for the May and June meetings.

July 10 will be the date for the Union Friends Potluck

New Meeting Time and Location:

Apr. 18—10 am, Member Meeting,

Speaker: Former Local 111 President and author, Caroline Miller.

May 16 — 10 am, Member Meeting,

Speaker TBA

June 20, 10:00 am, Speaker TBA

July 10, Union Friends Picnic
Meetings held at Oregon AFL-CIO
3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland

Picnic, location TBA. Watch for additional information on this annual, fun event. It's a chance to meet with members from other unions in a relaxed atmosphere.

Call or email Claudella Walland with your suggestions for subjects of interest to you for

speaker at our meetings. (cwalland@msn.com, or leave a message for her at the AFT-Oregon office, 971-888-5665).

If you haven't yet attended a meeting, we hope you will join us soon. Bring along a former co-worker and join us.

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LCSA Day of Action “Cut-A-Stocking”

Labor's Community Service Agency is sponsoring a “Cut-A-Stocking” Day of Action. Volunteers will meet at LCSA to cut out stockings, match them up with trim, and do some sewing on Wed. April 24, 10 am—2 pm. (LCSA's address: 9955 SE Washington St., Suite 211, Portland)

Those interested can help with this fun project that has been a big part of the Presents From Partners Christmas Party for children for the past several years. AFT-Oregon Retirees' have furnished the materials and done the work to this point, but as the party as grown (and we're so glad it has), additional help will be appreciated.

Anyone who can bring along a sewing machine and/or serger, can help sew them together — no special skills needed. Others can cut out stockings and match them with trims.

Come enjoy a fun time with retirees from other unions and let's get this project going. To join in, call Molly at LSAC (503-231-4962).



Check out a shot of AFT-Oregon Retirees Facebook page — See Page 4 of this newsletter.



Upcoming events

By Louise Currin, President

We are sorry we had to cancel our February meeting because of snowy weather. That makes 2 years in a row that we have had to do this. We are fortunate though that our scheduled speaker, member and author, Caroline Miller has rescheduled to speak at our April meeting. Please consider attending.

There are two important events coming up — the AFT-Oregon Convention, in Portland, May 4-6, and The AFT National Convention in Pittsburg, July 13-16. Alternate delegates were elected at our March meeting. We are looking forward to representing you at both events.

I encourage you to consider attending events sponsored by the Oregon Alliance of Retired Americans (ORARA). Those events and our own will be posted on our Facebook (FB) Page. If you use FB, search for AFT-Oregon Retirees and “like” it as a reference to events and links to articles that are of interest to retirees. (See page 4.)

Unions are facing tough times. The US Supreme Court has heard testimony regarding the Janus case which, if successful, will take away the ability for unions to collect fees from fair share employees, but unions will still be obligated to bargain for all employees in a bargaining unit.

Please consider supporting your former AFT local in helping with member recruitment. Building union membership in your former local will be the only way to help combat this unfair court case.

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Secretary-Treasurer—vacant

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Parliamentarian —

See us on Facebook.

Editor, Val Jack

Contributors to this issue: Louise Currin, Greg Monahan, Deanna Woods

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Legislative Report

By Greg Monahan, Legislative Activities Vice President

The Legislature adjourned its short one-month session early in March. It was a busy one marked by several accomplishments in public policy, but no bills directly affecting Oregon state retirees.

An Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI)-sponsored bill to force PERS to refigure pensions immediately for retirees returning to the state, who must then pay Oregon state income tax and are therefore entitled to a slightly higher pension, failed due to harsh opposition from the outgoing PERS director.

As of now, PERS only makes adjustments in January, thereby costing returning retirees a fair amount of money the remainder of the year from not receiving the higher pension payments they would have received. OPRI is investigating the possibility of filing a lawsuit on behalf of retirees who have been shorted in this fashion and will introduce the bill again in the 2019 session.

Otherwise, there was very little action on PERS save for passing a bill aimed at reducing (slightly) the much-publicized deficit in the system.

In public policy, the Legislature did achieve several goals. It:

- tightened gun laws to prevent spouses convicted of abuse from buying guns,
- set up a Tuition Advisory Council to give students (and indirectly, their parents and grandparents!) a voice in whether and how much universities should be permitted to raise tuition, and
- repaired a loophole created by the (hostile) Federal Government so that Oregon Dreamers will continue to qualify for in-state tuition at the state’s universities and community colleges.

Finally, the Democratic Majority blocked Republican efforts to give businesses a double-tax break in Oregon as a result of the new Federal Tax Overhaul Law, thereby insuring a small measure of equity in the state tax code and preventing an even bigger deficit in the next session.

That session, in 2019, promises to be a challenging one as Republicans look for ways to force retirees to pay more and seek to reduce the benefits of future retirees in the state workforce. As always, AFT and

(Continued on page 3)



WANT TO BE HAPPY? JOIN A UNION!

By Deanna Woods, First Vice President

Research Keeps Affirming It

According to a study of Americans' beliefs from 5 different years between the early 1980s and the mid-2000s, the most satisfied Americans were union members.

In fact, the data was so clear that union membership was seen as a predictor of a higher quality of life.

Researchers Flavin and Shufeldt found 4 factors leading to this positive feeling: greater satisfaction on the job, greater job security, more opportunities for "social interaction and integration," and satisfaction from participating in a "more engaged democratic citizenship." *This applies to retirees, as well.*

Even better, they discovered that states with higher union membership levels saw higher qualities of life and satisfaction among the states as a whole.

But Unions Have Enemies Today

Flavin and Schufeldt's study is just one of many over years with the same findings. But union membership has declined since the Reagan administration to only 11.3% of Americans today. The decline of the middle class is tied to the decline in union membership.

Why? Because unions have enemies. In states like Michigan and Wisconsin, the Kochs' network is working to fight public unions' rights to negotiate contracts.

At the national level, Republicans in Congress have been working to make it harder to organize and even to join a union. They are working to weaken the Labor Relations Board and to establish a national right-to-work (for less) law.

And now we find a case before the Supreme Court – *Janus vs AFSCME* – funded in part by the Kochs that challenges unions' right to charge fair share fees to non-members for the costs of negotiating and sustaining a contract.

Here's why unions worry them:

Unions give us an equal voice

(Continued from page 2 - Legislative Report)

its allies will be actively involved in efforts to block such attempts as well as continuing to improve educational opportunities for Oregon's kids from pre-school to grad school.

All of you reading this column need to stay vigilant and involved, and don't ever forget to vote!

Today, most Americans don't know much about unions. Unions are simply the uniting of a group of workers in a workplace or similar workplaces who want to collaborate to improve wages, hours, and working conditions through a legal contract.

Unions also have a voice to protect these rights at state and national levels. They give legal standing to workers of any job or profession to meet with employers as equals, regardless of workers' level of wealth or social position.

Unions are traditionally *democratic* organizations serving many industries, including artists, actors, teachers, auto workers, writers in the digital media, firefighters and police.

Unions are good for all Americans

Quality of life: The average wages of union workers average 30% higher than those of non-union workers. 92% of union members have job-related health coverage vs 68% of non-union workers and are far more likely to have guaranteed pensions. **And unions work to protect retirees from losing pensions.**

Protections: Union contracts protect employees from unfair treatment or dismissal by the employer and protect health and safety on the job. Unions help ensure dignity on the job.

Higher quality work: Research finds that unions are linked to higher productivity, lower employee turnover, better workplace communication, and better-trained workers.

Training: Unions provide quality training in professional skills. In AFT, we see a wide variety of offerings for all members, even for retirees.

Economic: AFT members save money through discounts on a wide variety of services and products.

Our fight goes on! And we are winning!

West Virginia teachers went on strike this year and won. Oklahoma teachers are getting ready to fight. Union-supporters like Conor Lamb are winning elections.

Today, the majority of Americans are saying our democracy is under threat. More Americans support unions. And unions are fighting for *all* our rights, not just a few, as unions make all of society more just, democratic, and – yes – happy.

Divided we fall. United we stand.

New Medicare cards; answers to Social Security-related questions

The following information is reprinted from the *Benefits Watch* newsletter of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. (www.ncpssm.org)

Next month, people with Medicare will begin to receive new Medicare cards in the mail.

The current Medicare card is susceptible to identity theft because it displays the Social Security Number (SSN), which is linked to many other banking and credit card accounts.

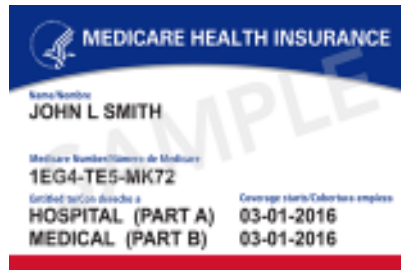
The National Committee has long advocated for this change, which will lead to a safer, more reliable Medicare experience.

Here's what you need to know:

- The new cards will be mailed in waves based on geographic location.
- The new cards will contain a unique number, different from your Social Security number.
- Medicare providers are ready to accept your new card when you need care.
- Destroy your old card and begin using your new card right away.

Remember Medicare will never contact you uninvited to ask for your personal information.

Starting in April 2018, people with Medicare will be able to check the status of card mailings in their area on [Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov).



Did you know that a team of experts in the field of Social Security policy is available to answer your questions about benefits? For 35 years, the National Committee has been helping thousands of our members and supporters with a broad range of concerns on Social Security.

Whether you're currently retired or approaching retirement, the National Committee's "Ask Us" section can help answer your questions about Social Security. You can either search our archives for valuable advice on a broad range of concerns at www.ncpssm.org/AskUs or email your question to askus@ncpssm.org.

Here is a sample question: About a year ago I purchased a new car. The Credit Union (after a credit check) asked, "Did you know someone else is using your Social Security number?" I called the local Social Security office and was told, "You will have to pursue this on your own. There are no laws on taking on someone else's ID." Can you possibly give me some advice on where to pursue this?

Answer: Depending on the extent to which your identity has been compromised, you may need the help of the Social Security Administration and the Federal Trade Commission. The Social Security Administration has an online publication on Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number. Go to <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html#contacting> for information and advice.

More broadly, the National Committee is concerned about older Americans' vulnerability to identity theft that stems from the use of the Social Security numbers (SSN) for purposes that are unrelated to the administration of the Social Security program. That's why we have long advocated for the removal of SSNs from [Medicare cards](#). Thankfully, legislation calling for this change was enacted in 2015 and is now scheduled to be implemented starting in April.



CALENDAR

Apr. 18 — 10 am: Membership Meeting, Speaker Caroline Miller

May 16 — 10 am, Membership Meeting, Speaker TBA

June 20 — 10 am, Membership Meeting, Speaker TBA

July 10 — 11:30 am, Union Friends Potluck, Picnic, Location TBA.

NOTE: All meetings will be held at the Oregon AFL-CIO, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland



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September 2018

Election in November; Learn what you can now

AFT-Oregon member and PCC instructor Michael Dembrow, who is also State Senator Dembrow from District 23, will be the speaker at the September 19 membership meeting. District 23 covers parts of Northeast and Southeast Portland and the city of Maywood Park.

Dembrow, who served on the AFT-Oregon Executive Board for many years, was first elected to the Legislature in 2008 and was appointed to the Senate in November 2013.

Marcus Swift, AFT-Oregon's Director of Political and Legislative Affairs will be the speaker on October 17. Swift left his position as Political Organizer for AFT-Oregon to attend law school in Rhode Island. Now he's back at AFT-Oregon.

Meeting Time and Location:

Sept. 19 — 10 am: Membership Meeting, Speaker, Michael Dembrow, AFT-Oregon Local 2277 member and State Senator

Oct. 17— 10 am, Membership Meeting, Speaker, Marcus Swift, AFT-Oregon Director of Political and Legislative Affairs

Nov. — NO MEETING
Meetings held at Oregon AFL-CIO
3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland

December 5 will be the date for the Union Friends Holiday Potluck. Watch for additional information on this annual, fun event a chance to meet with retirees from other unions in a relaxed, holiday atmosphere.

Call or email Claudella Walland with your suggestions for subjects of interest to you for speaker at our meetings. (cwalland@msn.com, or leave a message for her at the AFT-Oregon office, 971-888-5665).

If you haven't yet attended a meeting, we hope you will join us soon. Bring along a former co-worker and join us.

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AFT Convention: an army marches for school funding

An AFT army marched through the streets of Pittsburgh — nearly 1,000 convention delegates and allies — with three stops for speakers.

“The March for Equitable Funding of Public Schools “is about showing that we walk the walk for our kids. They are our future, and they will be our salvation.” —AFT President Randi Weingarten

“We're here to stand up for students and staff. Corporations need to be held accountable for their fair share of taxes” to support the high-quality public schools and public services that are the foundation of strong and vibrant communities. — AFT Secretary-Treasurer Lorretta Johnson

Pennsylvania State Rep. Ed Gainey, whose

(Continued on page 4)

Volunteer: help with stockings

Mark your calendar — there's one more “Cut-A-Stocking” Day of Action, sponsored by Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA). There will be fabric to cut out a few more stockings, many more are ready to have seams sewn or decorated with trim. Then, they need to be counted and packed for storage until the Party in December.

Join us on Thursday, **October 4** from 10 am—1 pm — guaranteed you will have a good time and lunch will be provided. (LCSA's address: 9955 SE Washington St., Suite 211, Portland)

Anyone who can bring along a sewing machine and/or serger, can help with the sewing. Others can do some cutting, pressing, counting and packing.

Come enjoy a fun time with retirees from other unions and let's get this project going. To join in, call Molly at LSAC (503-231-4962). But, if you call, join us anyway!

Save the date!
Union Friends Holiday Potluck!
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018



AFT Convention; Election preparation

By Louise Currin, President

I was honored to represent AFT-Oregon Retirees at the July 2018 AFT Convention in Pittsburgh. Much of the conversation centered on the recent Janus decision that essentially eliminated fairshare representation. This means that locals need to increase their organizing efforts, and AFT nationwide is experiencing an increase in membership. In that spirit AFT-Oregon Retirees will recommit to increasing its membership.

AFT-Oregon Retirees presented a resolution to the 2016 AFT-Oregon Convention that would support development of a retirement program for workers who are not covered by existing retirement plans. That resolution was adopted and forwarded to AFT, but even with clarification it was misunderstood and not passed on to the 2016 AFT Convention. A similar resolution did come forward this year and I had the opportunity to address the convention urging its passage. It was approved unanimously.

The November election will soon be here. There will be many opportunities to step up and help elect education-friendly candidates in local and state races. Watch our Facebook page for announcements of opportunities to make phone calls.

At our September and October member meetings speakers, Oregon Senator Michael Dembrow and AFT Oregon Political Director Marcus Swift will address upcoming election issues. I hope to see you at one or both of these meetings.!

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Legislative Report

By Greg Monahan, Legislative Activities Vice President

If it seems like political campaigns are getting started earlier and earlier, they are. That said, negative TV ads

don't usually stain our screens until the fall. This year is obviously an exception, probably because the race between Democrat Kate Brown and her Republican opponent Knute Buehler is already close.

I have to confess to a particular dislike for the ads from "Priority Oregon," a "dark money" group (meaning they won't tell us exactly who funds them) that most reports say is a conservative, anti-government business-funded organization.

Why these ads in particular? Because they are truly, nastily deceptive. In particular, their ads feature a tearful widow effectively blaming the governor for the suicide of her husband by "blocking" construction of a counseling center (a VA/federal facility over which she has little or no say) and another emotional ad claiming ambiguously that she somehow has hurt foster kids, presumably a reference to the state shutting down some programs found to be unsafe.

What makes me particularly angry about these ads is that they appear to attack the governor from the Left, that is, they attack her for *not* providing state services, for *not* spending money. But if reports are correct, and this is a conservative, business-funded group, then they would oppose the state spending any money at all and would oppose it providing the very services they are falsely attacking the governor for somehow not providing!

I have no principled objection to conservative groups attacking a candidate for not being conservative. I don't agree with them, but at least they are the result of an honest disagreement. But these ads are evil. Not only are they false, but they take hypocrisy to a whole new level, so regardless of how you feel about the race, I'd urge you to reject these particularly deceptive ads.

In other political news, several ballot measures will be up for a vote in November. AFT-Oregon supports **Measure 102**, sent to voters with bipartisan support in the Legislature. It would lift a ban on government working with non-profits and local businesses to build affordable housing. Given Oregon's (and particularly, Portland's) terrible issues with homelessness, this is one small but important way to address that issue.

As usual, there are also some terrible ballot

(Continued on page 4)



What we're voting for in November

By Deanna Woods, First Vice President

Remember the union ballad, "Which Side Are You On?" We're now being asked to take a major stand with our vote. Not just unions but our American democracy is at stake. In this November election, we have a very clear choice between two world views.

YOUR VOTE IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY! *Which side are you on?*

BLUE (Democrat)	RED (Trump Republican)
<p>Economics, Health & Trade Preserve Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid Protect affordable healthcare Oppose "trickledown" economics Raise minimum wage Keep Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Multilateral worker-friendly trade agreements Increase taxes on wealthy & corporations End job-ending tariffs, trade wars Provide food stamps as needed Repair infrastructure w/ federal funds, union</p>	<p>Economics, Health & Trade Cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid End affordable healthcare Expand "trickledown" economics Eliminate minimum wage End Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Only one-on-one country trade agreements Cut more taxes on wealthy Continue tariffs and trade wars Big cuts in SNAP (food stamps) Privatize infrastructure repair, non-union</p>
<p>Education & Children Support & fund public schools as a priority Lower interest rates on student loans Preserve Children's Health Insurance Program</p>	<p>Education & Children Promote & fund for-profit schools End help for Americans w/ student loans Big cuts in CHIP (for low-income children)</p>
<p>Unions Support unions & collective bargaining Support Fair Share rights Support Lilly Ledbetter Act & pay equity Oppose Right-to-Work (for less)</p>	<p>Unions End collective bargaining rights Support end of Fair Share End pay equity for women Pass a National Right-to-Work law</p>
<p>Environment Oppose sweeping deregulation of protections Continue environmental research studies Keep national parks public & affordable Reduce auto pollution and increase gas mileage Support green energy, address climate change</p>	<p>Environment Kill 76 environmental rules; allow asbestos End research in greenhouse gases & other areas Privatize national parks, allow mining Allow higher auto pollution, decrease gas mileage Support coal & other fossil fuels, ignore climate</p>
<p>Law, Courts, Constitution, Free Speech Appoint balanced judges – Merrick Garland Protect free press Maintain limits on presidential powers</p>	<p>Law, Courts, Constitution, Free Speech Appoint conservative Heritage Society judge picks Increase controls over free press End certain limitations on presidential powers</p>
<p>Foreign Policy Maintain & improve Iran Deal Remain in NATO Keep sanctions on Russia; fight digital attacks</p>	<p>Foreign Policy Break Iran Deal Quit NATO & break ties w/ US allies like Canada Embrace Russian ties, end sanctions</p>
<p>Immigration Immigration by legal qualifications & need Support DACA</p>	<p>Immigration Immigration only by merit-based tests Deport DACA recipients</p>

To Remember as We Vote: The Highest Core Inflation in a Decade Is Flattening Real US Wage Growth

As voters go to the polls, it's important to remember these facts: Real wages - our buying power - are declining. Tariffs and immigration policies are increasing prices on a wide variety of items, including food and fuel. And the national debt is rising very rapidly because of the tax cuts.

If you would like more information and sources, contact Deanna at deannawds@aol.com.

Some Veterans or their beneficiaries can get new tax refund

The federal government is urging some 133,000 veterans who had money improperly withheld from their severance payments for combat-related injuries or other disability compensation to apply for tax refunds.

In some cases the improper withholding dates as far back as 1991. The Department of Defense (DOD) is sending letters to eligible veterans this month, stating the amount of the disability payment and telling them what to do to receive a refund. Survivors of veterans who would have been eligible for this refund may also apply. The DOD says veterans who do not get a letter may still be eligible for a refund.

The National Veterans Legal Services Program discovered the faulty withholding. Bart Stichman, the organization's executive director, said the government's action now "is long overdue. These are people who served in combat and were disabled in combat, and they deserve the full amount of what the military should pay them."

The Internal Revenue Service has set up two ways for veterans to be compensated for these taxes, which should not have been deducted when the veterans received their one-time lump-sum disability severance payments. For more information on how to get this refund, go to: dfas.mil/dsp_irs.html or irs.gov/individuals/military/combated-injured-veterans-tax-fairness-act-claim-information-available.

For the complete article, go to the AARP.org website.

(Continued from page 2 — Legislative Report)

measures, all meriting a strong NO vote!

- **Measure 105** would repeal Oregon's sanctuary law that helps protect against racial profiling and keeps the state from being overrun by President Trump's ICE agents.
- **Measure 103** is being falsely sold as a way to protect Oregonians from taxes on groceries, but there ARE NO taxes on groceries! It's a sneaky way for the big out-of-state companies—Albertson's, Kroger, Costco and others—to get out of paying any kind of business taxes at all.
- And then there's **Measure 104** which would create hopeless gridlock in the Legislature by expanding the requirement for a three fifths majority from straight tax increases to requiring the same super majority to close tax loopholes or raise any fees at all. That would make it all but impossible to reign in runaway tax breaks.

AFT and other unions will be working hard to defeat these harmful measures!

As always, I encourage you all to stay involved, stay alert, and stay educated on these and other issues that face our union brothers and sisters in particular, and the citizens of our state in general!

(Continued from page 1 - AFT army marches for school funding)

district includes part of Pittsburgh, suggested one source of new education funding in Pennsylvania. The state has been closing some prisons as criminal justice policy seeks alternatives to incarceration. He added that the state should use the money saved from that change to fund universal pre-K education for Pennsylvania children. "Let's not incarcerate. Let's educate," he said.

In addition to joining the AFT Army (see AFT-Oregon President David Rives in picture below, right), AFT-Oregon members were active on the floor of the convention. AFT-Oregon Retirees President Louise Currin spoke in favor of retirement security (picture below, left). Oregon delegate Sami Al-AbdRabbuh spoke on the AFT-Oregon resolution in support of sanctuary schools and campuses. That resolution passed unanimously.

Delegates voted to invest in our future and fight austerity measures, launch a national campaign to highlight the debt crisis in America, support the rebuilding of Puerto Rico, and call for total repeal of the Trump administration's 'zero tolerance' immigration policies and indefinite family incarcerations.

Convention speakers included U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Randy Bryce. Delegates were urged to run for office and left the convention feeling inspired, hopeful, and ready to keep fighting.



CALENDAR

- Sept. 19 — 10 am: Membership Meeting, Speaker, Michael Dembrow, AFT-Oregon Local 2277 member and State Senator
- Oct. 4 — 10 am-1pm: Retiree Stocking Cut/Sew Day; LCSA, 9955 SE Washington, Ste. 211, Portland
- Oct. 17— 10 am, Membership Meeting, Speaker, Marcus Swift, AFT-Oregon Director of Political and Legislative Affairs
- Nov. — NO MEETING
- Dec. 5 — 11:30 am, Union Friends Holiday Potluck
- Jan. 16 — 10 am: Membership Meeting, Speaker TBA

NOTE: All meetings and Holiday Potluck will be held at the Oregon AFL-CIO, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland