

**Help Us Build ESSN/JwJ & Win Fabulous Prizes!**

This year's ESSN/JwJ Annual Meeting will kick off of the ESSN/JwJ Membership Drive. Just by showing up at the Annual Meeting you will be entered into a drawing to win a premium prize. For every new member or Jobs with Justice pledger you sign up between now and ESSN/JwJ Holiday Party you earn another chance to win! Bring a friend with you to the Annual Meeting and both of you earn an entry. The drawing will be held at the ESSN/JwJ Holiday Party in December and will feature fabulous prizes donated from our awesome community supporters including some of our best eateries and natural food stores. You need not be present at the Holiday Party to win, but it's a lot more fun if you are! Remember the more members you sign up the more chances you earn to win. As the Jobs with Justice Pledge says "If enough of us show up we can all start to win!"

The ESSN Annual Meeting is your opportunity to exercise your rights as a member of ESSN. Please join us as we celebrate our work over the past year and look forward to the year ahead. Elections will be held for the 2006-2007 Steering Committee including Co-Chairs and Treasurer. In addition, members will be asked to ratify the newly adopted by-laws; and begin crafting a process for more fully including organizations as members of ESSN's coalition. You will also have an opportunity to hear from the current Steering Committee on their decision to incorporate ESSN as a full-fledged non-profit organization. To be considered a member in good standing you must either be current in your dues or have fulfilled your Jobs with Justice Pledge to show up five times a year to an ESSN event or rally.

The Annual Meeting will be held Friday September 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church 477 E. 40<sup>th</sup> Ave Eugene.

**It's Time to Stand Up and Defend Oregon: Out-of-state interests have taken control of Oregon's ballot**

This November there are two measures on the ballot that would hit Oregon like a double whammy. Here's the bottom line on Measures 41 and 48:

**Measure 41 is a deep revenue cut that hits the heart of Oregon's public services.** More than 90% of Oregon's general fund covers education, health care and public safety and that's what Measure 41 would cut. The measure is retroactive and will cut \$151 million from revenue that we are already counting on. And in the next two-year budget, the cuts are dramatic. It would cut \$800 million from the 2007-2009 budget. This measure was written by long-time public service enemy Bill Sizemore and was funded almost entirely by Loren Parks, a billionaire who lives in Nevada.

**Measure 48 is another measure put on the ballot but one rich guy.** This time it's Howard Rich, a wealthy New York Developer with ties to the Cato Institute and the Koch oil empire. TABOR is a constitutional amendment based on Colorado's "TABOR" amendment.

**Education funding and the quality of education plummeted in Colorado under a Measure 48 style law.** Colorado's education funding got stuck in the recession and they were unable to move forward. Spending on K-12 dropped from 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation to 49<sup>th</sup>

**Measure 48 is even more extreme than Colorado's version and will hit Oregon harder.** The Oregon version of Measure 48 is more limiting than Colorado's and local schools in Oregon will be even more vulnerable to deep funding cuts.

**Measure 48 is so poorly written that it could be retroactive.** This will be up to the courts to decide. If it goes into effect immediately, it means that Oregon's schools will be forced to cut their budgets for the 2007 school year.

We cannot let these measures pass in Oregon. Join the Defend Oregon Coalition at [www.defendoregon.org](http://www.defendoregon.org) and learn how you can help to protect Oregon's schools and other vital services. The ESSN/JwJ Steering Committee has formally come out against Measures 41 and 48 and will continue to provide information on how voters can help ensure their defeat.

## **Labor Notes**

Kentucky River Rally – On July 11<sup>th</sup> over 150 people, including dozens of IBEW 659 members, marched on the Federal Building plaza in downtown Eugene to send a loud message that a worker's right to join a union is an essential human right. Joined by Stuart Acuff, National Organizing Director of the AFL-CIO and Tom Chamberlain of the Oregon AFL-CIO, the crowd cheered as Cj Mann, President of the Lane County Labor Council called for keeping the heat on to defend the right to join union. The rally was part of a week of actions across the nation raising the cry against possible decisions by the National Labor Relations Board that threaten to strip millions of union members of their right to representation. Called "The Kentucky River" decision, after the hospital that brought the case, these pending cases could reclassify charge nurses as supervisors making them ineligible for union membership. If this case goes against the nurses it will have terrible implications for workers who supervise other workers on the job by allowing employers to make them "supervisors" - in name only of course. This new title would strip these workers of their union membership while giving them nothing in return. Right now four of the five members of the NLRB are Bush appointees and union leaders don't expect a good outcome in this case.

At the Federal Building, Guadalupe Quinn with the immigrant rights coalition, CASUA, told the crowd that immigrant workers stand in solidarity with union workers and would be there to help them defend their rights. Debbie Lund, Vice President Oregon Nurses Association and a RN at Sacred Heart Medical Center laid out how the Kentucky River decision would deny her union membership simply because she is responsible for assigning work to other nurses. The inspirational Stuart Acuff who marched to the rally with striking IBEW members took EWEB to task for its treatment of its workers and called on the community to rally in support of a fair settlement. He also promised to keep the heat on in Washington D.C. in part by engaging in civil disobedience in front of the NLRB offices. One positive outcome of the rally was that Senator Gordon Smith joined Senator Wyden in formally calling upon the NLRB to hear oral arguments in the Kentucky River case before making a decision. This would mean allowing real workers to speak to the board about their work, instead of just relying on written statements from employers. Jobs with Justice and national labor leaders are asking all union supporters to be at the ready to take to the streets should the NLRB rule to strip millions of workers of their union rights. A decision could come in early October but there is no way to predict the board's timeline.

## **"A Union Man" Entertains at DIVA**

Julius Margolin and his partner George Mann filled the screening room at DIVA Friday July 21<sup>st</sup> at a benefit for ESSN/JwJ. The audience enjoyed a rough-cut screening of Mann's film "A Union Man" about Julius's life as a union activist, war veteran and, more recently, folk singer. Julius, who turned 90 in August, is a tireless union organizer and activist, turning up on picket lines around New York since the mid-1930s. Being from the original school of American labor activism he is the living embodiment of "solidarity" where workers are righteous, bosses are boobs, and the lowest form of life is the "stooge" hiding behind the boss and betraying fellow workers. After the film George joined Julius in the spotlight to entertain the audience with favorite labor folks songs as well as original tunes skewering "King George" and his cronies. You can check out their film and CDs at their website [www.georgeandjulius.com](http://www.georgeandjulius.com).

## JwJ National Staff Settles Contract with Jobs With Justice

It turns out even the national staff of Jobs with Justice could use a little more justice in their workplace. This past month the field organizers and D.C. based staff of Jobs with Justice finally settled their first contract after some long negotiations with the Jobs with Justice board. The Jobs with Justice staff are now the newest members of the Communication Workers of America Washington Newspaper Guild Local 32035. After some tough negotiations JwJ staff won inclusion in the bargaining unit for JwJ's International Organizer Anannya Bhattacharjee who is based in India. Please join ESSN/JwJ in congratulating the Jobs with Justice staff on a great organizing effort and their new contract!