



Commissioner Brad Avakian
Bureau of Labor and Industries

PRESS RELEASE

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Avakian Announces New PWAC Co-Chairs
Veteran committee members will take the helm February 1st

PORTLAND—Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian today named the co-chairs of the Prevailing Wage Advisory Committee (PWAC) for the next year. The co-chair representing labor will be Norman Malbin of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 48, while Shawn Miller, counsel for Associated Builders and Contractors and the Independent Electrical Contractors of Oregon, will be the management co-chair.

“Norm and Shawn are both respected, experienced members of this committee,” Avakian said. “Each is a strong advocate as well as a thoughtful, conscientious consensus builder when that approach is needed to get a job done.”

PWAC was created by legislative action in 2003, directing the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries to appoint an equal number of representatives from management and labor in the building and construction industry who perform work on public works contracts. The committee is charged with advising the Commissioner on matters regarding the prevailing wage rate laws that apply to public construction projects.

“I’m honored that individuals with Norm’s and Shawn’s level of expertise, and commitment to a cooperative, productive system, were willing to take on these additional responsibilities,” Avakian added. “The Labor Commissioner and other decision makers rely on the well-considered recommendations of PWAC to advance the best policies for the State of Oregon, and I am confident that our new co-chairs will help the committee continue to excel.”

Current co-chairs Don Kool of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local 290 (retired), and Jim McKune, Chief Operating Officer of Emerick Construction Co., will complete their terms as co-chairs at PWAC’s next meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, January 20th, at 3pm at the International Union of Operating Engineers Hall in Gladstone (555 East 1st Street).

“I want to thank Don and Jim for their great service in leading PWAC for the last two years,” Avakian said. “The leadership that they have provided, on a range of tough issues, has been invaluable.”

For more information about PWAC and Oregon’s prevailing wage rate laws, visit BOLI’s website at <http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI/WHD/PWR/index.shtml>.

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