



Commissioner Brad Avakian  
Bureau of Labor and Industries

## COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE – March 10, 2010

Dear Friends:

If you haven't already heard then I must sadly report that Ben Westlund, State Treasurer of Oregon and a legislative colleague of mine for several years, passed away early Sunday morning. The loss of such a dedicated servant of Oregon is felt even more keenly as we continue to struggle with issues where Ben's courage, leadership and strong sense of duty to the people would be of the greatest value.

This edition of the Commissioner's Message is brief, with just a calendar note and a link to employment law information from last month's legislative session. I've made it intentionally brief, because we sometimes use many inadequate words to fill in for a few of the right words. While I'm not sure that my words are the right ones, I hope they do sufficient justice to a great Oregonian:

Many people survive in politics by forging political alliances. Others succeed by forging enduring friendships. Ben Westlund was a friend. He was a friend to those he served with, and he was a friend to the people of Oregon. He is, and will long be, missed.

Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers for Ben's loved ones during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Brad Avakian  
State Labor Commissioner

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### **Special Calendar Note: Latest Statewide Closure Day on March 19**

To help reduce the state's budget deficit, all state employees are taking a minimum of 10 unpaid days off during the 2009-11 biennium. The basic [10 days are scheduled as mandatory statewide closure days](#) for Oregon government. Each closure day will save the state about \$2 million. The closure does not affect the state court system, universities, corrections, or public safety agencies.

One week from this Friday is the next mandatory closure day for state offices. Because all BOLI employees, including the Commissioner, will be on furlough, we will not be responding to email or phone calls on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you or someone you know need assistance from BOLI, please contact us sooner rather than later.

## Session Wrap-Up: Employment Laws Have Changed

BOLI's website now features, just like after every legislative session, a list of bills passed by the legislature that may impact your workplace. Different pieces of legislation go into effect at different times: look closely at [our information sheet](#) for those various effective dates. For more information, including the full text of any bill considered at the Capitol, visit [the legislature's website](#).

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### Upcoming BOLI Events

Date	Event Type	Location	Subject	Contact
Mar. 16 & 17	TA Seminar	Lane Community College	<a href="#">Leave Laws in OR: a 2-Day Training</a>	TA Program @ 971-673-0825
Mar. 16	PWR Seminar	ODOT HR Trng Center in Salem	PWR for Contractors and Subcontractors	PWR Unit @ 971-673-0838
Mar. 16	PWR Seminar	ODOT HR Trng Center in Salem	PWR for Public Agencies	PWR Unit @ 971-673-0838
Mar. 17	PWR Seminar	Portland State Office Bldg.	PWR for Contractors and Subcontractors	PWR Unit @ 971-673-0838
Mar. 18	OSATC Quarterly Mtg.	Pacific NW Carpenters Inst.	<a href="#">State Apprenticeship and Training Council</a>	Appr. Div. @ 971-673-0760
Mar. 19	Statewide Closure	ALL BOLI OFFICES	Mandatory unpaid time-off for all staff	<a href="#">Oregon Furlough Information Site</a>
Mar. 23	TA Seminar	Portland State Office Bldg.	<a href="#">Recordkeeping Requirements</a>	TA Program @ 971-673-0825
Mar. 30	PWR Seminar	COIC in Redmond	PWR for Contractors and Subcontractors	PWR Unit @ 971-673-0838
Mar. 31	PWR Seminar	COIC in Redmond	PWR for Public Agencies	PWR Unit @ 971-673-0838
Mar. 31	PWR Seminar	COIC in Redmond	PWR for Contractors and Subcontractors	PWR Unit @ 971-673-0838
Apr. 1	TA Seminar	Portland State Office Bldg.	<a href="#">Leave Laws in Oregon</a>	TA Program @ 971-673-0825
Apr. 6	TA Seminar	Lane Community College	<a href="#">Effective Supervisory Practices</a>	TA Program @ 971-673-0825
Apr. 14	TA Seminar	Portland State Office Bldg.	<a href="#">Advanced Leave Laws</a>	TA Program @ 971-673-0825
Apr. 20 & 21	TA Seminar	Chemeketa Comm. College	<a href="#">Employee Supervision: A 2 Day Basic Training</a>	TA Program @ 971-673-0825
Apr. 22	OCCR Quarterly Meeting	Portland State Office Bldg.	The Co-Chairs are developing the agenda	Donna Brown @ 971-673-0781
Apr. 27	TA Seminar	Holiday Inn, Ontario	<a href="#">Wage and Hour Laws</a>	TA Program @ 971-673-0825
Apr. 28	TA Seminar	City Hall, Baker City	<a href="#">Leave Laws in Oregon</a>	TA Program @ 971-673-0825
Apr. 29	TA Seminar	Pendleton Convention Cntr.	<a href="#">Policywriting Guidelines (half-day)</a>	TA Program @ 971-673-0825

*The mission of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and protect access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.*