

## Notification of Nomination and Election for Local 8 Trustee and King County Labor Council Delegates

In accordance with Local 8's By-laws, this is notification that nominations and election will take place at the next General Membership Meeting on March 26 at 6:15 p.m. at the Seattle Labor Temple.

The Trustee term for **Bernice Vance** has expired. This three-year term provides oversight of the Local's finances, meeting quarterly with the Vice President to audit expenditures and participate in the budget preparations. Two more Trustee positions will be up for election next year. Thank you, **Bernice**, for serving as a Local 8 Trustee all these years!

Nominations and election will also be held for 8 King County Labor Council Delegate positions. This two-year term is currently served by **Suzanne Mode, Marie Cook, Dave Westphal, Norma Kelsey, Tommy McLean, Joan Weiss, and Rich Feldman**. Thanks to all of you for serving in this important position.

King County Labor Council delegates attend monthly evening meetings and represent and support Local 8. Delegates report back to the membership at Local 8 monthly Membership Meetings.

If you'd like a copy of Local 8's By-laws, please feel free to contact the Local 8 office at 206-441-8880.



OPEIU Local 8  
Labor Temple, Room 304  
2800 First Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98121-1114

Address Service Requested



*Wed., Mar. 26*

- **Membership Meeting,**  
6:15 p.m., Hall 6. *Agenda:  
Nominations and Elections for  
Trustee and KCLC Delegates  
(see page 4).*
- **Political Action Committee,**  
5:30 p.m., Hall 6.
- **New Member Orientation,**  
5:30 p.m., Rm. 226.

**Seattle Labor Temple:**  
2800 First Avenue  
(between Clay & Broad Sts.)  
Free parking (for Membership  
Meeting only) under the new  
Ellington Condos.  
On the monitor by the garage  
door, punch in: \*011213#.

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International Union Local 8  
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## Longview Workers Win Election

On February 10, Home Care Workers at Lower Columbia Community Action Council voted 29 to 11 to join Local 8. These Home Care Workers make only \$7.35 to \$7.65 an hour, have no paid holidays and receive only a small amount of paid time off, yet they care for the community's most vulnerable elderly and disabled citizens.

Although the agency receives the same state funding as union employers, the compensation is far below union standards. The employer, however, managed to find enough money to hire an expensive attorney to aggressively fight employees' efforts to organize. The scare tactics didn't fool these workers, most of whom have been with the agency for over ten years.

Local 8 represents Home Care Workers at five other non-profit agencies in Washington and seeks to protect and improve industry standards by organizing workers at those agencies that fail to provide adequate standards.

"I'm hoping a union will help us to improve our situation. We're united now and we'll be headed to Olympia to get support for better funding," states **Ruth Admire**, an 18-year employee. Local 8 members are meeting with state legislators every week to get the message across that Home Care Workers can't be left behind in the state budget. Last year, Governor Locke vetoed a measly \$.25 raise.

The next step is to negotiate a fair contract. Caregiver **Brenda Kodama** says, "We look forward to sitting down with our employer to work together for a contract that meets all concerns...and we do this now with one voice. We'll be looking to our community to support us in this process." Local 8 has already set the stage for a long community-based campaign to win a first contract. Church leaders, union members and other community activists will be called upon to convince this agency to uphold union standards.



### Executive Board

Verlene Wilder  
President  
Marie Cook  
Vice President  
Cindy Schu  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Sylvia Trepp  
Recording Secretary  
Lucinda Clark  
Tommy McLean  
Sally Mejia  
John Monahan  
Kerry Warner  
Dave Westphal  
Karen White

### Staff

Suzanne Mode  
Business Manager  
Cindy Schu  
Organizing Director  
Shelby Mooney  
Organizer  
Heather Golden  
Organizing Intern  
Ligia Farfán  
Union Representative  
Mary Maloy  
Union Representative  
Shelley Pinckney  
Union Representative  
Benita Hyder  
Union Representative  
Shannon Halme  
Union Representative  
Colleen Shelton  
Office Manager  
Libby Alejandro  
Administrative Secretary  
Betty Devereaux  
Secretary/Receptionist  
Nora Galvin  
Secretary/Desktop  
Publisher  
Mary Silver  
Billing Clerk

# Should we give the rich a free ride?

*(Even Bill Gates's dad says NO!)*

On January 29th, the authors of *Wealth and Our Commonwealth*, **Bill Gates, Sr.** and **Chuck Collins**, urged a capacity crowd at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church to call their elected officials and ask them to vote for reform of the federal (and state) estate tax, and against its total repeal.

Gates explained that last year the federal estate tax generated \$30 billion, which is a tremendous incentive to charitable giving to hospitals, museums, colleges, social service agencies and land conservancies.

Estate tax is paid by the wealthiest 2% of the population. Before you feel too sorry for them, you should also know that these people control more than 98% of the money in the U.S.! They also receive huge tax breaks in the form of shelters, loopholes and corporate welfare.

The other 98% of us, the middle class and poor, are struggling with the other 2% of the income left over, and we actually get fewer tax breaks. Only estates exceeding \$1 million per person are taxed (at about 2.6%), and most of that comes from the super-rich, the top 0.1% of the population in income). Small family business and farms aren't taxed either.

**Take action!** Call Senator Murray (206-224-2621) or Senator Cantwell (206-220-6400) and ask them to vote against the repeal of the estate tax. Call 1 (800) 562-6000 to tell Gov. Locke and legislators to save Washington's state estate tax. Let them know you believe it's fair and appropriate for large estates to contribute back to our society.



*Mr. Snooty Royal Wannabe says, "I don't see why those dreadful peasants want ME to pay taxes!"*

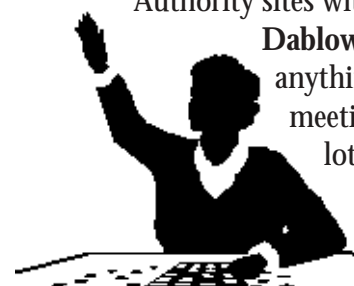
## Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit

*by Lisa Richardson, Local 8 member, The Worker Center*

Did you know that a family of four who earned less than \$33,178 in 2002 is eligible to receive up to \$4,140 as part of the Earned Income Tax Credit program? If you also qualified in 2000 and 2001, you can apply for a refund for those years as well. This little known program can either reduce the taxes you pay, or refund a portion of your taxes, and is intended to help working families. Free tax preparation assistance is available — call 1-800-755-5317 to find the site nearest you. If you have additional questions, please call **Lisa Richardson** at the Worker Center, AFL-CIO, at (206) 461-8408, Extension 21.

## PARTNERS IN CARING *by Marie Cook, Vice President*

Fremont Public Association's Partners in Caring Program has a grant to provide 15 Seattle Housing Authority sites with items to use as prizes for their bingo games. Local 8 member **Melissa Dablow** is coordinating this project. If you would like to donate, please find anything that would make a nice small gift and bring to the next membership meeting: Unused Christmas stocking stuffers you received and don't need, hand lotion, knickknacks (small photo frames are a big hit with seniors!), stationery or a book of stamps, a roll of quarters, decks of cards, gift certificates to Blockbuster or Safeway (\$10 amount suggested). Such a small thing to do will mean a lot to others. Thank you.



## Local 8's New Union Rep, Shannon Halme

**Shannon Halme** joined OPEIU Local 8's staff on February 18, 2003. She comes to OPEIU with over 20 years of union employment principally in the public sector collective bargaining.

For the last 18 years she was a union representative for the Connecticut State Employees Association/SEIU Local 2001. In addition to advocating for Connecticut state employees, she has also worked in the California labor community as a Researcher for SEIU Local 22's Comparable Worth Study for unclassified Sacramento Unified School District Employees and as an organizer for AFSCME on the University of California campaign.

Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento and a Master's of Science in Community Development from the University of California, Davis. Initially she worked as both a social worker and political activist in the Sacramento region in the 1970s. This work logically evolved into union advocacy.

She is passionate about the work that she performs and looks forward to many years of a successful working relationship with Local 8.



*New Rep Shannon Halme (she's second from left in top row) with Seattle Housing Authority Shop Stewards: Sylvia Trepp at left, Tony Jamerson and Shannon Salinas at right, and in front, Brenda Kendrix and Carol Rozumalski.*

**SPRING CLEANING?** Don't forget to save some of your goodies for the Political Action Committee garage sale! Or maybe you want to *acquire* some special treasure for a good price! It happens on Saturday, May 31st at Greenwood Market in Greenwood (on 85th and 3rd NW). More details to come soon. Volunteers and vans are needed — your help will be greatly appreciated. Contact **Shelby Mooney** at Local 8, 1-800-600-2433, ext. 7, or (206) 448-2615.



*Local 8 member-to-be Sheryl Herrings shows how she feels after the Longview vote (see page 1).*

**MEMBER RESOURCE MANUAL** is now available. Come to the March meeting and pick up this really helpful and necessary guide to community resources prepared by our Organizer Intern, **Heather Golden**.

**LOCAL 8 T-SHIRTS** are on sale for only \$10.00. They're union designed and silk-screened and come in black and red on gray or white and red on black.



*Does your family of four earn less than \$33,178? You may be eligible for a tax credit.*

*Free help with tax preparation is also available, regardless of income.*

*(see page 2)*