

Recent polls indicate that over 42 million workers (a clear majority) would join unions if they could.

Workers' Rights ARE Human Rights

On December 10, 1948, United Nations delegates made the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which calls upon all nations to protect the basic rights of all people—including the right to organize unions.

Fifty-five years later, U.S. employers consistently violate these basic human rights. When workers organize, employers often harass and intimidate workers. Current Federal law allows these actions to go unpunished; though the National Labor Relations Board was set up to protect workers' right to organize, now it throws obstacles in their path.

"Legal obstacles tilt the playing field so steeply against workers' freedom of association that the United States is in violation of international human rights standards for workers." —Human Rights Watch Report, September 2000

**Let's join together this Human Rights Day,
December 10, 2003, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
at the Federal Building in downtown Seattle
to send the message that the laws must change to defend the human
rights of workers and protect their right to organize a union.**

www.opeiu8.org



OPEIU Local 8, 2800 First Ave., Rm. 304, Seattle, WA 98121-1114

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Local 8 Members Plan for our Future



See story about the statewide meeting in Tokeland on page 3



Meetings are held at the Seattle Labor Temple: 2800 First Ave. (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#.

Sat., Nov. 15 ■ **Shop Steward/Activist Training**, Seattle. 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Topics will include: Unemployment Rights, Labor & Industry Rights, Legal Rights of Shop Stewards. Call (206) 441-8880 to sign up.

Wed., Nov. 19 *(a week earlier than usual because of Thanksgiving)*
■ **Membership Meeting**, 6:15 p.m., Hall 6.
■ **Political Action Committee**, 5:30 p.m., Hall 6.
■ **New Member Orientation**, 5:30 p.m., Rm. 236.

Wed., Dec. 10 ■ **Human Rights Day**, see back page.

Remember, there's no membership meeting in December!

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Maribel Martinez reports on the...

IMMIGRANT WORKERS' FREEDOM RIDE



Greetings fellow members: This past weekend I attended the Connecting For Our Future retreat. It was very motivating to share two days with Local 8 members who are committed to make our union the strongest. There I gave a report about my experience in the recent Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. As many of you already know, on Sep. 23, 2003, buses full of immigrant workers and their supporters traveled across country to Washington, DC and New York. The objective was to put civil rights and civil liberties and the rights of immigrant workers back on our national leaders' political agendas.

Our bus from Seattle was the most diverse in the U.S. We represented 22 nations and spoke 14 different languages. Throughout the trip I witnessed how all these people from so many walks of life and different cultures united for the same goal. To fight for civil rights for all, justice on the job, reunification of families and a clear path to citizenship and

legalization (for more info, visit www.seattle-iwfr.org).

I came back committed to fight for these principles, for immigrant workers and for all workers. As a member of Local 8, I am committed to do the work that it'll take for all our members to be united. There are many political, social and cultural forces out there that attempt to divide us but it is our choice to listen to them or not. At the end, a worker is a worker and their work contributes to our economy, consequently he or she should have equal protection. We need to come together and fight for worker rights. Remember, united we bargain, divided we beg. —**Maribel Martinez**



Above: Maribel holding the youngest Freedom Rider. At right: Spirits were running high on the bus. Below: Maribel again, with the bullhorn, leading the Seattle contingent.



M E M B E R S I N A C T I O N



Local 8 members now work in nearly every part of the state and we've nearly doubled in membership growth over the last five years. How do we make sure all members are a part of the Union's decision making? How do we ensure communication reaches all members? How do we build strong Union support in our workplaces?

These are the questions that 41 Local 8 members from all over the state grappled with at our historic meeting in Tokeland, Washington on October 18-19. "This was a

wonderful weekend of sharing ideas, building organizational camaraderie and making decisions that will influence the growth of OPEIU Local 8 far into the future. I made some great new friends, too," stated participant **Marjorie Lewis**, a Shop Steward at Providence Everett Medical Center.

Two workgroups were formed to hammer out the details to be presented for Local 8 membership review at some time in the future. The first group will address ways we can improve membership involvement and communication within the Union, and report its recommendations by July of next year. The second group will establish a plan to include greater regional representation on the Executive Board, and will present its recommendations by September 2004.

All Local 8 members are encouraged to participate in either of these work groups. More information will be available through the newsletter, at Membership Meetings and through our website over the next few months. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Business Manager **Suzanne Mode** or Organizing Director **Cindy Schu** at the Local 8 office.

Finally, many thanks to the Local 8 members who took time away from their families and friends to help make this weekend a tremendous success: **Brenda Barquero, Charlie Best, Angela Boehlke, Elizabeth Booze, Evelyn Bowles, Tracy Casebolt, Sandy Chapman, Joe Chartier, Marie Cook, Mary Duffy, Mary Fassnacht, Cynthia Fuller, Shannon Halme, Jane Hines, Benita Hyder, John Iles, Jeff Johnson, Jo Ann Kaye, Jerilynn Ledgerwood, Marjorie Lewis, Mary Maloy, Maribel Martinez, Tommy McLean, Sally Mejia, Suzanne Mode, Shelby Mooney, Cathie Murphree, Carmen Paez, Karen Peterson, Shelley Pinckney, Terry Saunders, Cindy Schu, Colleen Stern, Kathi Taylor, Sylvia Trepp, JudyJo Tyler, Shiela Veach, Ligia Velázquez, Luis Vilá, Verlene Wilder, and Kim Wilmer.**



Local 8 Members Plan for our Future

CALL TO ACTION FOR ALL LOCAL 8 MEMBERS AT GHC:
Meeting with all union members at GHC to launch a campaign to stop GHC's attack on workers' rights and benefits.
Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2:00 p.m.
UFCW Local 1001
12838 SE 40th Pl., Bellevue, WA 98006
For more information, call OPEIU Local 8 at (206) 441-8880.

Also, thanks to **Joan Weiss**, part of our planning committee who was unable to attend.