



CALENDAR

Sat., Nov. 13

- STATEWIDE PLANNING MEETING, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Hall 6.

Wed., Nov. 17

- 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.

Sat., Dec. 4

- SHOP STEWARD TRAINING, 8:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Olympia (see inside).

Wed., Dec. 22

- NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION, 5:30 p.m., Rm. 236. Please RSVP at (206) 441-8880.

Local 8 Members March for Affordable Health Care



On Saturday, October 16, Local 8 members marched in support of SEIU 1199NW members at GHC who have been struggling for months to get a fair contract.

Although the OPEIU contract at GHC doesn't expire until next June, we know that the fight for affordable health care is our fight too.

Local 8 Shop Steward at GHC, **Christina Jensen** (shown at left), spoke at the rally.

"I am committed to fighting for affordable health care. Group Health tells us they want to be the health care of choice by evolving the organization as more 'attractive' to consumers; however, GHC should set the precedent for showing consumers how

affordable and committed Group Health is starting with their employees. If GHC can't take care of its staff affordably, how can it preach affordability and an ability to meet the needs of the community?"

OPEIU member, **Nancy Rising**, also spoke. Nancy is running for one of the Trustee positions open on the GHC Board. We wish Nancy and long time activist **Lyle Mercer** good luck on their upcoming election.

Both Nancy and Lyle are supported by the Progressive Consumer Caucus which is working to elect progressives to the GHC Board to safeguard member rights and cooperative principles.



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Workers Helping Workers

If you are looking for a good cause to donate to this holiday season (or any time), think about the **Puget Sound Labor Agency** (formerly the King County Labor Agency).

The agency, on the first floor of the Labor Temple, provides direct services to clients who are under- or unemployed, low income, homeless, elderly, or disabled. They receive fresh vegetables, fruits, canned food, and holiday groceries. There are school supplies for children, accommodations such as low cost wheelchair ramps, safety bars and handrails for the disabled, training for laid off workers, and financial counseling.

In order to provide a complete layette to low income mothers, the agency always needs donations of new sleepers for newborns.

Every holiday season, the agency has a toy drive (deadline Dec. 10). Unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 10–12 are needed.

They even provide sandwiches once a month for a local shelter.

Please call (206) 448-9277 if you would like to make a difference by donating or volunteering. (High school students might do this to fulfill their community service credit!)



Last Shop Steward Training of the Year December 4

Our final Shop Steward Training of the year will be in Olympia (location to be announced), 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. New Steward Training will be offered, as well as Voice at Work: How do we mobilize our membership to fight for our rights and engage in political action. We'll have a section on Conducting an Investigation in a grievance process. Also added is an advocacy training to practice our lobbying skills for Olympia this legislative session.

All Local 8 members are eligible to attend. Please RSVP at (206) 441-8880.

Union Plus Scholarship Deadline is Jan. 31

OPEIU Local 8 members with one year continuous good standing union membership, their spouses and dependent children are eligible for Union Plus scholarships. They must be accepted by an accredited college, university, community college, technical or trade school at the time of the award. (Graduate students are not eligible.) Awards must be used for the 2005–2006 school year. Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2005.

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness, career goals and financial need. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended.

To learn more about these and other benefits available from Union Plus, go to <http://www.unionpriv.org>.

The following OPEIU Scholarships have a deadline of March 31, 2005:

Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund: Scholarships are available for full-time and part-time students who are members in good standing, associate members, or their children who meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the rules and regulations.

John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund: Applications are open to members or associate members in good standing for at least two years. All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the rules and regulations. Each scholarship has a total maximum value of \$2,000.

OPEIU Romeo Corbeil Memorial Fund: The OPEIU Romeo Corbeil Fund sends children of OPEIU members to a summer camp where they learn about unions and issues such as sex discrimination and racism while having fun.

To receive any scholarship application, email nora@opeiu8.org with your current address and which application you need, or call (206) 441-8880, ext. 113.

New Phone Extensions

Our new phone system is up and running. Our numbers are (206) 441-8880, or toll-free (800) 600-2433, Fax (206) 441-0207. These are our new extensions:

- Suzanne Mode, Business Manager ext. 101
- Cindy Schu, Organizing Dir./Sec. Treasurer ext. 102
- Shelby Mooney, Organizer ext. 107
- Ligia M. Velázquez, Union Representative ext. 309
- Mary Maloy, Union Representative ext. 306
- Shelley Pinckney, Union Representative ext. 308
- Benita Hyder, Union Representative ext. 305
- Shannon Halme, Union Representative ext. 304

For dues questions, call Mary Silver, Billing Clerk ext. 114

WDS Employees Say Contract is a Turkey

By an overwhelming majority, OPEIU Local 8 members at Washington Dental Service voted down the Company's "last and final" offer. Over 75% of the group refused to accept the new contract proposed by WDS.

The primary issues still in dispute are the following:

1. WDS wants employees to pay up to 60% of their annual wage increase to pay for any increases in health care, dental and vision premiums starting January 1, 2005 and every January to follow.

2. WDS wants employees to forfeit their right to negotiate with the Company if WDS contracts out Union work for any reason other than the cost of labor in Seattle.

3. WDS wants to change contract language to make it easier to sell or merge with another company without including the Union contract as part of the deal.

Let's hope that the Company's leadership will listen to the concerns of their employees and respond fairly to their needs. This is a healthy non-profit organization whose mission is to improve and preserve the health and welfare of its customers. As the current WDS ad campaign promotes—even if "healthy" means more expensive.

We'll keep you posted on what happens next.



Shop Stewards, don't forget that in order to get reimbursed for this year's dues, you must make your request between Dec. 1, 2004 and Jan. 31, 2005.

Call the Local 8 office if you need a copy of the Steward Reimbursement Policy.

Local 8 wishes you

Happy Holidays,

HOPE
Peace
Joy

(and solidarity!)

*The next Journal
will arrive in
January 2005.
Until then, check
the OPEIU Local 8
website for the
latest news.*

www.opeiu8.org



Local OPEIU Journal

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

Address Service Requested

Office & Professional Employees
International Union Local 8's
Meetings are held at the Seattle Labor
Temple at 2800 First Ave. (between
Clay & Broad Sts.) Free parking under
the Ellington Condos for
Membership Meeting only.
On the monitor by the garage door,
punch in: *011213#.

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