



OPEIU Journal

www.opeiu8.org

Vol. 21, No. 3

April 2006

“I feel proud that we won such a great contract,”

stated SEA MAR COMMUNITY HEALTH bargaining team member Terry Saunders.

CALENDAR

Wed., Apr. 26

- Membership Meeting, 6:15 p.m., Hall 6.
Agenda: Vote on New Policies
- Political Action Committee, 5:30 p.m., Hall 6.
- New Member Orientation, 5:30 p.m., Rm. 244.



Sat., May. 20

- A Day of Workshops: Member/Activist Training, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Seattle Labor Temple. *(see page 4).*

Wed., May 24

- 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. 244.

The next OPEIU Local 8 Journal will arrive in June.

In early March workers voted overwhelmingly (96%) to approve their 3rd Union contract since organizing with Local 8 six years ago.

Many thanks go to the Sea Mar Bargaining Team and also to the Sea Mar Management Team. Both worked hard to negotiate a strong contract that not only benefits Sea Mar employees but supports the agency in its mission to provide critical health care to some of the hardest to serve people in our communities from Vancouver to Bellingham.

Congratulations to the Sea Mar Bargaining Team: Jan Phipps, Kim Templeton, Pedro Ruiz, Terry Saunders, Carmen Paez, Tony Sosa and Union Representatives Ligia Velázquez and Shelley Pinckney.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SEA MAR’S CONTRACT:

- 12% wage increase over the 3 year contract.
- Market pay adjustments for all billing classifications, day care and treatment center teachers, maintenance, receptionist trainees and senior advocates plus review of many other classifications this summer and in 2007.
- Medical benefit protection. Sea Mar pays 100% of medical, plus 50% of dependents in addition to enhanced dental and vision benefits (including a hardware allowance).
- Increase in mileage reimbursement.



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Be an Ambassador from the Real World

Experience Needed!*

No, we're not talking about some 'reality' TV show. Representatives from business and industry participate on college advisory committees and it is important that labor be there, too.

The role of a labor representative is to make sure that the college program is grounded in the 'real' world of work so students will have the necessary skills to get a job when they enter that real world.

Duties:

- Meet 2-3 times a year
- Determine the effectiveness of the college program
- Recommend curriculum changes or new equipment purchases
- Evaluate facilities
- Develop student performance standards
- Facilitate student job shadowing (where they follow a worker around and watch them do their job) and job placement, and
- Provide back-to-industry opportunities for instructors to keep current

LABOR LIAISONS: OPEIU Local 8 members **Joan Weiss** and **Kairie Pierce** work as Labor Liaisons for the Community & Technical Colleges in Washington State. A big piece of their work is to recruit union



members to serve on various committees for the colleges. While a number of OPEIU Local 8 members already serve on these committees, Joan and Kairie are looking for more Local 8 members to participate.

If you want more information about community and technical college advisory committees or you want to participate on an advisory committee (and we know you do!), please contact:

Joan Weiss, Labor Liaison, King County Community & Technical Colleges, (206) 441-8408 ext. 16, jweiss@wc-kclc.org, or **Kairie Pierce**, Labor Liaison, Statewide (outside King County), (360) 943-0608, kpierce@wslc.org.

*Medical Assistants, Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists are especially needed for King County colleges. Please contact Joan at the number above.



Kudos to Local 8's Legislative Intern

Many thanks to **Diane Arnold**, our University of Washington School of Social Work student intern for this year. Diane organized groups of Local 8 home care members to visit legislators in Olympia each week this session to get support for the Home Care Parity Bill.

Diane has incredible energy and dedication and we are very grateful for her assistance. Thank you, Diane!

MEMBERS IN ACTION

Home Care Workers Victorious in Olympia

Local 8 Home Care members **Mary Fasnacht**, **Brenda Barquero** and Union Representative **Benita Hyder** with Governor **Christine Gregoire** at the celebration for the signing of the Home Care Parity Bill.

Each week Local 8 Home Care workers from around the state went to Olympia to meet with legislators. Our message: Please support the Home Care Parity Bill to better fund home care.

Thanks to the efforts of union home care workers, their employers and many key legislators, the bill was successful. This means more funding to support home care worker compensation.



Congratulations...

to Local 8 Vice President, **Marie Cook**, who was recognized as one of the Volunteers of the Year by the King County Democrats. Marie is shown at left with Local 8 Union Representative **Ligia Velázquez**, who was recently elected as a Vice President to the Washington State Labor Council.

A New Era at Local 8

Four new Regional Executive Board members were sworn in at the March Membership Meeting to better represent our state-wide membership.

The new Board members are pictured seated (L-R): **Carmen Paez**, Mt. Vernon, **Brandi Eyerly**, Ellensburg, **Kathy Taylor**, Port Townsend, and **Audrey Gunderson**, Everett. Also pictured are current officers: **Evelyn Bowles**, **Kellie McGuire**, **Kathi Scott**, **Marie Cook** and **Karen White**.

Congratulations also to our alternates: **Tony Nordin**, South/west, **Terry Saunders**, North, and to newly elected Trustee, **Rose Schuler**. Many thanks to outgoing Trustee, **Bernice Vance**.



Planning for Our

Financial Future

Back by Popular Demand!

Silent Auction Donation Request: Local 8's Political Action Committee (PAC) wants to raise money at the **May 20** event. Success depends on how many wonderful items we can get donated, such as union made products, gift baskets, weekend getaways, sports or cultural event tickets and many more creative ideas. Want to donate a item to the Local 8 PAC? Give the Local 8 office a call.

**Saturday, May 20 from 9 am to 3 pm
at the Seattle Labor Temple**

Open to All Members — Lunch Provided

Local 8 will once again be hosting an all day education session covering a variety of topics around planning for a secure economic future:

- Union Privilege Benefits
- Money Management
- Buying Your First Home
- Wills and Trusts
- Credit Reports and Loans... *and more.*
- Dessert Social!

**To sign up, call the Local 8 office at
1 (800) 600-2433 or (206) 441-8880.**



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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