



Local 8

OPEIU Journal

www.opeiu8.org

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June 2006

CALENDAR

Wed., June 28

- **Membership Meeting,** 6:15 p.m., Hall 6.
Agenda: Nomination and Election of Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) delegates
- **Political Action Committee,** 5:30 p.m., Hall 6.
- **New Member Orientation,** 5:30 p.m., Rm. 244.

No membership meeting until September 27.

Wed., July 26

- **New Member Orientation,** 5:30 p.m., Rm. 244.
- **Member Training: American Disabilities Act** and how it applies in the workplace. 6:00 p.m., Seattle Labor Temple
- **New Steward Training.** 6:00 p.m., Seattle Labor Temple

The next OPEIU Local 8 Journal will arrive in late August.

Immigrant Rights are Worker Rights!

By Ligia M. Velázquez, Local 8 Union Representative and President of Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), Vice President Washington State Labor Council.

Americans are increasingly concerned about immigration. Undocumented workers and their families are making big contributions to our places of work and the communities that they live in. Each year immigrants collectively earn \$240 billion a year, pay \$90 billion a year in taxes, and receive \$5 billion in welfare. (PBS, "The New Americans," www.pbs.org.)

The current immigration policy penalizes individual workers while failing to address employers who recruit and exploit undocumented workers. This hurts not only the individual employees, who are often subjected to mistreatment, discrimination and unsafe working conditions, but it hurts all of us by driving down wages and other benefits.

America deserves an immigration system that protects all workers within our borders—both native-born and foreign—and at same time guarantees the safety of our nation without compromising our fundamental civil rights and civil liberties.

*"Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life."
—John F. Kennedy*

Immigrant workers, like all workers, should be full social partners. We need to support effective, credible and enforceable rights for all workers, regardless of their country of origin or immigration status.

For continuing information and updates on this important issue and how you can get involved, please go to www.walclaa.org.



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Visiting Nurse Personal Services Home Care Workers in Bellingham Sign First Contract

VNPS Executive Director Terri Briant Booth and Human Resources Director Julie Barcus along with union team members Kathy Davis, Roger Hutchens and Joy Kirk are shown signing their first Local 8 contract. Other team members not pictured are: Beverley David, Sandi Kramer, Mary Morby, Dalene Robinson, Mary Jo Dalzell, Susie Ferguson, Valerie Frazier and Union Representatives Cindy Schu and Benita Hyder.

Positive and collaborative characterized negotiations at VNPS. Both parties worked hard toward the common goal of securing a contract with union standards to assure quality care for the frail and elderly clients and a decent economic package for the Caregivers who provide these vital services. VNPS Caregivers won improvements to their health benefits, wages, paid time off, holiday pay, mileage reimbursement and for the first time they'll enjoy a real voice on the job.



Open Delegate Positions to the Washington State Labor Council Convention

Every two years, Local 8 elects new delegates to the Washington State Labor Council convention. The WSLC is considered to be the "voice" of labor in our state. This year Local 8 has 10 delegate positions open.

The Convention is an exciting event where decisions are made about labor movement policy and direction as well as important political endorsement decisions. It's also a great way to socialize and meet other union activists.

This year, the convention will be held in Wenatchee from Monday, August 21 to Thursday, August 24.

Local 8 will pay for the registration, transportation and a per diem but can't reimburse for any time loss. Members will need to use personal leave time.

Come to the next Local 8 Membership Meeting on Wednesday, June 28 for the nominations and election of the delegate positions. If you'd like to be nominated but can't attend the meeting, you can have someone nominate you, but you'll need to submit a letter to the Local 8 office saying you accept the nomination.

MEMBERS IN ACTION

May 20 Member Training Day & PAC Auction a Success!

Our all day financial planning workshop was a big hit with Local 8 members learning about managing money, choosing insurance, understanding credit reports and IRA's, estate planning, and first time home buying. Local 8 member **Laurie Ridge**, shown below between **Shelby Mooney** and **Suzanne Mode**, was an attendee. "I'd like to make a pitch to all Local 8 members to take advantage of these workshops the next time they're available. I found them invaluable to helping me plan my finances."

We ended the day by enjoying some delicious donated desserts. There was some lively and competitive bidding at the Silent Auction benefitting our Political Action Committee fund, which raised over \$1,700.

Many thanks to the dedicated planning committee for making this event a success: **Shelby Mooney**, **Mary Maloy**, **Charlie Best**, **Valancy Blackwell**, **Kelli McGuire**, **Angela Boehlke**, **Kathi Scott**, **Marie Cook**, **Alan Wolfson**, **Maribel Martinez**, and **Karen White**. Also thanks go to our two OPEIU members who provided presentations at the event: **Nancy Rising** with American Income Life and **Kellie Port** with the Fremont Public Association.



1st Annual Tommy McLean Activism Award

Workers at Willapa Harbor Hospital Honored

Members of Local 8 voted to create an annual **Tommy McLean MOPEIU Local 8 Activism Award** in memory of the long-time union activist who passed away last year.

Tommy was instrumental in organizing a union at the King County Department of Assessments over 10 years ago, and contributed as a Shop

Steward, as a member of the Local 8's Executive Board, Political Action Committee participant and Labor Council delegate.

The award is given to honor those workers whose activism and spirit makes a stronger union. Tommy's co-worker **Annie Bergquist** was chosen to present the award at the May 20 event to **Willapa Harbor Hospital workers**.

These workers galvanized their co-workers to change Willapa Harbor Hospital to an union shop for the first time in over 30 years. Accepting the award were **John Latimer**, **Joann Christian**, and **Jerri Reasoner**, shown with Local 8 Business Manager **Suzanne Mode** and member **Annie Bergquist**.





Call the Local 8 office by June 16 to apply for the scholarship.

Local 8 Scholarship Available for Summer School for Union Women

Women Bringing It Back Together—Building Alliances to Realize Our Goals Locally and Globally

Wednesday, June 28 through Sunday, July 2
at the Evergreen State College in Olympia

Every year Local 8 offers a full scholarship to a member interested in attending for a few days of inspiring workshops and discussion. The scholarship includes transportation, meals, lodging and tuition (but not any paid time loss). If interested, please contact Cindy at Local 8 by June 16.

This year the topics will include:

- immigrant workers
- speaking out in your Union
- using the media to get out our message, and
- the economy that matters to women workers' reality



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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