

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

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www.opeiu8.org



Bowling for Dollars Raises \$20K to Feed Hungry Kids!

Local 8's "Mad Dogs" team joined members at Solid Ground at their Strike Out for Hunger Bowl-a-Thon to raise awareness about hungry kids (and the money to feed them). The Local 8 members, shown below: *(in back)* Anne Dederer, Maureen Darrah, Anna Strahan, Kate Forester, Shelby Mooney; *(in front)* John Grant, Kyra Zylstra, Heather Hemmer.



Here are some of the shocking facts about child hunger in Washington state from the Children's Alliance:

- About **half** the children born in Washington are in low-income households.
- Many poor parents **skip meals** so their kids can eat.
- Think food stamps are the solution? 40% of the people who qualify for food stamps **don't get them**.
- **400,000 kids** get their food from food banks.
- Ever get **cranky when you're hungry?** Hungry kids are more likely to act out and behave aggressively.
- **New stadiums or food for kids?** You could fill Safeco Field **five times** with all the Washington kids who live below the poverty level. That's more than the populations of Yakima, Bellingham, and Wenatchee combined.

WELFARE & PENSION WINS!

CALENDAR

Sat., May 19

- Leadership Training, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Valley Medical Center.

Wed., May 23

- Membership Meeting, 6:15 p.m., Hall 6. *Agenda: Vote on Changes to Local 8 Election Policies & Procedures.*
- Political Action Committee, 5:30 p.m., Hall 6.
- New Member Orientation, 5:30 p.m., Rm. 244.

Sat., June 2

- Leadership Training, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Vancouver and Seattle.

Wed., June 27

- Membership Meeting, 6:15 p.m., Hall 6. *Agenda: Nominations and Election for eight MLKCLC Delegate Positions and other Central Labor Council Delegates Statewide. See www.wslc.org/aff-list.html CLCs. (Last meeting until Sept. 26.)*
- Political Action Committee, 5:30 p.m., Hall 6.
- New Member Orientation, 5:30 p.m., Rm. 244.



In late March, after months of negotiations, weeks of informational picketing and with the assistance of a Federal Mediator, Local 8 members at Welfare and Pension Administration Services overwhelmingly ratified a four year Agreement. Many thanks to the very hard working Bargaining Team and to all our rank and file members at WPAS for the support received along with all our Union brothers and sisters who joined us on the line to help win a fair contract.

Highlights of the WPAS Contract: ■ 15% wage increase over 4 years ■ \$0.15 per hour pension increase each year of the Contract ■ Flexible work schedule language added ■ Additional sick day conversion allotment.

Congratulations to the WPAS Bargaining Team: Maureen Carmel, Lynn Edgecombe, Heather Hanson, Nancy Osborn, Tracy Reeves, Teresa Sieler and OPEIU Local 8 Representatives, Suzanne Mode, Business Manager, and Mary Maloy, Union Representative.

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M E M B E R S . . .

Broadview workers celebrate unionizing



Workers, management and Jobs with Justice celebrate union recognition at Solid Ground. Shown at left are: Mauricio Martinez, JwJ, Shelby Mooney, Local 8 Organizer, Christian Skoorsmith, JwJ, Katie Showalter, Broadview Child Advocate, Kathy Crumlish, HR Dir., Solid Ground, Cheryl Cobbs, Exec. Dir., Solid Ground, Symone Edwards, Broadview Child Advocate.

Workers at Broadview Shelter gained the right to Union recognition in March. The group of 44 will join nearly 200 other Local 8 Union sisters and brothers at Solid Ground (formerly Fremont Public Association).

Under the current Solid Ground contract, the agency gives voluntary recognition of the union if the majority of the workers in a program sign authorization cards. Broadview workers had thought about organizing in the past, but this time they were serious. They formed an organizing committee and did the outreach necessary to gain enough support.

“We decided if we joined the other Union workers at Solid Ground, we would gain real protection in the workplace and feel more comfortable about speaking out,” stated Symone Edwards, a Child Advocate at Broadview for 6½ years. The Broadview Organizing Committee, Symone Edwards, Sara Robbins, Katie Showalter, Antonio Medina, and Diane Hughes appreciated the support of Solid Ground Shop Steward Kellie Port and bargaining team member Eileen Bidwell for sharing their experiences as Local 8 activists.



The Freeze is Over

After coming off a three year wage freeze, Local 8 members at Lathing, Acoustical and Drywall Systems Local No. 1144 have unanimously ratified a three year agreement with a 4% wage increase and protected medical benefits each year of the Agreement.

Congratulations, Susan Clark, Maria Miner and thank you Bargaining Team Member Terri Whittle and Mary Maloy, Union Representative.

I N A C T I O N

Our Local 8 Advocates Win in Olympia

Throughout this year’s three-month legislative session, 50 Local 8 home care workers visited nearly 100 legislators. Our message this year had two purposes. First, we asked support for better compensation for our members whose work allows the frail elderly to remain in their own homes. Second, we worked with home care employers for better funding to protect agencies who otherwise would be in danger of shutting their doors.

The final state budget included funding for both issues. Local 8’s home care workers have become expert advocates in Olympia and should be proud of this year’s victories.



Local 8 members from the Bellingham Visiting Nurse Home Care Services advocate in Olympia.

AND THE WINNER IS . . . Patty Gilmore of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 32. Patty submitted the winning slogan in our “\$8 for Local 8” contest. The slogan that will help build our Political Action Committee’s donation program is: “Don’t Leave our Political Future to Fate—Support the PAC of Local 8.”

■■■ **CONGRATULATIONS** ■■■ to Local 8 Vice President Marie Cook, who recently retired as a Seattle Housing Authority Commissioner, and to Trustee Joan Weiss, who won the A. Philip Randolph Chapter Activist Award.



Welcome Amanda, our First MSR

Shop Steward Amanda Saylor has been selected as Local 8’s first Membership Support Representative.

Amanda has worked at Group Health Cooperative for the last two years and will be joining the Local 8 staff on May 14.

“I’m excited about helping my union build more visibility and activism at our worksites,” stated Amanda.

Local 8 hopes to hire an additional MSR at the end of the summer. Watch your newsletter for the job announcement.

One scholarship is available for the 17th Annual Summer School for Union Women, June 27–July 1 in Olympia. Contact Cindy at Local 8 by June 1.