



Local 8

OPEIU Journal

www.opeiu8.org

Vol. 23, No. 2

March/April/May 2008

OPEIU Members at GHC...



FIGHT BACK!

Wed., Mar. 26

- Membership Meeting,
6:15 p.m., Hall 6.

Wed., Apr. 23

- Membership Meeting,
6:15 p.m., Hall 6.

Wed., May 28

- Membership Meeting,
6:15 p.m., Hall 6.

Meetings are held on the dates above at the Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 First Ave., Seattle. New Member Orientation is at 5:30 p.m. in Rm. 310 and the Political Action Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. in Hall 6.

A standing room only crowd of OPEIU members from nearly every GHC facility met on February 10 to talk about GHC's various initiatives. These "initiatives" involve layoffs, reorganizations and other measures that impact hundreds of members at GHC.

One of the biggest concerns expressed at this meeting was how GHC administration is moving forward without having completed the bargaining process with our union over layoffs and other initiatives. Many members voiced concerns about the impact these changes would have on consumers as well as to many long time GHC employees.

Local 8 has filed Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The NLRB has begun an investigation to determine if GHC has violated the law by going ahead with layoffs without bargaining properly.

Besides taking legal action, we decided at the meeting to step up our actions to show GHC we deserve more respect. We talked about going to the media, leafleting consumers and other actions to make GHC hear our voice. Watch for updates on how you can help members at GHC get the respect they deserve.

See Spring Training Schedule on page 2.

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“Spring Training”

This is the year to start or continue to take leadership to the *next level!* Trainings are free and open to all OPEIU members. Visit our website: www.opeiu8.org under Local 8 Member Resources to see the full schedule, location information, and descriptions for each class. Listed below are the upcoming trainings this spring.

Thurs., March 13, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Seattle Labor Temple
Know Your Workplace Rights!

Sat., March 15, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Everett Labor Temple, Annex Hall
Leadership Training

Sat., March 29, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Longview, ILWU Hall
Leadership Training

Thurs., April 3, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Skagit Valley Community College, Mt. Vernon
Advanced Grievance Handling

Wed., May 21, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Everett Labor Temple, Main Hall
Know Your Workplace Rights!

Sat., May 31, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tukwila Community Center
Steps to Win a Strong Contract

Voter Registration Help Needed

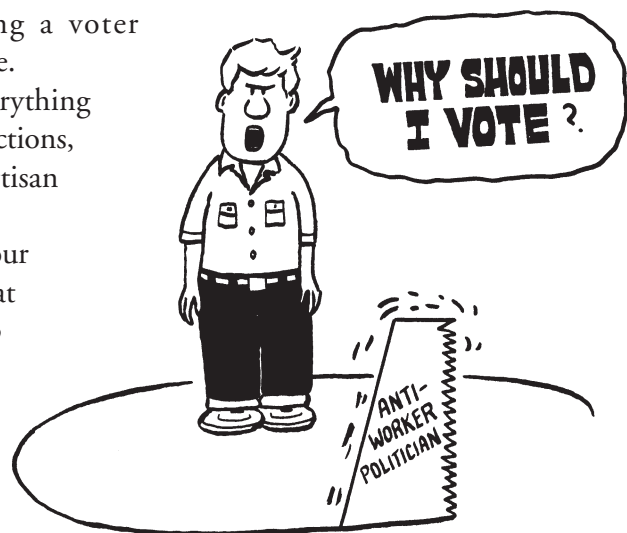
It's not too early to get ready for the presidential election and other important races that will have an impact on working families. Let's make sure our co-workers and family members are registered to vote!

You can help by conducting a voter registration drive in your workplace.

We will provide you with everything you need, such as signs, fliers, instructions, and voter forms. This is a non-partisan project.

To learn about this or to order your packet, contact **Shelby Mooney** at (206) 448-2615 or (800) 600-2433 ext. 107 or email shelby@opeiu8.org.

Also, don't forget, the Local 8 website has a direct link for voter registration: www.opeiu8.org.



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WCP

. . . I N A C T I O N

The Raucous Caucus... *Democracy in Action*

By Paul Lee, Shop Steward at Low Income Housing Institute

If you feel like your vote doesn't count, you must've missed out on the Feb. 9 caucuses. Whether you were for Hilary or Obama (or other), the exhilaration in the room was palpable. As I entered the room that would be "ground zero" for the events to come, I could hardly hear my own thoughts over the clamoring voices discussing the candidates and their issues. For the first time in my life, the apathy that accompanied my vote was suddenly missing. I suddenly understand what our forefathers had fought and died so fervently over. This process has given me a renewed hope for the future of this nation and leaves me wondering what might be possible when this great process called democracy results in a new President of the United States. I am reminded that it is possible to have some faith in our governance and government. I leave this caucus experience with resolve and a sense of healing. I hope yours did too.

Make Fast Food FAIR Food

by Sasha Botos, OPEIU Local 8 Social Work Intern

Corporations who trample workers' rights prevent many communities from enjoying basic standards of living. We should be outraged at these attacks on workers rights!

BURGER KING extracts the lowest possible tomato prices from its suppliers and continues to ignore any social responsibility to workers.

- **Tomato pickers have not received a raise in nearly 30 years**, earning virtually the same rate (roughly 45 cents per 32 lb. bucket) today as in 1980.
- **Denial of fundamental labor rights:** Florida farm workers have no overtime pay, even when working 60-70 hour weeks, and no right to organize or bargain collectively.

Even worse, these workers have been held against their will and forced to work through violence or threats of violence. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) has assisted the Department of Justice in prosecuting five such cases since 1997, involving more than 1,000 workers. A new hope for real labor reform in Florida's fields has emerged in the last three years: **Taco Bell** and **McDonald's** have reached agreements with CIW to give 1¢ more per bucket to tomato pickers, yet Burger King still refuses to relent. You can help by boycotting Burger King and sending them a message at www.ciw-online.org.

COCA-COLA is one of the world's most powerful and profitable corporations, yet it has not taken measures to ensure the basic safety of its workers or to prevent massive environmental devastation in surrounding communities. In India, thousands of farmers' livelihoods have been affected by Coca-Cola's practices. Local government agencies in states across India confirm that Coca-Cola has depleted and destroyed the groundwater system and polluted the soil.

In Colombia, corporations like Coca-Cola and **CHIQUITA BANANA** support death squads that have killed about 4,000 labor organizers. Two U.S. unions filed a lawsuit on behalf of SINALTRAINAL, the workers' union in Colombia.

Stand up for labor! Visit www.laborrights.org for more information.

*Stand up
for human
rights the
next time you
get fast food
or shop just
by **avoiding**
Burger King,
Coca-Cola
and Chiquita
bananas.
(See why in
article at left.)*

**Congratulations
to Joan Weiss, who
was elected as a
Local 8 Trustee for
the 2008-2011 term.**

Local 8 PAC Contributors Wanted!

We know you've heard it once, you've heard it twice, but have you considered contributing yet? You may have asked yourself why is the Political Action Committee (PAC) asking members for money; **can't the union just get the money from our dues and give to candidates?** No! Political contributions cannot come from union dues. Money given to candidates must be voluntarily given by members to our union PAC and then passed on to candidates. **Why do candidates need our money?** They need money to pay for ads, mailers and yard signs and other costs to run a campaign. Candidates that working families support are up against opponents funded by deep-pocketed individuals and corporations who want to weaken workers' rights. **What have labor endorsed candidates done for working people?** With the help of union PACs we have been able to elect representatives who passed laws to give our state some of the strongest Workers Compensation and Family Leave laws. Soon we will have **paid** Family Leave for a Birth of a Child. Wow! But these laws are at risk if we don't ensure that candidates who support working families' issues are elected into office. **We hope you will NOW consider giving to Local 8's PAC!** To become a monthly PAC contributor through payroll deduction or to give a one-time contribution, visit the Local 8 website at www.opeiu8.org. Questions: contact **Shelby Mooney**, shelby@opeiu8.org or 206-448-2615.



Local OPEIU Journal

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

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**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 Meetings only. After
5:00 p.m., punch in *011213# on the
monitor by the garage door.

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