

CALENDAR

Go to www.opeiu8.org
for latest details
or contact Local 8

Wednesday, Sept. 23

- **Membership Meeting:** Seattle Labor Temple, 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

- **Shop Steward Committee Meeting:** Seattle Labor Temple, 6:00 p.m. , Room 310
Conference Call-In Available

Saturday, October 17

- **Leadership Training** Seattle
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Benton County PUD
2721 W. 10th, Kennewick

Wednesday, Oct. 28

- **Membership Meeting:** Seattle Labor Temple, 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

- **Membership Meeting:** Seattle Labor Temple, 6:15 p.m.
(*Note last meeting of the year!)

Saturday, December 5

- **Leadership Training**
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Olympia Center
222 Columbia St. NW
Room 101

New Members at Kennewick General Hospital Vote 100% for First Contract

Over 200 workers at Kennewick General Hospital now enjoy the benefits of a union contract for the first time. Workers at this public district hospital won their union election in June 2008 and spent the year bargaining for a contract that provides job protections, a wage scale with anniversary steps and other benefits. “We finally have a fair contract! My co-workers are happy that we have guaranteed wage increases, a grievance process and wage steps in our contract”, states Housekeeper, **Lori Lee Garner**. KGH Workers United is a joint project with SEIU 1199NW. Members will now begin work on electing Shop Stewards to help enforce the contract and continue to build a strong organization.



The KGH Bargaining Team Celebrate Their Victory

Local 8 Members Vote to Approve Historic Changes to Our Union

(see Page 2 inside)

Members

Local 8 Members Vote To Approve Historic Governance Changes

In May, nearly fifty members gathered from all over the State to forge a new governance model for our Union. The Voice of the Membership Assembly unanimously approved bringing the new model to the Local 8 Membership for a vote. Members overwhelmingly voted 109 to 31 to adopt the new structure. The vote took place over four specially called Membership Meetings throughout the summer. Ballots were mingled and tallied at the final meeting in Aberdeen on July 28.

As reported in previous newsletters and elsewhere, Local 8 has expanded Membership Meetings and the Executive Board to be more inclusive and responsive to members throughout the State. The new model will begin in 2010 with our first Membership Assembly on Saturday, January 23. Watch for details in late November. Members can also get more information on the new bylaws changes and structure at www.opeiu8.org.

Executive Board

Verlene Jones
President
Marie Cook
Vice President
Cindy Schu
Secretary-Treasurer
Evelyn Bowles
Recording Secretary
Valancy Blackwell
Mike Gimlin
Audrey Gunderson
Ruthie Jacobs
Kellie McGuire
Carmen Paez
Kathi Scott
Kathy Taylor
Karen White

Staff

Suzanne Mode
Business Manager
Cindy Schu
Organizing Director
Shelby Mooney
Organizer
Ligia Velázquez
Union Representative
Mary Maloy
Union Representative
Benita Hyder
Union Representative
Shannon Halme
Union Representative
Paul Bigman
Union Representative
Amanda Saylor
Member Support Representative
Colleen Shelton
Office Manager
Libby Alejandro
Administrative Secretary
Betty Devereaux
Secretary/Receptionist
Lori Risteyn
Bookkeeper
Mary Silver
Billing Clerk

Social Work Intern

Kevin McGill



Election Committee Counting Ballots at the Final Vote in Aberdeen July 28, 2009

UNION ACTIVISTS NEVER GET OLD...

They just get smarter and graduate to larger issues.

Maureen Bo, V.P. Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans (PSARA)

When I left the very rewarding job as Business Manager of OPEIU Local 8 after 17 years, I became active in PSARA. It is an action group which continues the work I did in Local

8. I highly recommend it to anyone who cares about economic justice and civic engagement.

You have helped make improvements in your wages, hours and working conditions through your activism in the union. Your knowledge and skills in creating change is needed for next steps: Working on your retirement security. The Union will continue to be a strong advocate for your union pension and benefits. The PSARA works with unions and other community groups to fight for economic security for retirees on a wider front. As corporations figure out new ways to grab our Social Security and Medicare money for their bottom line, we are still in the fight for our life to stop the pillaging and begin to increase retiree benefits.

PSARA is a home from which you can advocate cracking down on corporate greed and putting people's needs first. You can continue to support your sisters and brothers in the Labor Movement and not only advocate for a decent life for yourself, but for the children and grandchildren that follow you.

We need your help. Will you join us by a \$15 a year membership in PSARA, and if possible, join our phone tree and other citizen actions to strengthen our influence on local and national government. More information is available on our website at psara.org, including a membership form and our current newsletters. You may also call me at home before 9 p.m. 206-285-5668 for more information.

in Action

100th Anniversary NAACP Convention

Report from Local 8 President Verlene Jones

With the support of the Seattle Branch of the NAACP, OPEIU Local 8 and the Martin Luther King Jr. County Labor Council I was able to attend this historic event. With over 5,000 participants in attendance we came together as Civil Rights Activist, Labor Activist and Community Activist to celebrate 100 years of advocating for people of color in every community across the United States and around the world. We reviewed the richness of our diverse history and the founders of the organization to highlight how people of color from all communities came together to fight for the rights of everyone to be treated equally under the Constitution of this great country.

The convention covered many subjects from protection of civil rights laws, working family's campaigns to issues around healthcare reform.

Labor hosted a fundraiser luncheon during the convention that had over 800 participants in attendance. Rich Trumka Secretary Treasurer of the National AFL-CIO was the keynote speaker. He began by thanking the NAACP for its public support for the Employee Free Choice Act and standing by their commitment as they lost corporate support for their convention. He talked about the long standing relationship between Labor and the NAACP and reconfirmed Labor's commitment to work in coalition on issues of Civil and Human Rights. With the support of OPEIU International Union and President Michael Goodwin I was able to host a table of 10 OPEIU members at this luncheon and make a \$500.00 donation. Labors



Verlene Jones, President OPEIU Local 8 Seattle with Michael Goodwin, International President OPEIU

fundraising for this event resulted in donations to the NAACP of \$230,000. (Labor Rocks!)

I would like to give a special thank you to OPEIU International Union, OPEIU Local 8, Martin Luther King Jr. County Labor Council and the Seattle Chapter of the NAACP for providing the funding for me to attend this great event. **For more information on the Seattle Chapter of the NAACP or how to join contact Verlene Jones at (206) 441-7102.**

Shop Steward Committee Meets September 29

Thank you to Shop Stewards: Audrey Gunderson, Elizabeth Matthews, Carmen Paez, John Latimer, David Olivera, Maria Michaels, Joan Weiss, and Anthony Forte who attended the first Shop Steward Committee Meeting on August 18 to start work on a new Steward Incentive Policy. **The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29** at the Seattle Labor Temple, but conference call-in is available for members who live outside of the Seattle area. Contact Cindy Schu at 1-800-600-2433 (ext. 102) or



Local 8 Delegates & friends at the Washington State Labor Council Convention in Wenatchee. The Convention sets forth Labor's platforms & positions for the year.

Election Day Activities coordinated by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Council.

Help elect candidates who support working families.

Check out www.mlkclc.org

Local 8 Representative Job Opening

Local 8 has a part-time, salaried Union Representative position open based in the Tri-Cities or Yakima area. There is a potential for the position to become full-time.

Duties for the position include but are not limited to:

- Serve as chief spokesperson in labor negotiations.
- Prepare contract proposals, formulate bargaining strategies.
- Administer contracts, resolve grievances, counsel and advise members and Shop Stewards.
- Prepare and present educational or informational programs.
- Participate in legislative, political, labor and community affairs.

This position requires long hours with frequent evening and weekend work. Some travel is required within Washington State. Fluency in Spanish is highly desired. Salary depends on experience. A comprehensive package of benefits is provided. For the full job description, please call the Local 8 office at 206-441-8880 or 1-800-600-2433.

Submit your resume and letter of application by Thursday, October 1 to OPEIU Local 8, 2800 First Ave. #304, Seattle, WA 98121-1114 or email libby@opeiu8.org. Fax: 206-441-0207.



Local 8 Members March in Support of Health Care for All on May 30.



www.opeiu.org

Email: opeiu8@opeiu.org

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.

Address Service Requested

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

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