

Chapter Meeting/ Assembly & Member Education

Check www.opeiu8.org for the latest schedule, locations and updated information.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

- **Wednesday, May 25**
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Seattle
- **Saturday, June 4**
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Olympia
- **Thursday, June 16**
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Port Angeles
- **Saturday, June 25**
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Mt. Vernon

Upcoming Member Education

- **Reaching Out to New (And Not So New) Members**
Saturday, May 21
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Seattle

Upcoming Assembly

- **Saturday, September 24**
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Social hour 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Location: Medallion Hotel
16710 Smokey Point Blvd.
Arlington, WA
(We were unable to find a suitable venue in Bellingham.)

Union Power for La Clínica Workers

It's been over a year since their contract has expired, but the workers at La Clínica (now called Tri-Cities Community Health-TCCH) continue to stand up to an employer bent on taking away nearly every protection currently in their Union Contract. TCCH, a community and migrant health center dependent on mostly state dollars, has employed a high priced attorney who is a partner at a multi-national law firm.



After months of wasting valuable resources on union busting, TCCH is now proposing layoffs. The Bargaining Team has offered to make economic concessions, but management persists in driving the organization further afield. Last month workers organized an informational picket to gather support from the community who rely on the services provided by TCCH. Watch for more street action in the future.

Cannon House Employees Say Union Yes!

When the overwhelming majority of the 40 employees at Cannon House signed support cards saying they wanted to join together, Sea Mar Community Health Center voluntarily recognized their Union. Cannon House is an assisted living facility serving the Central District community purchased by Sea Mar in 2009. Workers there recently negotiated their first Union Contract with the help of bargaining team members: **Harold Baker, Yalem Getachew** and **Auroro Bautista**. Welcome to our newest Local 8 members!



New Local 8 Members at Cannon House.

State of t

Executive Board

Kellie McGuire

President

Kathi Scott

Vice President

Cindy Schu

Secretary-Treasurer

Valancy Blackwell

Interim Recording

Secretary

Karen White,

Central

Ruthie Cuthrell,

Central

Anthony Forte,

Central

Jan Hays, *Central*

David Olivera,

Central

Carmen Paez, *North*

Audrey Gunderson,

North

John O'Keefe, *North*

Mary Jo Dalzell,

North

Kathi Taylor,

South /West

Bill Messenger,

South/West

Michelle Ruiz,

South/West

Rosario Lunar, *East*

Barb Brennan, *East*

Robin Sullivan, *East*

Joan Weiss

Trustee

Lois Jamieson

Trustee

Heather Hanson

Trustee

Carol Rozumalski

Trustee

By Suzanne Mode, Business Manager and Cindy Schu, Organizing Director/Sec.Treasurer

No Time for Sitting On the Sidelines

Unions stand for preserving the right to join freely with our co-workers to improve workplace standards through collective bargaining, providing family wage jobs and a safety net for those without resources and creating a framework for a fair and equitable society. Contrast these ideals with a nation that tolerates a 23% increase of CEO pay in 2010 with an average salary of \$11.5 million, where 400 U.S. families have more wealth than 155 million Americans combined and income inequality that grows daily.

The continuous battle for a more economically and socially just country has escalated to appalling heights. The budget fight in Wisconsin symbolizes the national debate over the power and relevance of Unions. Governor Scott Walker and others want us to believe Unions are greedy and irrelevant. They not only want hefty concessions from union employees, they also want to squash our rights and decimate our collective



Our Local 8 Delegation to Wisconsin with OPEIU International President Michael Goodwin. L-R. Member Charlie Best, Michael Goodwin, Local 8 President Kellie McGuire and Executive Board Member Karen White.



Week of Solidarity Action Began at the Peace Arch on April 2. L-R Executive Board Member John O'Keefe, Steward Janice Herrera, Executive Board Member Audrey Gunderson.

power. Unfortunately Wisconsin is not alone in this demolition. Local 8 members at the Washington State Ferries, home care agencies, housing authorities, King County and community health centers all face threatened financial security.

But as the great folk singer and activist Pete Seeger observed recently, "Maybe the Republican governor, he's done us a favor by bringing the problem to national attention. It shows the whole country how much we need unions. We may end up thanking him."

t h e U n i o n

There's no choice but to push forward forcefully and urgently. We can't sit on the sidelines waiting for better times. We must organize so workers have the protection of a union contract like new members at Sea Mar's Cannon House in Seattle and Group Health Cooperative in eastern Washington/northern Idaho. We must mobilize for fair contracts that preserve workplace standards like members at Tri-Cities Community Health (formally La Clinica) are doing to push back attempts to gut their contract. We must join with fellow union members in visible protests like the Week of Action rallies where thousands gathered to show "WE ARE ONE".

Maintaining a strong union that can weather these difficult financial times and stand up to emboldened employers takes an active membership. Fortunately, with our new structure more and more Local 8 members ARE participating. As we go into the second year of our statewide governance model, nearly 100 activists attended our third statewide Assembly in January. Members from all over the State met for the day and decided the policies and priorities of our Union. And, with the election of Business Manager

Suzanne Mode as an OPEIU Vice-President, we have a direct voice to our International. For the first time in Local 8's history, we have a Hardship Fund for our Members in need. Our Diversity Committee, Shop Steward/Education Committee, Chapter/Assembly Committee and Political Action Committee have all seen increased participation.

Now is not the time to despair and sit on the sidelines. We must stand up for what we believe in by actively protesting our government's wayward direction and/or by participating in our employee organization to build a powerful workplace voice.



Local 8 Members from Sea Mar Community Health Center, Senior Life Resources, Cannon House with Student Intern Chris Stockwell (center), Executive Board Member Barb Brennan (second from right back row) and Union Rep Benita Hyder in Olympia to lobby to "Put People First".

Staff

Suzanne Mode
Business Manager

Cindy Schu
Organizing Director

Shelby Mooney
Union Representative

Mary Maloy
Union Representative

Benita Hyder
Union Representative

Amanda Saylor
Union Representative

Valarie Peaphon
Union Representative

Mike Gimlin
Membership Support Representative

Colleen Shelton
Office Manager

Libby Alejandro
Administrative Secretary

Betty Devereaux
Secretary/Receptionist

Lori Risteyn
Bookkeeper

Mary Silver
Billing Clerk

Welcome
to our new
Eastern
Washington
Membership
Support
Representative
(MSR)

Mike Gimlin
and to
Executive
Board
Member
(East Region)

Rosario Lunar
who will fill
Mike's seat on
the Board.

Diversity Committee Educates and Celebrates Local 8 Membership

Who are we? OPEIU Local 8 has a Diversity Committee that is trying to answer this question. Our statewide membership is very unique and the Diversity Committee wants to assure that our Union grows with all members wishing to participate. But we need members who are willing to make the commitment of letting their voices be heard and attend our monthly meetings. All members are welcomed to participate via telephone conference the third Saturday of each month at noon. It's the duty of this committee to educate and celebrate the membership that makes up OPEIU Local 8. "Si se puede!"

- David Olivera, Chair

Thank You to Evelyn Bowles Local 8 Recording Secretary

Our Union's Recording Secretary assumes the important role of documenting all official business conducted at Executive Board Meetings and Membership Assemblies. **Evelyn Bowles** served us well over the last decade and we'll miss her leadership with her recent retirement. Evelyn has been a legal receptionist at Schwerin Campbell Barnard Iglitzin and Lavitt and has been the Local 8 Shop Steward there since 1999. Additionally Evelyn sits on the Advisory Board for Evergreen State College in Olympia and Seattle Vocational Institute.

With Evelyn's departure, Executive Board Member **Valancy Blackwell** has stepped in on an interim basis. In accordance with the Local 8 Bylaws, nominations and election for the Recording Secretary to fill the remaining year and half of Evelyn's term will be held at the next Assembly in Arlington on Saturday, September 24.



**Check Out
Two New Links**

on

www.opeiu8.org

**Membership Support
and Hardship Fund**

**The Stand—
the WSLC's
On-Line News**



www.opeiu8.org
Email: opeiu8@opeiu8.org

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Local 8 Journal



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