

Check www.opeiu8.org for the most up to date calendar.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

- **ABERDEEN**
Sat., May 19, 10:00 am – Noon
IAM Woodworkers
2600 Sumner Ave.
- **DOWNTOWN SEATTLE**
Wed., May 23, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Seattle Labor Temple, Hall 6
2800 First Ave.
- **OLYMPIA**
Sat., June 2, 10:00 am – Noon
Davis Williams Bldg, Suite 330
906 Columbia St. SW.
- **PORT ANGELES**
Thurs., June 14, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Conference Room - J47
Peninsula College
1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd.
- **MT. VERNON**
Sat., June 23, 10:00 am – Noon
Burlington Senior Center
1011 E Greenleaf

Next Assembly

- Sat., September 22, Yakima

Next Member Education

- Sat., October 27, Olympia

OPEI-Who Vs. OPEI-You!

I know many of our members go to Olympia to advocate for home care, housing and other important issues and have forged good relationships with some of our legislators. But legislators turn over, and recently, while in Olympia, I had an experience that became a bit of a revelation for me. I was talking to a legislator about priorities important to me and mentioned I was a union member. When the legislator asked me which union I was a part of, I stated that I was a proud member of OPEIU 8. The legislator then raised her eyebrows quizzically and said, “Who”?

I patiently explained that OPEIU Local 8 has over 5,000 members in a diversity of communities across the state.

Needless to say, she was much more interested in my point of view after I had explained the scope and reach of OPEIU.

Later, I had some time to reflect on this. Why had the legislator not known the union I’m a part of? Then I learned about the OPEIU 8 PAC—our Political Action Committee. Of our 5,000 OPEIU members, only 70 are participating PAC members. Remember, member dues can’t be used for political candidates so we must rely on voluntary contributions. PAC funds are a direct measurement of ability to participate in the broader political and legislative process. I became a PAC member immediately because I know that, with every additional monthly commitment, OPEIU Local 8 will have a louder collective voice when it comes to advocating for our priorities in government.

I’m proud of my union for many reasons. I love the energy, diversity, and commitment that our members show to the organization. It saddens me to think that our PAC is so small, compared to how it could be if more members contributed. We need that level of commitment to be on the front lines fighting for the progressive priorities I know that we hold in common.

I would ask that you join me in becoming a monthly donor to the OPEIU 8 PAC. **How to contribute? Easy. Click on the \$8 for Local 8 tab** on the homepage of www.opeiu8.org, print out the form and return to your

employer if you have a PAC deduction option. Together, we can make sure that our voices are heard in the political process, and that we can be a deciding force when our progressive priorities hang in the balance in Olympia.

Max Brown, Local 8 Member
ML King County Labor Council



Look for this Button at www.opeiu8.org

The **Local 8 PAC** meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., Room 310, Seattle Labor Temple. Conference call-in can be arranged.

Members

Executive Board

Kellie McGuire
President

Kathi Scott
Vice President

Cindy Schu
Secretary-Treasurer

Shaunie Saelee
Recording Secretary

Valancy Blackwell,
Central

Karen White,
Central

Ruthie Cuthrell,
Central

Anthony Forte,
Central

Jan Hays, Central

David Olivera,
Central

Pam Hansen, North

Janice Herrera,
North

Audrey Gunderson,
North

John O'Keefe, North

Jan Abberger,
South /West

Bill Messenger,
South/West

Michelle Ruiz,
South/West

Barb Brennan, East

Robin Sullivan, East

Joan Weiss
Trustee

Lois Jamieson
Trustee

Heather Hanson
Trustee

Carol Rozumalski
Trustee

The Union Contracts for over 75% of our members are being negotiated this year. "Negotiating for a fair contract is a challenge in the best of times. Mix a wobbly economy with employers who genuinely feel the crunch and with those who just take advantage of the bad times to say "no" and our members are in for quite a fight at the bargaining table", says lead negotiator and Local 8 Business Manager, **Suzanne Mode**. "I'm confident though, with our dedicated Bargaining Teams, we'll not lose ground on the good union standards we've won in the past."

Sea Mar Community Health Clinic Bargaining Team Standing Strong

SeaMar Community Health Clinic Bargaining Team Members: **Sarah Dailey, Lourdes Liera, Ian SMarkussen, Maria Michels, Gertie Morseletto, Phoebe Olivera, Brenda Ortega, Jose Trejo, Iris Valladares, and Verinia "Vivi" Zepeda** (some pictured)



have been in negotiations with Sea Mar management since December of last year. They have reached some tentative agreements with management, but are holding strong on priorities such as not changing hours to avoid paying overtime, more access to taking time off, and consistent application of work rules and job security. We still have no agreement on wage increases, but hope to reach a settlement soon.

High Stakes at Group Health Negotiations

OPEIU Local 8, along with our sister Local 23, represents over 1,000 members at GHC. Our 15 member Bargaining Team (pictured below) is re-negotiating our Contract with Group Health which expired in March. The Contract has been extended to allow more time to resolve several important issues facing members: A general cost of living increase with additional step increases to reward longevity; improved job promotion opportunities; protection of our EIB (GHC wants to eliminate our Extended Illness Bank) and protection of our bargaining unit work.



Welfare and Pension Administration

Local 8 members at Welfare and Pension Administration Service, Inc. (WPAS, Inc) overwhelmingly ratified a new four year Agreement. The very hard working Bargaining Team and holding strong co-workers fought off a company "drug testing" policy and movement to a higher medical deductible plan with a 10% ancillary cost share while receiving two percent across the board increases each year of their Contract.



Find us on
Facebook

www.Facebook.com/OPEIULocal8

All Members who "like" us in the month of May will get a Local 8 T-shirt or cap!



i n A c t i o n



Providence Hospital Workers Deliver Petition

Environmental Services Workers at Providence Everett are taking a stand to protect their bargaining unit work. **Rohey Sawo**, right, Steward at the Pacific Campus shows off one of the pages of signatures she gathered that will be delivered to the CEO of Providence Medical Center Everett.

Solidarity Works for Solid Ground Workers

Solid Ground workers took time off from work to join their Bargaining Team during wage and benefit negotiations and their presence allowed them to make substantial improvements to their severance package as well as securing additional increases for co-workers in the bottom two lowest pay grades.



Staff

- Suzanne Mode**
Business Manager
- Cindy Schu**
Organizing Director
- Shelby Mooney**
Organizer
- Mary Maloy**
Union Representative
- Benita Hyder**
Union Representative
- Amanda Saylor**
Union Representative
- Valarie Peaphon**
Union Representative
- Mike Gimlin**
Union Representative
- Diane Arnold**
Union Representative
- Corinne Cosentino**
Membership Support Representative
- Colleen Shelton**
Office Manager
- Libby Alejandro**
Administrative Secretary
- Betty Devereaux**
Secretary/Receptionist
- Lori Risteyn**
Bookkeeper
- Mary Silver**
Billing Clerk

Our Union Helped Us Stand Up for Our Rights

This article was submitted by member Dang Dung (pictured below), a CNA at SeaMar Care Center who recently won her job back after filing a grievance over an unjust termination.

I would love to tell you about how I and all my co-workers feel about me getting back to work after being fired.

First, it is never enough for me to say THANK YOU! The day I got fired I called my Union Representative, Shelby. She started my grievance file right away. When we had meetings with my supervisor, Shelby told me to speak truthfully and from my heart, and I never forgot her advice. I did as she said and she did all paper work. I was so sad and upset. My co-workers were too and we weren't sure what to do so we counted on Shelby.



When I got back to work I received a lot of cheering from my coworkers and we celebrated. Sometimes it was like a dream, I could not believe I have my job back. My getting back to work, not only affected my life but all employees. We do believe our Union helped us to have rights at work. Before people didn't speak up, now any problems at work they come to me. Getting my job back was a huge change in my life and I will never forget the help I got from my Union. We are very appreciative of our Union and what we can do for all workers.

Thank you to the Local 8 Hiring Committee and to the members who applied for the MSR position. Our Local is in good hands with so many leaders ready to come on board! We hope to have additional MSR positions in the future.

Welcome to Our New Local 8 Staff Members

Corinne Cosentino, Membership Support Representative (MSR)

I am very excited to be joining the Local 8 staff as a Membership Support Representative. You may have seen me at meetings over the years or know me as your Political Action Committee chair, Seattle Chapter chair, or delegate to the Martin Luther King County Labor Council and Washington State Labor Council. I grew up in Bothell and graduated from Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon where I studied Political Science and became proficient in Spanish. For the last five years, I have been working at Carpenters Health and Security Trust, where I serve as a shop steward. I have always been passionate about worker rights and am looking forward to devoting my full energy to strengthening our union.

Diane Arnold, Union Representative

I first met the amazing staff at Local 8 as a practicum student while studying at the University of WA where I eventually earned my Masters in Social Work in policy studies in 2007. During my practicum, I helped organize Senior Life Resources and member visits with WA State Legislators. Working with the Local 8 staff I was struck by not only their fierce commitment to the membership and all workers of the world, but to their inspiring dedication to team work. I thought to myself, I want to be a part of their team. And now I am! After graduating I worked as an international organizer for the OPEIU and then as a Healthcare Representative at UFCW 21. I am so very excited to join the staff and membership at Local 8 and I look forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you!



www.opeiug.org
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