



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

Watch for Upcoming
 Member Education
 and
 Chapter Meeting Dates

Monday, Jan. 21

■ **“Let Freedom Ring!”**
 29th Annual MLK Jr. Day March
 Look for the Local 8 Banner at
 Garfield High School
 400 23rd Avenue, Seattle
 Rally at 11:00 am
 March at 12:30 pm

Saturday, Jan. 26

■ **Membership Assembly**
 Kelso/Longview
 See details to the right.



**Find us on
 Facebook**
www.Facebook.com/OPEIULocal8

Notice of 2013 OPEIU Local 8 Nominations and Elections

In accordance with Article 14 of Local 8’s Bylaws, this is notification that Nominations and elections will take place at the January 26 Membership Assembly (see below for times and location). The nominations and elections process will begin in the morning session. The Local 8 Constitution and Bylaws, which describes the duties and responsibilities for each position, can be found on the Local 8 website at www.opeiu8.org under “About Us”, or call the Local 8 office for a copy. The Bylaws also explain in detail the election process.

- **Nominations and election of an Election Board of seven (7) members**, including 2 alternates for a 3 year term.
- **Nominations and election of Delegates to all Central Labor Councils** to serve a two year term.
- **Nominations and election of four (4) Delegates to the OPEIU International Convention** to be held Monday, June 3 through - Thursday, June 6, 2013 in San Diego, California. Funds may be available to pay for registration, transportation, per diem and lodging , but not time loss. The Business Manager is an automatic Delegate.

(Continue on back page)

Raise Your Union Voice

at the next **Assembly!**

Saturday, January 26, 2013


10:00 am to 4:00 pm (registration at 9:30 am)
 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Social Hour
 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Bunco Hardship Fundraiser (see pledge form on-line!)

Red Lion Inn - Kelso/Longview, 510 Kelso Dr., Kelso, WA
 Box Lunch Provided

Highlights of the Next Assembly

- Nominations and Election of Officers and Delegates (see above for details)
- Committee Meetings for Hardship Fundraising, Diversity, Shop Steward/Communication, Political Action and Chapter Meeting
- Review and Approval of Any New Union Business
- Review and Approval of the 2013 Budget and Annual Donations
- Member Reports/Members in Action 2012
- Tommy McLean Union Activist Award

Register with Lori at lori@opeiu8.org or 1-800-600-2433 (ext. 123) as soon as possible. Travel stipends may be available. Let us know if you need childcare or help with transportation.



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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

Jim O'Connor
Trustee

Carol Rozumalski
Trustee

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

Happy New Year! A toast to our Local 8 members for making our Union strong, relevant and well positioned to fight for economic justice as we head into 2013. You made your power felt as **Bargaining Team Members, Shop Stewards, Committee Members, Chapter Chairs, Executive Board Members, Trustees, Political Activists, Central and WSLC Labor Council Delegates, Organizers,** and as activists in constituent groups like **WA YELL** and in many other union roles. An active, committed membership means a greater chance of pushing back regressive actions like what happened recently in Michigan. A once union-strong state is now weakened by harmful “right to work” for less laws. It’s a fact: states with low union density and weak labor laws have more poverty and lower wages. We can support the progressive momentum in Washington State by keeping our Union strong—here are a few highlights from 2012.

Over 75% of Local 8 members were at the **bargaining table in 2012**. Many employers, using the poor economy as an excuse, tried to chip away at our standards, but mostly they lost the battle. While wage increases continued to be lower than usual, we maintained or improved critical workplace standards and avoided large scale job loss. For example, with one of our three largest groups, **Sea Mar Community Health Centers**, we strengthened “just cause” standards so employees can no longer be fired for simply having 3 disciplines, and we established a PTO donation policy to help co-workers in need. At **Providence Regional Medical Center Everett** medical benefit costs will likely continue to increase but we were able to bargain large bonuses to offset costs. Over 95% of the members just approved the new contract. At **Group Health Cooperative** we’ve been able to use strong layoff

language to mitigate job loss. Our members at **Seattle and King County Housing Authorities, LIHI, Valley Medical Center, King County Dental and Department of Assessments, Washington State Ferries, CTWW, Consejo,** all of our **Home Care** groups along with many others are still involved or have finished hard fought campaigns to secure and maintain strong union standards in our Contracts.

In 2013, we’re back at the bargaining table at **Kennewick General Hospital (KGH)** and **Tri-Cities Community Health (La Clínica)** in Eastern Washington. Both are sure to be major



Providence Hospital Employees Outreach to Everett Community for Contract Bargaining Support

contract campaigns. Our **Trade Section** members will also be at the bargaining table to make tough decisions about pension costs and other issues.

Despite curtailed hiring in many sectors, Local 8 continues to grow. Last year we welcomed 70 staff from **Washington Federation of State Employees** who will bring lots of ideas and energy to our Union. We’ve got several organizing campaigns in the works with Local 8 members helping to outreach to their non-union co-workers. Our International Union continues to recognize our achievements in organizing by providing a multi-year organizing stipend to help us achieve our goals. Our Organizers will also be supporting members from **Sea Mar** in their wage equity campaign this spring, as well as other groups who need help organizing for a fair contract. We’ve made sure our 2013 Budget provides funding to allow members to take time from work to help with organizing activities.

The **Local 8 Political Action Committee** devoted many hours to the largely labor friendly election outcome. This will be a critical year for our **Home Care** members who’ve been working without raises for several years. We must convince our Legislature to approve funding for Home Care Worker wage increases this year. This will be a top legislative priority for Local 8 with weekly Lobby Days already set.

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We'll also be reaching out to Central Labor Councils and to our Washington State Labor Council for support.

Local 8 is a non-profit employee organization funded entirely from member dues. We're proud of our transparent and diligent financial management. We anticipate our 2012 year-end financial report will show us close to our projected budget goals. In 2013 we will definitely be more financially challenged, but we're committed to investing in a staffing model that can support members and focus on continued organizing. To date, we've not had to tap into our reserve which is important to maintain so we can be prepared for any unforeseen challenges facing our members and Union.

We continue to evolve into a truly democratic organization. Three years ago members voted to completely change our governance structure and it's working. Our twice a year Membership Assemblies are well attended with active participation. Chapter Meetings need more participation which we'll address this year. The **Diversity Committee** worked on GOTV efforts and is looking for members who can conduct lunch time meetings around workers' rights. The **Shop Steward/Communication/Education Committee** sponsored several education events and helped make improvements to our communication capabilities with enhancements to our website, email, and Facebook. The **Hardship Committee** helped 49 members in need and the recently established **Fundraising** arm raised nearly \$2,000 from member donations and events.

2013 will surely bring new challenges and conflicts but OPEIU Local 8 remains a healthy, democratic organization with leadership committed to fighting for good contracts, protecting our members' rights, organizing new groups and securing social justice in our workplaces and communities.

Workers at Consejo Win Union Activist Award

OPEIU Local 8's **Tommy McLean Union Activist Award** is intended to honor a group of members who demonstrate the heart of unionism—strength, solidarity and courage. While so many of our bargaining units embody these traits, and fought hard to secure good contracts, the members at **Consejo Counseling and Referral Service** have earned this year's award for their exceptional unity. Members at **Consejo** had particularly difficult contract negotiations with challenging issues spanning 2 years. They ultimately won a fair contract and fought back takeaways. That happened because of their total willingness to take necessary action...together. They communicated with their Board of Directors, delivered a petition to Management, wore union stickers, prepared to take their message to the community and devotedly attended contract strategy meetings. Consejo proved that even a small group of workers, when nearly every member participates, has the power to force economic justice.

The Award is named in memory of member **Tommy McLean** who died in 2005. Tommy was an exceptional activist who helped to organize his co-workers at the King County Dept. of Assessments in 1993 among many other accomplishments. The Award will be presented at the January 26 Membership Assembly.



Consejo Employees United for a Fair Contract

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

*Welcome to our
University of Washington
Social Work Intern*

Ivan Cuevas

Notice of Nominations and Elections *(Continued from page 1)*

- **Nominations for Business Manager, President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, seventeen (17) Regional Executive Board Members, and seventeen (17) Executive Board Alternates.**

The seventeen (17) Regional Executive Board members shall be nominated and elected only by those members who reside in the same region as the Regional Executive Board members. The President, Vice-President, Business Manager, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary are at-large positions and voted on by the entire membership. The four (4) Regions and how the seventeen (17) positions are distributed are as follows in accordance with the formula defined in Section 1(c) of Article 14 of the Local 8 Constitution and Bylaws. Note there has been the addition of one Central Region position based on the formula.

NORTH REGION: Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan and Island Counties shall nominate and elect four (4) Regional Executive Board Members.

CENTRAL: Martin Luther King Jr. County shall nominate and elect seven (7) Regional Executive Board Members.

SOUTH/WEST REGION: Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Gray's Harbor, Thurston, Pierce, Pacific, Lewis, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Clark and Skamania Counties shall nominate and elect three (3) Regional Executive Board Members.

EAST REGION: All other Washington State Counties shall nominate and elect three (3) Regional Executive Board Members.

Members who reside outside of Washington State shall be included in the four (4) Regions as follows: Members who reside in Hood River County, Oregon and all Oregon counties west shall be part of the South/West Region. Members who reside in Oregon counties east of Hood River County, Idaho and all other states shall be part of the East Region.

- **Eligibility:** Members must be in continuous good standing for at least twelve (12) months prior to an election for any officer position or for International Convention Delegate. Members must be in continuous good standing for at least six (6) months prior to an election for Central Labor Council Delegate positions.
- **Nomination Process:** Nominees must be in attendance at the meeting where they are nominated or declare in writing their willingness to accept the nomination. Written declaration must be presented before the close of nominations.
- **Election:** Election process for officers will be by mail ballot in accordance with the OPEIU Local 8 Election Policies and Procedures and with the Local 8 Constitution and Bylaws. Both of these documents are available on the website and by contacting Libby at the Local 8 office. Ballots will be tallied on Wednesday, February 27 at a time decided by the Election Board.



www.opeiu.org
Email: opeiu@opeiu.org

Address Service Requested

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

Local 8 Journal



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