



Local 8 OPEIU Journal

www.opeiu8.org

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January/February 2008

Mon., Jan. 21

- MLK Jr. Day March & Rally, 12:00 noon, Franklin High School.

Wed., Jan. 23

- Membership Meeting, 6:15 p.m., Hall 6. *Agenda: Review and Approve 2008 Budget.*

Wed., Feb. 27

- Membership Meeting, 6:15 p.m., Hall 6. *Agenda: Nominate & Elect New Trustee.*

MEETING LOCATIONS & TIMES: Seattle Labor Temple, 2800 First Ave., Seattle.

- Political Action Committee, 5:30 p.m., Hall 6.
- New Member Orientation, 5:30 p.m., Rm. 244.

March for Justice

A call to all Local 8 members to join together for the 26th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. March and Rally. From 9:30 to 11:00, there will be workshops, and at noon there will be a rally. Franklin High School, 3013 S. Mount Baker Blvd., Seattle. (Take I-90 to Rainier Ave. S. exit.)



Flood Devastation Hits Hard

Many of our union brothers and sisters in Southwest Washington suffered devastating hardship as the result of the rampaging floods last month. Some are still struggling to put their lives back together. Here are a few ways you can help:

United Way of Lewis County, (360) 520-9675. Call Judy for more information. www.lewiscountyuw.com. **United Way of Grays Harbor**, www.unitedway-wa-org/grays, (360) 532-6260. **IBEW Local 77**, www.ibew77.com. Look across top link for "Flood Victims Ask for Help."



Local 8 was honored with a visit by OPEIU International President Michael Goodwin (second from left) who presented workers at Community Health Center La Clínica with the Tommy McLean Activism Award (see page 2 for story).

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M E M B E R S . . .

Recognizing Local 8 Members

Local 8 held its second Member Recognition Party at the Museum of History and Industry on October 27. Nearly 200 members and guests celebrated the longevity and dedication of our members.

Local 8 President Verlene Jones got the evening rolling, then long-time members Charlie Best, Kellie McGuire and Karen White gave service pins to members with 20 or more years of service. Congratulations to Norma Kelsey, former Local 8 President, for celebrating 46 years of service.

Angela Boehlke, Shelby Mooney and Benita Hyder presented Local 8 Home Care Workers with the Legislative Advocacy Award for their hundreds of contacts with state legislators to advocate for better funding. Angela, our dedicated Political Action Chair, was awarded the PAC Outstanding Achievement Award by Marie Cook, the previous winner.

Cindy Schu and Dave Westphal honored workers at Solid Ground with the JoAnn Kaye Volunteer Organizers Award for their efforts to organize Broadview Emergency Shelter this year.

King County Housing Authority workers Vicki Jordan, Channie Butler and Mary Johnson made a moving presentation about their co-worker Cori Stanley who recently passed away. Business Manager Suzanne Mode presented the Cori Stanley Workplace Solidarity Award to Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) workers for their actions to win a strong contract.

Stewards Mae Taylor and Audrey Gunderson presented the Outstanding Steward Award to long-time member Dorothy Walters of Washington Dental Service.

OPEIU International President Michael Goodwin, Carmen Paez and Alan Wolfson

presented the Tommy McLean Activism Award to the workers of Community Health Center La Clínica for their two-years of persevering to win their first union contract.

In addition to the Pin Party Volunteers mentioned above, thanks also go to: Mary Maloy, MJ Davidson, Evelyn Bowles, Valancy Blackwell, Amanda Saylor, Rose Schuler, and Local 8's intern Sasha Botos, as well as other staff and volunteers who helped make the night a success.



Business Manager Suzanne Mode gives award to Shop Steward Paul Lee of LIHI.

Providence Hospital Workers Get Active

Spearheaded by long time Shop Steward Audrey Gunderson, stewards and workers at Providence Hospital in Everett intend to step up union activism in the workplace. Tired of management's constant barrage of roadblocks, union members are gathering regularly to focus on priority issues and to find solutions through our collective strength.

Attendance at the meetings has been gradually building with several core issues identified. Among the issues the group plans to focus on are: workload concerns in several departments, accountability for two potential grievances in admitting and housekeeping, investigation of a restructuring move in the dietary department, wage equity, and the lack of respect shown by some managers toward our members.

Although the Providence contract doesn't expire until October 2009, workers want to be well prepared. A newsletter will be circulated to update and involve over 800 Local 8 members. This ongoing group will only get stronger with more participation from union members at Providence. Willing to step up to the plate to build a strong union at Providence? Contact Shop Steward Audrey Gunderson.

Holiday Families Benefit from Local 8 Members' Generosity

Agiant thank you to Local 8 members who responded to the request to help three members in need who had a particularly difficult time this holiday season. Two of them have been out of work for months due to an injury. The third is a grandmother who works full time while supporting four grandchildren alone.

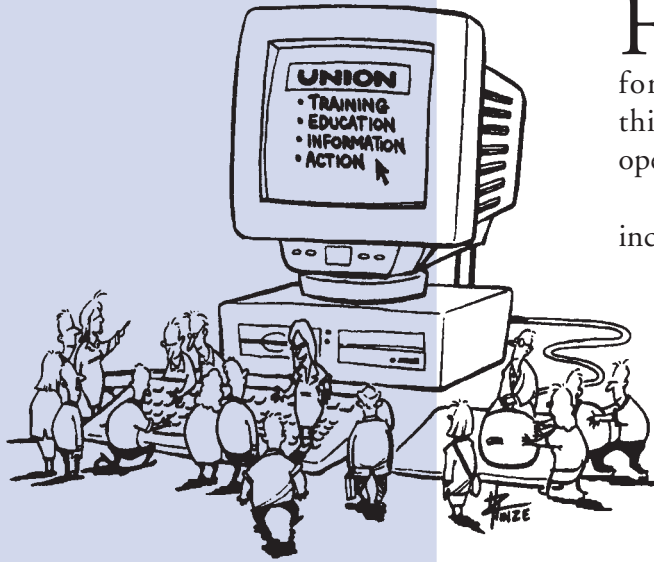
Some of you shopped, wrapped or made financial contributions. We were able to meet the wish list and then some for each family. Our tech system providers even helped us acquire and load a restored computer for one of the families with three children in school. Thank you to Local 8 members again for your generosity!

At right, Local 8 members Valancy Blackwell with son, Lily Wilson-Codega and Cindy Schu at the International Human Rights Day March in Seattle.



*“...the problem of racism, the problem of exploitation, and the problem of war are all tied together. These are the triple evils that are inter-related.”
—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Check Local 8 Website for 2008 Member Education



Feedback from the nearly 100 Shop Steward interviews conducted by Local 8's Social Work Intern **Sasha Botos** formed the basis for our Member Education Program this year. Look for the 2008 schedule of classes at www.opeiu8.org under Local 8 Member Resources in late January.

Here are some of the suggestions from Stewards that we'll incorporate in the 2008 program:

- Advanced Leadership trainings for those who've already completed the 6 hour Leadership Training
- Handling difficult workplace situations that aren't necessarily a grievance
- Retirement/Financial Planning Workshops
- Talking to co-workers about the benefits of working union
- Make the trainings available to all members, not just Stewards

Be sure to check the website calendar (click on the calendar) for any education session updates.

www.opeiu8.org



Local OPEIU Journal

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

Address Service Requested

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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