



Check out [www.opeiu8.org](http://www.opeiu8.org) for the most up-to-date calendar!

*Unless noted, all events are via Zoom. Registration for each event will begin the month prior to event.*

**Sat., April 23**  
**Shop Steward/  
Leadership Conference**  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Tues., May 10**  
**Advanced Shop Steward Training**  
6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Tues., May 17**  
**Understanding OPEIU Local 8's  
401(k) Retirement Plan**  
*(English & Español)*  
6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Save the Date! - Sat., June 4**  
**Summer Unionfest**  
Kennewick

**Sat., June 25**  
**Eastern Regional Meeting**  
*New Member Orientation:*  
9:00 - 9:30 am  
*Meeting:* 9:30 - 11:00 am

**Tues., July 19**  
**New Shop Steward Training**  
6:00 - 7:30 pm

**OPEIU Local 8 by phone:**  
**206-441-8880**  
**800-600-2433**

## Rest in Power Charlie Best

Local 8 mourns the passing of Charlie Best, beloved husband of Business Manager Suzanne Mode, and a long-time Local 8 member and activist. Charlie and Suzanne, “a union power couple,” as one Local 8 member recalls, met 40 years ago while organizing with ACORN in Texas.



Charlie was a founding member of the union at Solid Ground (formerly the Fremont Public Association) and for 27 years dedicated his life to providing support and guidance to dislocated and laid-off workers at the King County Re-employment Support Center, a program of the Worker Center AFL-CIO. Charlie was an active and founding member of Local 8's Political Action Committee and rarely missed a Membership Assembly. Charlie understood the value of collective action and was an ardent supporter of Local 8's organizing program.

Charlie's co-workers remember his passion about justice for working people, his encyclopedic knowledge of labor history and his love for soccer (Manchester United!). “I remember Charlie as willing to stick his neck out for people and causes he believed in and his ferocious way of attacking life. He could be a lovable crank when he got on a tangent, and how I miss that dedication and enthusiasm and his unique way of turning a thought,” reflects Local 8 member MJ Davidson. Local 8 Trustee, Joan Weiss, Charlie's co-worker for 16 years, says, “Charlie, oh Charlie, enthusiastic about life, strong convictions, supportive, kind, 100% union. He was my work partner in crime, a friend, and will always be remembered and loved.”

Those wishing to send condolences to Suzanne may do so in care of OPEIU Local 8, 2900 Eastlake Ave E, Suite 220, Seattle, WA 98102.

## Executive Board

**Kellie McGuire**  
*President*

**John Adams**  
*Vice President*

**Suzanne Mode**  
*Business Manager*

**Corinne Cosentino**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Shannon Mains**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Anthony Forte**  
*Central*

**Sara Franklin**  
*Central*

**Sara Jimenez-Orozco**  
*Central*

**Shana McCann**  
*Central*

**Alex Shiley**  
*Central*

**Misha Smith**  
*Central*

**Corina Yballa**  
*Central*

**Barb Cameron**  
*East*

**Catherine Houser**  
*East*

**Rick Nesbitt**  
*East*

**Robin Sullivan**  
*East*

**Brandon Galovin**  
*North*

**Lucy Lopez**  
*North*

**Elizabeth Maass**  
*North*

**JoAnn Ortiz**  
*North*

**Paul Bender**  
*South/West*

**Sonja Blondeau-Heglin**  
*South/West*

**Emmanuel Flores**  
*South/West*

**Coreale Forrest**  
*South/West*

**Debbie Guillot**  
*South/West*

**Benjamin Peterson**  
*South/West*

## Trustees

**David Evans**, *Trustee*

**Lois Jamieson**, *Trustee*

**Joan Weiss**, *Trustee*

**Valori Flake**, *Trustee*

**Fred Hutchins**, *Trustee*

# Shop Steward Spotlight: Doris Tucker

Doris Tucker has been a strong and valuable union advocate since she started working at Metropolitan Development Council (MDC) in Tacoma over 29 years ago. She started her tenure at MDC as a Chemical Dependency Technician in the Detox Unit and quickly showed her true colors as someone who stood up for her co-workers and did not back away from challenges. She was perfect for becoming a steward – which she did in 2001.



Doris served on every bargaining team since becoming a steward, was a member of the Labor Management Committee and served on the Executive Boards of OPEIU Local 23 and OPEIU Local 8. In fact, Doris was instrumental in the merger of Local 23 into Local 8 in 2015. “I loved being a steward and helping my co-workers stand up for their rights,” said Doris when asked about her longevity as a steward.

Doris has never been afraid to stand up to difficult managers and has shown her tenacity by walking side-by-side with her labor sisters and brothers on picket lines for workers at Group Health and Cascade Regional Blood Services during difficult contract bargaining.

If you are interested in becoming a shop steward and helping your co-workers, please sign up for an upcoming Steward Training.

## Applicants Sought for Openings at OPEIU

Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 8 is seeking applicants for an experienced **Union Representative**. This position reports to the Local 8 Business Manager and is part of the Local 8 Union Rep Bargaining Unit. The position is based out of the Seattle office and assigned primarily to the Puget Sound region.

Key duties and responsibilities include:

- Recent and significant experience in negotiating union labor agreements.
- Thorough understanding of federal and state laws pertaining to collective bargaining and workers’ rights.
- Experience administrating public and private employees’ contracts.
- Ability to independently process grievances.
- Ability to write clearly and speak effectively and persuasively.
- Ability to write and interpret contract language.
- Spanish fluency is highly desirable.

**To apply, please send an application letter stating your interest in this position and resume to OPEIU Local 8 by email to [libby@opeiu8.org](mailto:libby@opeiu8.org) or by mail: OPEIU Local 8, 2900 Eastlake Ave E, Suite 220, Seattle, WA 98102.**

***Position closes on Friday, April 15, 2022.***

We are also seeking applicants for an entry level **Organizer** position. The primary focus of the position is to initiate and conduct new organizing campaigns; to build membership in public sector workplaces; to develop workplace leaders within the local union; and to increase union visibility and assist with direct action campaigns in key workplaces as directed by local union staff. Please find the full job posting on [unionjobs.com](http://unionjobs.com). To apply, please submit your resume to [corinne@opeiu8.org](mailto:corinne@opeiu8.org).

# Local Politics Impact Workers

With so much going on in the world, thinking about why we should be involved in what goes on locally may be difficult. But supporting candidates endorsed by our Union and other labor advocacy groups matters in the day-to-day lives of workers and our families. In just the last few years, state and local political leaders have made several important improvements for working families:

- **Paid Sick Leave.** In 2012, the City of Seattle was one of the first municipalities to require employers to provide paid sick leave to all employees which became the basis for other cities like Tacoma to do the same. Then in 2016, Washington State voters passed an initiative to require all employers in the state to provide paid sick leave to all their employees to care for themselves and their family members.
- **Paid Family & Medical Leave.** In 2015, Governor Jay Inslee secured a federal grant to begin designing paid family and medical leave for all employees in Washington State, which was then solidified in 2017 by the state legislature. It provides paid time off for parents to welcome a new child, for employees to care for a seriously ill family member or when a family member is deployed overseas. This helps keep Washington families financially afloat, improves health and relieves stress for employees and their families when dealing with serious illnesses or injury.
- **Minimum Wage.** Again, the City of Seattle led the way with implementing the labor-led “Fight for Fifteen” initiative by raising the minimum wage to \$15 incrementally beginning in 2015. Shortly thereafter, Tacoma joined in and then the State of Washington voters approved an initiative to raise the minimum wage statewide and base future increases to it on the consumer price index (CPI).

The old saying “everything begins at home” still holds up to ensure that municipalities and the state continue to lead in enacting policies like these to support working families. So, what can we do? Stay informed, get educated about the issues that are being addressed locally, support our Union and other labor advocacy groups, join the OPEIU Local 8 PAC and attend meetings, volunteer to support candidates who support working families and our issues, and most of all, VOTE.

## Renaming Contest – Last Call for Entries

For years, we have called this newsletter simply the “Local 8 Journal,” but we think it’s time for a change. We asked for suggestions from members and have received several so far, and we’re planning to share them and have a vote at the upcoming Shop Steward & Leadership Conference to decide. If you want to share an idea to be included in the vote, please send it to [corinne@opeiu8.org](mailto:corinne@opeiu8.org). The submitter of the winning name will have bragging rights in perpetuity!

**Journal OPEIU Local 8**  
www.opeiu8.org Vol. 31, No. 2 Sept. 2019

**Calendar**

- Check out [www.opeiu8.org](http://www.opeiu8.org) for the most up-to-date calendar!
- Shop Steward Training**  
Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019  
5:30 pm  
Bremerton, WA  
(see details on back page)
- Membership Assembly**  
Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Bellingham, WA
- Shop Steward Training**  
Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019  
5:30 pm  
Tacoma, WA
- Regional Meeting**  
Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Olympia, WA
- Shop Steward Training**  
Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019  
5:30 pm  
Bremerton, WA
- Membership Assembly**  
Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Kilgus Amphitheater, WA

**Nominations and Elections at our Next Assembly**

**Recording Secretary**

This is notification that nominations and election for Recording Secretary will be held at the September 28, 2019 Membership Assembly in Bellingham. The Local 8 Constitution and Bylaws describes the duties and responsibilities of Recording Secretary as keeping the minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the Local Union and the Executive Board. The successful candidate will serve until January 2022. Our Recording Secretary of many years, Rosalinda Aguirre, recently resigned from the position. Many thanks to Rosalinda for her years of dedication and leadership.

**Three Trustee Positions**

Also at the upcoming Membership Assembly, we will be nominating and electing three (3) Trustee positions. Each will serve a three-year term. The Trustees meet quarterly in the evening at the Seattle Labor Temple to review all union disbursements and to audit financial records. Trustees provide an important role in ensuring Local 8's financial transactions are carried out in accordance with policies and member mandates. All nominees must be in attendance at the Assembly where they are nominated or declare in writing their willingness to accept the nomination. Written declaration (no texts) must be presented before the close of nominations. The Local 8 Constitution and Bylaws describe the duties and responsibilities of each position and can be found at [www.opeiu8.org](http://www.opeiu8.org) under "About Us."

Find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/OPEIU8](http://www.facebook.com/OPEIU8)

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## Staff

**Suzanne Mode**

*Business Manager*

**Corinne Cosentino**

*Organizing Director*

**Nallely Flores**

*Organizer*

**Erin Adamson**

*Union Representative*

**Diane Arnold**

*Union Representative*

**Phoebe Feldsher**

*Union Representative*

**Ida Kovacic**

*Union Representative*

**Leslie Liddle**

*Union Representative*

**Shelby Mooney**

*Union Representative*

**Valarie Peaphon**

*Union Representative*

**Patrick Pedersen**

*Union Representative*

**Tara Powell**

*Union Representative*

**Angie Wedekind**

*Union Representative*

**Mike Maloney**

*Office Manager*

**Libby Alejandro**

*Administrative Secretary*

**Joan De Leon**

*Bookkeeper*

**Lynn Brown**

*Billing/Dues Clerk*

**Richard Cox**

*Membership Database/  
Dues Posting*

**Sally Mitchell**

*Graphics Specialist/Secretary*

**Erica Hernandez**

*Administrative Assistant*

OPEIU Local 8, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E. #220, Seattle, WA 98102-3012  
Address Service Requested

liuna#242/af-cio



## Tommy McLean Award Recognizes Cindy Schu

At the Membership Assembly in January, the Tommy McLean Activism Award was presented to Cindy Schu, former Organizing Director and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 8, in recognition of all she has done to help grow and strengthen our local during her decades of work at OPEIU. Through Cindy's tireless efforts of education and advocacy, thousands of workers organized to form a Union in their workplace and to improve their working conditions. She is a fierce advocate and true inspiration.

"Thank you so much for this special award. I share this honor with the many Local 8 member organizers I've been fortunate to have worked with over the last 30 years. It's also very inspiring and reassuring to see new Local 8 leaders continue to emerge and shape our union for the future. Organizing will always be the way to stay powerful and relevant!" said Cindy.



*Cindy Schu receiving the Tommy McLean Award from OPEIU Local 8 Business Manager Suzanne Mode*