WORKERS UNITED! OPEIU

A Local 8 Newsletter

www.opeiu8.org

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Check out **www.opeiu8.org** for the most up-to-date calendar!

Registration for each event will begin the month prior to event.

Sat., Jan. 28, 2023 Membership Assembly

10:00 am - 4:00 pm SeaTac and via Zoom (Hybrid)

Thurs., Feb. 9 New Shop Steward Training

6:00 - 7:30 pm via Zoom

Sat., Feb. 25 Central Regional Meeting

New Member Orientation: 9:00 - 9:30 am Meeting: 9:30 - 11:30 am Seattle (in-person)

Sat., Mar. 11 New Shop Steward Training

9:30 - 11:00 am via Zoom

Sat., Mar. 25 North Regional Meeting

New Member Orientation: 9:00 - 9:30 am Meeting: 9:30 - 11:30 am Everett (in-person)

OPEIU Local 8 by phone:

206-441-8880 800-600-2433

Membership Assembly

Join by Zoom or On-site. Register online or with richard@opeiu8.org.

Saturday, January 28, 2023

10:00 am to 4:00 pm Assembly (coffee/sign-in at 9:30 am) 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Social Hour/Auction Lunch Provided

The SeaTac Hilton Hotel

17620 International Blvd. Seattle, WA 98188

Assembly Highlights

- Nominations and election for vacant Executive Board and Trustee positions, and Delegates (see below for details)
- Meetings of the Shop Steward/ Education, Race, Equity and Social Justice, Political Action and Communications Committees
- Review and Approval of the 2023 Local 8 Operating Budget
- Review for Approval of the New Field Staff Contract and Business Manager Terms of Employment for 2023 – 2026
- First Reading of a modification to Local 8's Constitution and Bylaws regarding initiation fees
- Review and Approval of any New Union Business
- · Meeting of Young Worker Group
- Member Reports
- Presentation of the Tommy McLean Union Activist Award

Notice of 2023 OPEIU Local 8 Nominations and Elections

In accordance with Article 14 of Local 8's Bylaws, this is formal notification that nominations and elections will take place at the January 28, 2023 Membership Assembly. (see below for details) 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." You can also call the Local 8 office at 1-800-600-2433 to request a copy. The Bylaws explain in detail the election process. The nominations and elections process will begin in the morning session.

Agenda

- Nominations and election of one (1) Regional Executive Board Member from the Central Region, one (1) Regional Executive Board Member from the East Region, one (1) Regional Executive Board Member from the North Region and one (1) Regional Executive Board Member from the South/West Region to complete a 3-year term until January 2025.
- Nominations and election of one (1) Trustee.
- Nominations and election of Delegates to all Central Labor Councils to serve a two-year term.
- Nominations and election of four (4) Delegates and five (5) Alternates to the OPEIU International Convention to be held Saturday, June 11 through Friday, June 16, 2023 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Funds may be available to pay for registration, transportation, per diem and lodging, but

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

David Olivera

Central

Misha Smith

Central

Corina Yballa

Central

Barb Cameron

East

Rick Nesbitt

East

Robin Sullivan

East

Lucy Lopez

North

Elizabeth Maass

North

JoAnn Ortiz

North

Paul Bender

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 Fred Hutchins, Trustee

Shop Steward Spotlight: M. Abbas Rizvi

Abbas works as a family law attorney at the Northwest Justice Project (NJP) where he's been on staff for over 15 years providing critical legal assistance and representation to low-income individuals.

Abbas was an active part of the Organizing Committee in 2017 that led to unionization with OPEIU Local 8. After the ratification of NJP's first union contract, Abbas continued to display his dedication to improving



conditions at NJP for workers and clients by becoming a shop steward. As a steward, he agilely wears many hats: communicator, advocate, negotiator, and confidant.

Earlier this year, Abbas helped negotiate NJP's most recent Collective Bargaining Agreement. He continues to reliably attend Labor/Management meetings, assist in orienting new employees to the union, and–most importantly–offer encouragement and support to his colleagues.

Abbas pushes management to do right by continually calling for accountability and transparency. He is committed to the principles of justice and equity, and he's not afraid to stand up and fight in their pursuit. He brings forward ideas and concerns in an effective, smart, passionate, and empathetic manner.

Abbas does this work with unparalleled humor and sincerity. His colleagues respect him, value his contributions, and know they can rely on him. "Abbas is a fearless advocate for individual staff members and our bargaining unit as a whole. I've learned so much from him over the past year." — Catherine Houser, fellow steward at NJP.

Through his actions, attitude, and approach, Abbas makes his employer better and his union stronger!

Political Action Committee Update

Workers in Washington state used our collective voices to ensure Democratic incumbents here at home won every legislative race including Secretary of State, making sure our voices were heard loud and clear. OPEIU's Political Action Committee endorsed candidates were successful on November 8th because labor turned out for the candidates who will fight for working families.

Incumbent U.S. Senator Patty Murray won a sixth term after defeating a well-funded Republican challenger, Tiffany Smiley. In the highly contested 8th Congressional District, Representative Kim Schrier also won re-election. Political newcomer Marie Gluesenkamp Perez defeated Joe Kent for the open seat in the 3rd Congressional District. Key legislative races in the 26th District saw even more gains for Labor by re-electing Emily Randall and Sharon Shewmake.

The OPEIU 8 Political Action Committee OPAL is powered by members who care about electing candidates who support and advocate for working families. Join us on the first Tuesday of the month because we still have more elections to win. For more information, please visit https://www.opeiu8.org/get-involved/political-action-committee-pac/

Young Workers Unite!

Whether at Starbucks, Amazon or YouthCare, young workers are taking more and more of a lead in our labor movement. As we should! Younger workers offer a unique perspective, and our contributions are valuable. Developing young leaders and supporting each other is a vital part of our labor movement. If you're under 35, join us at our next Membership Assembly on January 28, 2023 in SeaTac and participate in the discussion on how we go about organizing this effort, or email phoebe@opeiu8.org or omar@opeiu8.org. Together we will shape how young workers at Local 8 strengthen the labor movement at our union, workplaces, and beyond.

Budget Rally Leads to Victory





Pictured: (left) Sophie Rice-Sauer speaks at the rally; (right) Councilmember Mosqueda poses with Local 8 members Shana McCann, Phoebe Feldsher, Sam Stone, Byram Simpson, Charlie Lapham and Omar Cuevas Vega.

In 2019, OPEIU Local 8 joined advocates in Seattle to ensure inflationary adjustments would be made to city contracts that fund non-profit programs where many Local 8 members work. Last fall, proposed cuts threatened to undo that legislation in the 2023-2024 budget for the City of Seattle, which would have left additional funding gaps for already under resourced programs.

To fight back, OPEIU Local 8 members from Solid Ground, Plymouth Housing, and YouthCare rallied outside Seattle City Hall on November 8, standing up in coalition with partners in the community such as the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, SEIU 1199NW, MLK Labor and more. Sophie Rice-Sauer, case manager at Compass Housing Alliance and Local 8 member, spoke and shared her hopes for the future of the work she loves doing, and was quoted in the Seattle Times coverage of the rally.

We won! At the end of November the budget passed which included the inflationary adjustments. There is still more work to do to provide a living wage for non-profit workers, but we are proud to be holding elected leaders accountable so that we don't move backwards.

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not time loss. The Business Manager is an automatic Delegate.

• First Reading of modifications to the Local 8 Constitution and Bylaws to align our initiation fee and member-in-good standing practices.

Staff

Suzanne Mode
Business Manager

Corinne Cosentino
Organizing Director

Nallely Flores
Organizer

Omar Cuevas Vega Organizer

Erin Adamson
Union Representative

Phoebe Feldsher
Union Representative

Ida Kovacic
Union Representative

Leslie Liddle
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
Graphics and Communications
Specialist

Jessieca Navarro Administrative Assistant



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Find us on social media at @OPEIULocal8

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YouthCare Wins First Contract!



Union Bargaining Team at YouthCare (left to right): Amethyst Thorpe, Corinne Cosentino, Phoebe Feldsher, Dorothy Pierce, Tremell Collins. Not pictured: Valerie Magana

After almost three years of bargaining, workers at YouthCare have a first union contract that we are extremely proud of. Because of their persistence, workers were able to win significant gains in PTO accruals, benefits for on-call workers typically excluded from the bargaining unit, and innovative language around race equity. OPEIU Local 8 is excited to welcome this group of dedicated, intelligent, and compassionate workers to our union. Congratulations! The strides made in this contract will push other similar non-profits to move in the right direction.