



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

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

Sat., Apr. 22

Shop Steward/Leadership Conference

10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Seattle (in-person)

Tues., May 9

Advanced Shop Steward Training

6:00 - 7:30 pm
via Zoom

Tues., May 16

Union in the Park

5:30 - 7:00 pm
Tri-Cities (in-person)

Sat., Jun. 24

East Regional Meeting

New Member Orientation:

10:00 - 10:30 am

Meeting: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm
Tri-Cities (in-person)

Tues., Jun. 27

Union in the Park

5:30 - 7:00 pm
Bellingham (in-person)

OPEIU Local 8 by phone:

**206-441-8880
800-600-2433**

New Executive Board Members

At our Membership Assembly in January, we elected new Executive Board members to fill vacancies. Let's meet them!



Katrina Ondeck, Recording Secretary: Hi! I'm Katrina and I'm very excited to be here! I've been working in social services for about ten years and have finally landed my first union job at Sea Mar. I feel so honored to be on the E-Board for Local 8 and am looking forward to getting other people as pumped about union solidarity as I am. I live in Bellingham with my partner, (not so) small human, cat, dog, and Russian tortoise and am always happy to share tortoise facts.

Elizabeth Flavin, Central Region: I have been a Local 8 member since 2017 when we, the employees of Northwest Justice Project, voted to be represented by OPEIU. I joined the negotiating team for our first contract and have been a union steward since then. In previous jobs, I was a member of SEIU for many years, negotiated renewal contracts and served as a union steward. I come from a pro-union family; my granddaddy was with the United Auto Workers during the Chevy factory sit-down strikes in the '30s. I am honored to have been nominated and elected to our Executive Board.



Brandon Ashford-Whitfield (He/Him), South/West Region: I work for Low Income Housing Institute and am proud to be a member of OPEIU Local 8. I want to thank Erin Adamson for encouraging me to step up and take a leadership role on the job and to be active in my local. I'm a part of the bargaining team. The Union Plus Free College Benefit allowed me to complete my Associate of Arts degree. My assignment in this season is to empower my coworkers to stand up for their rights and change the balance of power at work.

Also elected were our new East Region Executive Board member Theresa Sullivan and Alternate for the South/West Region Alex Taylor-Yaconetti. A full list of our elected officers and where they work is on our website, www.opeiu8.org, under "About Us."

Executive Board

Kellie McGuire
President

John Adams
Vice President

Suzanne Mode
Business Manager

Corinne Cosentino
Secretary-Treasurer

Katrina Ondeck
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Flavin
Central

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

Theresa Sullivan
East

Lucy Lopez
North

Elizabeth Maass
North

JoAnn Ortiz
North

Brandon Ashford-Whitfield
South/West

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

Fred Hutchins, Trustee

Shannon Mains, Trustee

Joan Weiss, Trustee

Shop Steward Spotlight: Lynne Johnson

Lynne was an active organizing committee member and helped to win the campaign to form a union at CDM Caregiving Services in August 2005. Lynne was also instrumental in her role as a bargaining team member to win a first contract the following year and has served in that role in all of the subsequent contract negotiations.

She also showed up time after time to go to Olympia to lobby for Home Care. Though at first, she did not want to speak in meetings with legislators, she overcame those feelings and bravely shared her experience as a Home Care worker. Once her legislator made her cry with their response, but she rose above it and continued to return the following years advocate for Home Care workers in the legislature. She has attended WSLC legislative conferences as well, and she enjoys attending the SW Washington Labor Council dinners.

Lynne generously offers her time to meet with fellow union members, is there to represent her co-workers as a Shop Steward when needed, and is always one of the first to donate her paid time off for a coworker in need.

OPEIU Local 8 agrees, Lynne is a gift to her union, her union brothers, sisters and siblings, and the labor movement.

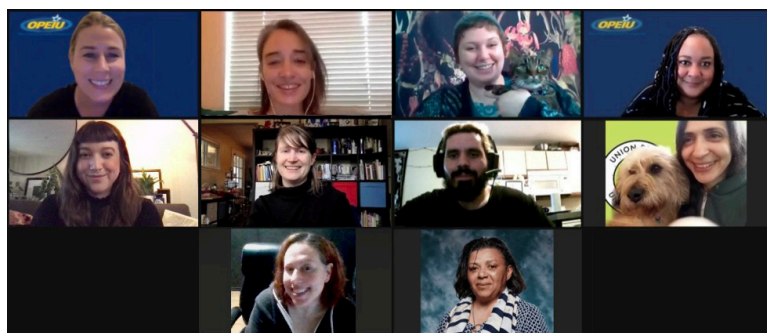
Workers at Crisis Connections Ratify First-Ever Union Contract!

OPEIU Local 8 welcomes 200 new union members from Crisis Connections — a nonprofit that operates vital telephonic service lines across Washington State connecting people with the behavioral health and crisis intervention, tangible resources, and peer support they need.

After over two years of negotiations, ballots were tallied and the results are clear: these union members voted overwhelmingly in support of adopting a contract which includes a consistent and transparent pay structure resulting in significant wage increases, additional holidays, protection from and recourse against unfair treatment, and much more.

We've put into place a system to improve wages and working conditions. With this new contract, Crisis Connections will be better positioned to retain and recruit employees and strong standards will be in place to serve as a foundation we can build on for years to come.

A special acknowledgement to the union bargaining team, pictured here, for exhibiting exceptional leadership, patience, grit, and tenacity throughout this process — (left to right, top to bottom): Valarie Peaphon, Carly Howard, Harrow Holly, Tara Powell, Darby Robertson, Sarah Welch, Jo Siesto, Carol DeSalles, SK Lewis, and Sonia Brown.



RESJ Committee Reports

The Race, Equity, and Social Justice Committee collected enough items to assemble over 30 care kits to help young people facing food and housing instability! The kits included food, toiletries, socks, hats, gloves, thermal blankets, and more! We then donated them to the Gravity Learning Center in Olympia, WA. Gravity connects students who have left school before graduation with access to transportation, emergency food, housing, clothing, GED testing, training, and job opportunities. It feels good to do good. We are happy to lend a helping hand to those in need in our communities. Thank you to the Local 8 members who generously donated!



Local 8 members' smiles shone brightly at WSLC's "We Out Here!" event on Saturday, February 25th which centered BIPOC workers and celebrated diverse leadership within the labor movement. This event was held during Black history month and was co-hosted by the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI), Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), and Labor

Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA). OPEIU Local 8 was proud to be a sponsor of this celebration of diversity and solidarity.

Political Action Committee Update

On February 2nd, several Local 8 members attended the 2023 Washington State Labor Council Legislative Conference. For some of our members this was their first time traveling to Olympia to lobby. We were joined by hundreds of fellow union members from around the state! We all came together to elevate the voice of workers. The halls of power met the power of labor speaking as one voice.

"It was a huge honor to represent OPEIU Local 8 and my district in Kent. This was my first experience lobbying," said member Misha Smith. "I was nervous, but Senator Kaufman listened with an open mind and heart while I asked her to support SB 5236 addressing safe staffing standards for nurses."

The message of better jobs and stronger communities was conveyed at meetings with lawmakers from the member's respective legislative district. We emphasized worker protections, healthcare staffing standards, housing options for working families, investing in essential public workers and the creation of climate transition jobs.

"Labor must continue to be present in Olympia during every session in order to keep the needs of workers and their families front and center," states Local 8 PAC Chair Sara Franklin.

Under the state constitution the regular Legislative Session is scheduled to end April 23rd, however Local 8 will continue to work in solidarity to advance the priorities of our members through all levels of government.

Staff

Suzanne Mode

Business Manager

Corinne Cosentino

Organizing Director

Nallely Flores

Organizer

Omar Cuevas Vega

Organizer

Erin Adamson

Union Representative

Phoebe Feldsher

Union Representative

Jesse Holtzinger-Cruz

Union Representative

Mike Horne

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

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Find us on
social media at
[@OPEIULocal8](#)



Meet Our New Union Representatives



“I am excited to serve as one of your representatives! Before joining OPEIU, I worked for twelve years as a labor union organizer, mostly in healthcare across Washington state. My interests outside of work are gardening, backpacking, and spending time outdoors. I look forward to working with you to raise workplace standards and build your union’s strength.”
-Jesse Holtzinger-Cruz, Representative, OPEIU 8

Mike Horne is a Florida transplant who moved to Seattle in March 2020. He has been a union organizer and a passionate advocate of organized labor since 2017. Over the last six years, he’s helped organize workers across multiple industries within both the public and private sectors.



Young Worker Survey

Calling all members under 35, help us as we build our Young Workers Committee by completing the survey (scan the QR code to the right). Developing young leaders and supporting each other is a vital part of our labor movement. If you’re interested in learning more about the Young Workers Committee reach out to phoebe@opeiu8.org or omar@opeiu8.org.

