



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

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

Sat., Oct. 7

Union in the Park

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Yakima (in-person)

Thurs., Oct. 12

New Shop Steward Training

6:00 - 7:30 pm

via Zoom

Sat., Oct. 28

South/West Regional Meeting

New Member Orientation:

10:00 - 10:30 am

Meeting: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm

Olympia (in-person)

Tues., Nov. 7

Advanced Shop Steward Training

6:00 - 7:30 pm

via Zoom

OPEIU Local 8 by phone:

206-441-8880

800-600-2433

To receive updates by text message, text "Local 8" to 844-240-4114

OPEIU's 39th Constitutional Convention



10 delegates from Local 8 attended OPEIU's Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from June 11th to 16th: Corinne Cosentino, Sara Franklin, Emmanuel Flores, Sara Jimenez, Kellie McGuire, Suzanne Mode, David Olivera, Valarie Peaphon, Tara Powell, and Brandon Ashford-Whitfield.

The convention began with a powerful poem "Use Your Words" by Seattle author, scholar, and performer, Jen Soriano, and an educational conference on "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice at OPEIU and the Social Identity Learning Cycle" put on by Cornell University and The Bennae Group. Following that, we heard from other influential and moving speakers throughout the week including: Elizabeth Schuler, AFL-CIO President, Jane McAlevey, Organizer and Author, Shuo Zhang, Member/Strike Captain from the Writers Guild of America-West, and Dr. Hilario Benzon, Associate Director of the Human and Civil Rights Department of the National Education Association.

Our delegates met OPEIU members from other locals, talked about our vision for the labor movement, strategized on how to grow union membership and leverage worker power, and voted on elections and resolutions. Congratulations to Local 8's Business Manager, Suzanne Mode, on being reelected as an International Vice President!

Local 8 delegates were instrumental in helping to develop, introduce, and speak in favor of several important resolutions (find the full resolutions at <https://www.opeiu.org/MemberResources/OPEIULinks/29thOPEIUConvention.aspx>):

Executive Board

Kellie McGuire
President

Sara Franklin
Vice President

Suzanne Mode
Business Manager

Corinne Cosentino
Secretary-Treasurer

Katrina Ondeck
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Flavin
Central

Anthony Forte
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

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*

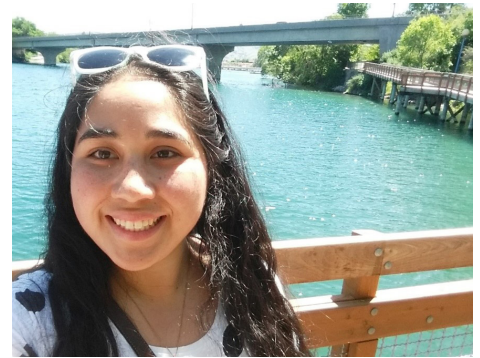
Fred Hutchins, *Trustee*

Shannon Mains, *Trustee*

Joan Weiss, *Trustee*

Shop Steward Spotlight: Dorothy Pierce

Dorothy Pierce was on our Union's very first YouthCare Bargaining Team and was integral in negotiating their first contract. Dorothy helped negotiate innovative language in that first contract and she has continued to be a Union leader by becoming a Shop Steward. Her dedication to justice and inclusivity makes her both great at her job and a great Union sibling. YouthCare members at Orion Center are always in the know thanks to Dorothy. Her encouragement and welcome make it easy for others to get involved, and she makes sure everyone is educated about their rights. Dorothy is emblematic of what makes a great Shop Steward – she is inclusive, smart, and dedicated.



Election 2023

Summer is officially over, but the 2023 election cycle is officially in full swing. The results of the August primary revealed which candidates we can expect to see on the November 7th ballot.

Local 8's PAC (Political Action Committee) is busy organizing, coordinating, and making recommendations—including contributions—to labor-friendly candidates and issues that impact our members. There are several endorsed races that we will support through GOTV (Get Out the Vote) campaigns over the next few weeks leading to Election Day. These opportunities and other event updates will be posted on the PAC Committee Facebook page.

Local 8 supports candidates who will stand up to protect working families. We support candidates who will be champions for collective bargaining rights, affordable housing, childcare, healthcare, good schools, and other vital social safety nets.

Our endorsed candidates:

Teresa Mosqueda - King County Council District 8

James Jeyaraj - Auburn City Council Position 3

Leslie Hamada - Kent School Board Director Position 3

Ed Prince - Renton City Council Position 5

Kitty Klitzke - Spokane City Council Position 1

The complete list of 2023 Labor Endorsements can be found at <http://mlklabor.org> and <http://unionhall.aflcio.org/spokane>

Local 8 PAC meets monthly the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Contributions to PAC are voluntary and union dues are not be used for political contributions.

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- STRENGTHENING OPEIU ORGANIZING
- RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE UNIONISM
- SUPPORT THE CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY NATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN DEFENSE OF REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

OPEIU Negotiates Radical Contract Resulting in Meaningful Wage Increases and Other Improvements at THA

To ensure workers at Tacoma Housing Authority earn a living wage where they can afford basic expenses — including, most notably, housing in the area without having to rely on government subsidies — salary ranges were increased dramatically. Beginning July 8th, all employees are paid at least \$32 per hour, with Local 8 members at THA seeing an average wage increase of 20%. Valarie Peaphon, the Local 8 Union Representative who negotiated THA's contract stated, "We all know that Washington's \$15.64 minimum wage isn't a living wage. Without a doubt, this contract is going to improve our members' standard of living and quality of life." What's more, we won two more holidays (Indigenous Peoples' Day and an additional floating holiday), increased vacation leave carryover, increased vacation leave cash out opportunities, added an additional day of bereavement leave, increased education assistance, and decreased the employee share of the monthly healthcare premium!



Left to right: Phil Tran, Alex Alcantar, Mike Olson, and Tara Powell.

Constituency Group Spotlight

Our Union community stretches far into the wider labor community. We endeavor to ensure that our members and fellow Union siblings are able to connect with other Union members that share similar identities. Over the next few newsletters, we will be highlighting some of the more prominent labor constituency groups that our members are a part of. We invite you to read up on them and if there's one that speaks to your identity, reach out, join, and get involved.

A. Philip Randolph Institute: The Home for Black Trade Unionists

APRI is one of the oldest 7 constituency groups of the AFL-CIO. Their founders, A. Philip Randolph and Baynard Rustin, knew that the fight for workers' rights and civil rights were inseparable. Through their Black-Labor Alliance they were instrumental in helping pass the Voting Rights of 1965 which inspired them to create the A. Philip Randolph Institute that same year. Today APRI continues the struggle for social, political, and economic justice for all working Americans. There are two chapters in Washington State: Seattle & Tacoma. To learn more, visit <http://www.apri.org/home.html>

Staff

Suzanne Mode
Business Manager

Corinne Cosentino
Organizing Director

Nallely Flores
Organizer

Omar Cuevas Vega
Organizer

Erin Adamson
Director of Contract Administration

Valarie Peaphon
Director of Contract Negotiations

Phoebe Feldsher
Union Representative

Jesse Holtzinger-Cruz
Union Representative

Mike Horne
Union Representative

Ida Kovacic
Union Representative

Leslie Liddle
Union Representative

Patrick Pedersen
Union Representative

Tara Powell
Union Representative

Angie Wedekind
Union Representative

Geno Amador
Office Manager

Libby Alejandro
Administrative Secretary

Joan De Leon
Bookkeeper

Lynn Brown
Billing Specialist

Richard Cox
Graphics and Communications Specialist

Jessieca Navarro
Administrative Assistant

Kristine Alejandro
Membership Account Specialist



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social media at
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liuna#242/afl-cio

First Contract Win at Cornish College of the Arts

Staff at Cornish College of the Arts unanimously voted “yes” to ratify their first contract on June 29, 2023. This first contract is a big win for Student Support, Administrative, IT, and Facilities staff. This first contract win includes union shop, access for Union Representatives, paid time for Stewards to participate in investigatory meetings, seniority provisions, and wage protections including a minimum salary and no less than a 4% increase to wages retroactive to September 1, 2022. Congratulations to the staff at Cornish on this hard fought win!

Introducing our New OPEIU Local 8 Vice President: Sara Franklin

Sara has been a member of OPEIU at King County - Department of Assessments for over 7 years, and she has been a Union member for over 35 years, beginning her career as a Metro bus driver. In addition to her new role as Vice President, she serves as a Shop Steward and Bargaining Team member in her workplace, Chair of Local 8's Political Action Committee, delegate to ML King County Labor Council and Washington State Labor Council, and has been a member of our Executive Board from the Central Region. She is a great union leader and we're very excited to welcome her to her new role!

