



Check out [www.opeiu8.org](http://www.opeiu8.org) for the most up-to-date calendar! Registration for each event will begin the month prior to event.

**Thurs., July 13**  
**Union in the Park**

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

**Tues., Jul. 18**  
**New Shop Steward Training**

6:00 - 7:30 pm  
via Zoom

**Thurs., July 20**  
**Union in the Park**

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

**Thurs., July 27**  
**Union in the Park**

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

**Tues., Sept 12**  
**Shop Steward Training en Español**

6:00 - 7:30 pm  
via Zoom

**Sat., Sept. 23, 2023**  
**Membership Assembly**

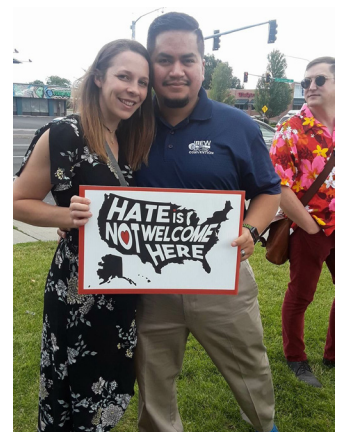
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Yakima

**OPEIU Local 8 by phone:**

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

## Member Experiences with the OPEIU Free College Benefit

“It can be challenging to achieve a college education if someone does not have access to supportive resources. Luckily our union, OPEIU, gives all of us access to the Free College program that can aid our educational or training goals. Entering the program I experienced imposter syndrome, lack of time in the day, not having competitive grades from high school, and flat-out fear. But I stuck with it and in June 2022, I graduated as a first generational college student and completed my general AA with Summa Cum Laude recognition! I regularly dream about what I can accomplish next. Now, my spouse Amanda (pictured at right with Emmanuel), a first-generation college student, can also take advantage of this benefit along with others in my family. She is currently pursuing her degree as a Paralegal. The OPEIU benefits and choosing to be active in my union created an access point for generational wealth that I never dared to dream about.” – Emmanuel Flores, OPEIU 8 Executive Board Member and RESJ Co-Chair



“I completed the Patient Health Navigator (Certificate) program online at Eastern Gateway Community College. I started in September 2018 taking online classes and completed the program on December 4, 2022. I received my certificate and am very proud of reaching this personal goal before I retire. The benefit Local 8 offers members and their families to take free online classes is a great opportunity for members to further their education.” – Jani Myles, OPEIU 8 Shop Steward

**How to use the program:** OPEIU has partnered with Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) to provide members and their families (defined as children/stepchildren, grandchildren/step-grandchildren, spouses, domestic partners, financial dependents, siblings, and parents) the opportunity to earn an associate degree online for free – no out-of-pocket costs for tuition, fees, or e-books. Students study online. A number of associate degree and certificate programs are offered. For more information go to <https://freecollege.opeiu.org/> or call 1-888-590-9009.

## 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*

**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: John Adams

It is with great sadness and gratitude that we wish a happy retirement to our union brother, John Adams.

John has been an OPEIU member since he was hired at Thurston County Juvenile Court (TCJC) in 1997 as a Juvenile Detention Officer. He became a steward and member of the bargaining team at TCJC. In fact, it is safe to say that John negotiated every word of the TCJC contract. His coworkers are deeply indebted to him for his skill and ability to find ways to address the issues of working in their environment.

John also served as President of OPEIU Local 23 based in Tacoma. He was instrumental in the merger of Local 23 with Local 8, building union power of OPEIU in Washington State. John's leadership and counsel through the process lead to a successful merger and made OPEIU Local 8 the strong union we are today.

Since then, John has been a leader in Local 8, becoming Vice President in 2017, serving on the Shop Steward Committee and delegate to the Thurston/Mason/Lewis Central Labor Council.

John is retiring from TCJC which means he must step down as Local 8 Vice President. However, John (a union man through and through) is not leaving the labor movement. He is the Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of LIUNA 252, so he will still be around fighting for workers' rights. (He has "agreed" to continue on as advisor to the bargaining team at TCJC – thanks, John.)



*Kellie McGuire, Local 8 President, with John celebrating the merger of Local 23 with Local 8*

## Membership Assembly

**Saturday, September 23, 2023**

9:30 am Coffee/Sign-in

10:00 am to 4:00 pm Assembly (lunch provided)

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Social Hour/Auction

**Hilton Garden Inn Yakima Downtown**

401 E Yakima Ave

Yakima, WA 98901

Register by scanning the QR code or register with [richard@opeiu8.org](mailto:richard@opeiu8.org).



## Notice of 2023 OPEIU Local 8 Nominations and Elections

In accordance with Article 14 of Local 8's Constitution and Bylaws, this is notification that nominations and elections will take place at the September 23 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](http://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 two (2) Regional Executive Board Members from the North Region** to complete a 3-year term until January 2025.
- **Nominations and election of four (4) Alternate Regional Executive Board Members for the North Region** to complete a 3-year term until January 2025.
- **Nominations and election of seven (7) Alternate Regional Executive Board**

# The Race, Equity, and Social Justice (RESJ) Committee Unveils New Logo

The creative force behind RESJ's new logo is Local 8 member Darby Robertson! Darby just celebrated her fifth-year anniversary working at Crisis Connections where she is a Lead Crisis Intervention Specialist. Darby helped organize her workplace with OPEIU in 2020. She is also a full-time student and will be graduating from Antioch University's Addictions Studies Certificate and Clinical Mental Health Counseling master's programs in the fall.



Darby has shown a relentless persistence, keen eye for detail, and deep sense of justice. She was an important asset in negotiating our first union contract at Crisis Connections, continues to be a fierce advocate for her colleagues, and will make an excellent future Steward! In her downtime, Darby enjoys kayaking on the Puget Sound, losing track of time with a good puzzle, doting on her two cats, and collecting more houseplants than she can responsibly water.

“We are excited to share Local 8’s new RESJ logo! It’s powerful and tells a simple story. The megaphone represents action and communication — us using our voice to amplify calls for racial and social justice while the lightning bolts signify our strength and energy.” Emmanuel Flores, RESJ Co-Chair

## Union Strong at Sea Mar Community Health Centers

Local 8 members at Sea Mar Community Health fought hard for months, and the work paid off! For the first time ever, OPEIU members at Sea Mar secured 5% COLAs each year of the contract, increased mileage reimbursement, increased training pay and shift differentials, and added staffing workload language.

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- **Members for the Central Region** to complete a 3-year term until January 2025.
- **Nominations and election of four (4) Alternate Regional Executive Board Members for the East Region** to complete a 3-year term until January 2025.
- **Nominations and election of five (5) Alternate Regional Executive Board Members for the South/West Region** to complete a 3-year term until January 2025.
- **Nominations and election of one (1) Trustee** to serve a three-year term until September 2026.
- **Nominations and election of four (4) Election Board Members**
- **Nominations and election of six (6) Hardship Committee Members and three (3) Alternates.**
- **Nominations and elections of all vacant Central Labor Council delegate positions** to complete a 2-year term until January 2024.
- **Second Reading and vote of modifications to the Local 8 Constitution and Bylaws** to align our initiation fee and member-in-good standing practices.
- **Approval of the Education Curriculum for 2024 Regional Meetings.**
- **Approval of the donation(s) to be collected at Local 8 events in 2024.**

### 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 Negotiation*

**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*

**Mike Maloney**  
*Office Manager*

**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*



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

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## Celebrating Mike and Welcoming Geno

Mike Maloney worked in union offices and was an active OPEIU 8 member for many years before agreeing to join our staff as Office Manager in 2016. He maybe got more than he bargained for; since then, he along with our other office staff have held us together through retirements and staff changes, our WPAS strike, the Janus decision, a major office move, and a global pandemic. If you've stopped by the Local 8 office in the last 7 years, chances are you had a lovely chat with Mike about anything from football to elections and the repercussions of capitalism. After all these years of service to the labor movement, Mike deserves every moment of a hopefully long and enjoyable retirement that he will begin in September.

We are excited to welcome our new office manager Geno Amador! Like Mike, Geno is a former Local 8 member. She is joining us from the AFT (American Federation of Teachers) union office. She is learning the ropes quickly and we're so glad to have her working with Mike to ensure a smooth transition.

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## Union in the Park

Union in the Park 2023 kicked off in Tri-Cities (pictured to the right) and will be happening at parks around the state throughout the summer. These are family-friendly gatherings with food, yard games, and swag. These gatherings are designed without a business agenda but as an opportunity to get to know our fellow Local 8 siblings who may work at other organizations in our community. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us at any of the upcoming events! Full details at <https://www.opeiu8.org/updates/union-in-the-park-2023/>



Thurs, July 13, **Vancouver**, 5:30-7pm; Thurs, July 20, **Tacoma**, 5:30-7pm; Thurs, July 27, **Everett**, 5:30-7pm; Sat, Aug 5, **Seatac**, 11am-1pm; Tues, Sept 19, **Spokane**, 5:30-7pm; Sat, Oct 7, **Yakima**, 11am-1pm.