



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. 13

Shop Steward/Leadership Conference

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

Sat., May 4

Union in the Park

11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Spokane (in-person)

Tues., May 7

Advanced Shop Steward Training

6:00 - 7:30 pm
via Zoom

Tues., Jun. 11

Union in the Park

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

Sat., Jun. 22

East Regional Meeting

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

OPEIU Local 8 by phone:

206-441-8880
800-600-2433

Meet Our New Executive Board Members

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



Alex Taylor-Yaconetti: I have worked for Kaiser Permanente for 12 years. I currently work at the Tacoma Medical Center as a Patient Access Representative as well as a Shop Steward. I am honored to be a part of the Executive Board of the OPEIU Local 8. I look forward to work for the betterment of our Local and members.

Nikki Winston: I work at Welfare and Pension Services and have been a union member for 5 years now. This is the first union I've been a part of, and I look forward to learning more as I go.



Yesenia Colvin: I'm a Certified Medical Assistant at Tri-Cities Community Health. I've worked there since we formed our union with Local 8 in 2005, at that time we were called La Clinica. I'm a shop steward and also recently became a delegate to our Central Labor Council. I'm looking forward to representing those of us on the East side of the mountains on the Executive Board.

Jose Garcia: I am a council representative with the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) and have been in this position for over a year. My role is primarily contract enforcement – mainly representing state employees in investigations and throughout the grievance process. I previously served as an organizer for SEIU 775, the home caregivers' union. I am honored to serve on our executive board and look forward to working with our members to build a stronger union.

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

Byram Simpson
Central

Misha Smith
Central

Corina Yballa
Central

Yesenia Colvin
East

Jose Garcia
East

Robin Sullivan
East

Theresa Sullivan
East

Lucy Lopez
North

Elizabeth Maass
North

Nikki Winston
North

Brandon Ashford-Whitfield
South/West

Paul Bender
South/West

Emmanuel Flores
South/West

Debbie Guillot
South/West

Benjamin Peterson
South/West

Alex Taylor-Yaconetti
South/West

Trustees

David Evans, *Trustee*

Lois Jamieson, *Trustee*

Fred Hutchins, *Trustee*

Shannon Mains, *Trustee*

Joan Weiss, *Trustee*

January Membership Assembly Reflections

OPEIU Local 8 held its **29th annual Membership Assembly** on **January 27, 2024** in **Everett, Washington**. Thank you to those who braved the weather and joined us for a day of community building, solidarity, and conducting Union business. Here's **four** things you may have missed at the Assembly:

- Members elected **new board members** to our **Executive Board** in the East and North Regions (meet them on the front page) as well as **16 delegates** to the **Washington State Labor Council convention**.
- Members of our inaugural Leadership cohort **spoke truth to power** about their experiences attending the **2024 AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Civil and Human Rights Conference in Montgomery, Alabama**.
- Local 8 member Osta Davis (**Washington State Labor Council's Political and Strategic Campaigns Director**) spoke about the WSLC political agenda for 2024 and encouraged all union members to **campaign, support, and show up for pro-labor candidates in the 2024 elections**.
- The **Kaiser Permanente bargaining team** received the **2024 Tommy McLean Activist Award** for their amazing dedication and hard work representing their Kaiser colleagues and coworkers during National and Local bargaining.

As always, Membership Assemblies are open to all Local 8 Members. We hope to see you in **Olympia, Washington** for our September Membership Assembly on **September 28, 2024**.

Shop Steward Spotlight: Byram Simpson

Byram has served as an OPEIU Shop Steward at Plymouth Housing for the past two years. They are a natural in that role and exhibit endless passion and knowledge about exerting collective action. Byram said, "From an early age, my parents taught me the value of questioning things, advocating for my beliefs, and engaging in constructive argumentation when necessary." Byram successfully carries that lesson with them throughout their life and career. Byram proudly upholds and enforces the contract at Plymouth Housing making sure management is held accountable to the standards set by the union members. They do a great job of representing their coworkers. Byram recently intervened in a situation where a manager was acting inappropriately and supported their peers in meetings until ultimately the issue was resolved. "We made sure the issue wasn't swept under the rug and people got the support they needed to heal and get resolution from an ongoing, years-long problem."



Register Now for Leadership Conference

On Saturday, April 13, Local 8 Shop Stewards and Workplace Leaders from all over the state are headed to Seattle for a full day of training to strengthen our skills and

Friends of Youth Workers Join OPEIU 8

The group of 125 youth specialists, case managers, therapists, and other classifications voted overwhelmingly to form their union with Local 8. They sought to unionize to ensure greater equity and transparency and to have the ability to participate more fully in decisions that impact the community they serve. Based in Kirkland, Friends of Youth was created in 1951 to address the shortage of foster homes for youth. Today, Friends of Youth has grown to not only provide foster homes, but homeless shelters, transitional living homes, refugee and asylum seeker transitional housing, and behavioral and mental health services for youth and young adults throughout east King County.

“I am excited for this new opportunity to work collaboratively with our senior and executive leaders in a way my coworkers have never been allowed to before. The staff at Friends of Youth hold so much knowledge about the needs of the youth we serve because of how closely we work with our clients. I am excited for us to finally be able to use that knowledge to advocate for better working conditions for ourselves, as well as better services for our clients.” Eric Tilton, Youth Specialist



Left to Right: Top Row: Eric, Rachel, Courtney, KayLee; Bottom Row: Aarthi, Dani, April, Mandy

Retired (Or Soon to Be Retired!) Local 8 Members!

A few of us who've recently retired meet occasionally to socialize and to discuss supporting Local 8 as retiree members. We hope our small group will eventually be large enough to have a more formal structure. Care to join us sometime over food/drink for one of these very informal gatherings? Great! We'd love to see you. Contact OPEIU retiree Cindy Schu at schu.cynthia@gmail.com for more information.

Race, Equity, and Social Justice Committee Sneak Peak

The RESJ Committee is planning two values-driven events in 2024! We'll hold a Diversity Summit in June featuring dynamic speakers and a thought-provoking panel discussion. In October, we'll screen a meaningful film followed by a Q&A session. Both events will aim to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility while building a sense of belonging and community. Stay tuned for more details!

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meet fellow union brothers, sisters, and siblings. The agenda for this conference includes Protected Leaves, Handling Conflict between Members, a discussion panel of experienced Local 8 Stewards, and much more. Register now by scanning the QR code to the right!



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

Shelby Mooney
Union Representative

Patrick Pedersen
Union Representative

Tara Powell
Union Representative

Angie Wedekind
Union Representative

Geno Amador
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Libby Alejandro
Administrative Secretary

Joan De Leon
Bookkeeper

Lynn Brown
Billing Specialist

Richard Cox
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Jessieca Navarro
Administrative Assistant

Kristine Alejandro
Membership Account Specialist



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Membership Support Representative (MSR) Job Opening

This is an entry-level Union Representative position intended to provide leadership opportunities for Local 8 members interested in serving on the staff of the Union. The position will benefit the membership by helping Local 8 with goals to increase workplace visitations, to develop new Shop Stewards and workplace leaders, to enhance shop floor communication through regular workplace updates, to increase union visibility and access to Union Reps, to approach grievance handling and other workplace issues from an “organizing model,” and to give the Union a greater presence in the community.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

A Local 8 member in good standing or a former Local 8 member within the last 12 months; Experience assisting members in resolving disputes, grievances, and other workplace issues; An understanding of how the collective bargaining process works; Ability to write clearly and speak effectively and persuasively; Computer literate; Knowledgeable about issues affecting working people; Ability to work well under pressure and interact with a wide variety of people in situations that can be adversarial; A Washington State driver’s license and a car; Willingness to work long hours, including some weekends and evenings; Spanish fluency is highly desirable.

Compensation starts at \$1,386 weekly plus an auto allowance, cell phone allowance, and technology allowance.

To apply, please send an application letter stating your interest in this position and resume to OPEIU Local 8 at libby@opeiu8.org or by mail OPEIU Local 8, 2900 Eastlake Ave E, Ste 220, Seattle WA 98102.