

Calendar

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

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

Thurs., Oct. 10

New Shop Steward Training

6:00 - 7:30 pm
via Zoom

Sat., Oct. 19th

OPEIU Labor Neighbor GOTV

10 am - 1 pm Labor Neighbor Action
3 - 5 pm Happy Hour Text Funbank &
Brews

Check website calendar listed above for
specific locations

Sat., Oct. 26

South/West Regional Meeting

New Member Orientation:

10:00 - 10:30 am

Meeting: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm

Montesano (in-person)

Tues., Nov. 5

Advanced Shop Steward Training

6:00 - 7:30 pm
via Zoom

Tues. Nov 5

Election Day & Deadline to return ballots

OPEIU 8 Endorsements available at
www.opeiu8.org

OPEIU Local 8 by phone:

206-441-8880

800-600-2433

Local 8's Delegation to WSLC's 2024 Convention



"We worked well after everyone else was done for the day and I met people who I now consider to be my friends. There is space for everyone in the labor movement and it is my hope people recognize their power in such a democratic movement." Recording Secretary, Katrina Ondeck

OPEIU Local 8 proudly seized the opportunity to participate in the 2024 Washington State Labor Council Constitutional Convention held in Wenatchee, Washington. Our enthusiastic delegation joined forces with hundreds of passionate labor leaders and dedicated rank-and-file members, all united in a spirit of collaboration, learning, and growth—while having a fantastic time! We were inspired by electrifying speeches from WSLC President Sims, AFL-CIO President Schuler, and the newly elected SEIU President Verrett, who ignited our commitment to the labor movement and energized us for the challenges ahead!

continued on page 3

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

Elizabeth Maass

North

Miriam Ramirez

North

Nikki Winston

North

Brandon Ashford-Whitfield

South/West

Paul Bender

South/West

Emmanuel Flores

South/West

Al'Dianna Hale

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

Shop Steward Spotlight: Bobbie Pringle

“To lead my coworkers to an environment where their voices are heard. To be an example of what can happen when you stand up for their rights and help create an environment of trust and respect.” This is how Bobbie Pringle describes her role as a steward. But Bobbie is much, much more than a steward.

Bobbie has represented her fellow workers at Kaiser Permanente – Washington (formerly Group Health) for over 15 years. Bobbie has served on numerous local and national bargaining teams, participated in many roles for both OPEIU Local 8 and the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions. She was OPEIU Local 8's first Contract Specialist after Group Health was purchased by Kaiser Permanente. In this role, Bobbie focused on transitioning KPWA to the Kaiser National Agreement and all other aspects of a labor/manager partnership including participating in the performance sharing program bargaining, the Union Delegate Conference and Frontline Skills Development Institute.

Bobbie has also served as a member of the OPEIU Local 8/KPWA labor management committee, been called on to play key roles in numerous bargains over initiatives, was a Local 8 Executive Board member all the while being a wonderful mother and grandmother.

Bobbie's commitment to her coworkers, her Union and her family is second to none. Thank you, Bobbie, for all that you have done and will continue to do for your fellow coworkers!



New Office & Field Staff at Local 8

We're happy to announce some exciting changes here at OPEIU Local 8, with several new hires joining our dedicated staff. Each brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion:

Conor Meara, Union Representative

Byram Simpson, Membership Support Representative

Rhonda Griffus, Bookkeeper

Kim Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

Please join us in welcoming Conor, Byram, Rhonda, and Kim to the OPEIU Local 8 family. We're excited about the energy and expertise they bring to our union and we look forward to the positive impact they will have on our work together.

Young Workers Committee Basic Training on Robert's Rules of Order

We started the Young Worker Committee in 2022 and have made great strides towards goals identified by Local 8's own young workers. Our survey showed that young workers want to learn more about how to participate in their union and other labor bodies. We've hosted happy hours and game nights, and at our monthly July meeting hosted a Robert's Rules of Order training.

continued on page 3

Workers at Disability Rights Washington Win Voluntary Recognition

In July of this year, Employees at Disability Rights Washington (DRW) won voluntary recognition with OPEIU Local 8 after demonstrating unanimous support for unionizing. The group of 24 staff attorneys, investigators, ombudspersons, advocates, and educators are dedicated to advancing the dignity, equality, and self-determination of people with disabilities. They sought to unionize to have a voice in their workplace and have an active and collaborative role in stewarding their organization's work as they work towards greater alignment with disability justice values.

While their name and structure has evolved over its 50+ history, their dedication and mission has remained the same, to protect and advocate for the civil and human rights for people with disabilities. Whether through grassroots leadership development, litigation, public policy, self-advocacy, or systemic reforms, DRW is the sole advocacy organization in Washington State fighting for disability justice. "Our commitment to the disability justice movement requires us to take an active and collaborative role in stewarding not only our organization's work but also our own workplace's culture and practices towards ever greater alignment with disability justice values. Unionizing is one piece of how we can engage with this responsibility" shares attorney, Danny Waxwing.

continued from page 1

Our delegation proudly presented our Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity (OWLS) statement on Solidarity with Gaza resolution at the Convention, a significant initiative that received overwhelming support during our January Membership Assembly this year. Considering another resolution being introduced, several members of OPEIU's delegation seized the opportunity to collaborate in an ad hoc committee. Together, they worked diligently to merge the proposed resolutions into a unified and impactful statement, showcasing our commitment solidarity. Benjamin Peterson, executive board member shares of his experience, "If member leaders in our Local hadn't laid the groundwork for this resolution through months of our own internal deliberations, and if we hadn't brought forward our own resolution to jump start discussions at the WSLC, this issue would have never made it to the WSLC's floor."

Annaliza Torres, delegate and member leader added, "...I was impressed that we had subject matter experts and was moved by their passion, compassion and determination to stand against genocide and fight for Palestinian lives. With leadership from our Local Union delegates, everyone interested was able to participate and have a voice in drafting the best resolution we could in solidarity with Gaza."

continued from page 2

Experienced labor folks know that Robert's Rules of Order are an essential and basic tool to participate in our Membership Assembly and Central Labor Councils. Through a very relatable example (ordering pizza) Brick Kawabata, Shop Steward at Northwest Justice Project and YWC Co-Chair, taught us the basics of Robert's Rules of Order at our July monthly meeting. We learned how to make a motion, make an amendment, and call the question. Who knew learning parliamentary procedure could be so fun!

Staff

Suzanne Mode
Business Manager

Corinne Cosentino
Organizing Director

Nallely Flores
Organizer

Omar Cuevas Vega
Organizer

Erin Adamson
Dir. of Contract Administration

Valarie Peaphon
Dir. of Contract Negotiations

Diane Arnold
Union Representative

Phoebe Feldsher
Union Representative

Jesse Holtzinger-Cruz
Union Representative

Leslie Liddle
Union Representative

Conor Meara
Union Representative

Patrick Pedersen
Union Representative

Tara Powell
Union Representative

Byram Simpson
Member Support 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 Comms Specialist

Kristine Alejandro
Membership Account Specialist

Rhonda Griffus
Bookkeeper

Kim Hernandez
Administrative Assistant



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

Address Service Requested

liuna#242/afl-cio

Find us on
social media at
@OPEIULocal8



Summer Solidarity in the Park

Union in the Park 2024 ended with a gathering in Vancouver, rounding out a #hotlaborsummer of fun and family in the sun. These family-friendly gatherings featured food, games, swag, and worker solidarity throughout our state. Members got the opportunity to get to know our fellow Local 8 siblings who may work at other organizations in our community in a casual, celebratory environment. At our last gathering in Vancouver, we even got to connect with a union sibling from OPEIU Local 11 who happened to be enjoying the park at the same time! It goes to show, our movement family is a growing force to be reckoned with – at the negotiation table and in a friendly game of cornhole!



Constituency Group Spotlight – Pride at Work

Our Union community stretches far into the wider labor community. We are highlighting some of the more prominent labor constituency groups as a series in our newsletter. If there is one that speaks to your identity, reach out and join!

Pride at Work seek full equality without restrictions or barriers for LGBTQIA+ individuals in our workplaces, unions, and communities, creating a Labor Movement that cherishes diversity, promotes inclusion, encourages openness, and ensures safety & dignity. We do this through education, alliances, and building solidarity across our large and diverse communities. There are three chapters in Washington State: Seattle, Tacoma, and the Southwest region. To learn more, visit <https://www.prideatwork.org/>