



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. 26
Shop Steward/Leadership Conference
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Seattle (in-person)

Tues., May 6
Advanced Shop Steward Training
6:00 - 7:30 pm
via Zoom

Sat., Jun. 28
East Regional Meeting
New Member Orientation:
10:00 - 10:30 am
Meeting: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm
Spokane (in-person)

OPEIU Local 8 by phone:
206-441-8880
800-600-2433

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

Changes in Elected Leadership at OPEIU Local 8

Local 8 held elections at the Membership Assembly on Saturday, January 25th. After 23 years serving as our Business Manager, Suzanne Mode has retired and passed the baton to Corinne Cosentino. Additionally, Kellie McGuire stepped down after 15 years as our President, creating the opportunity for Sara Franklin to step into the role.

As we bid farewell to them in their current capacities, we want to express our deep appreciation for the exceptional leadership and guidance Suzanne and Kellie have provided during their tenure. Under their stewardship, Local 8 has grown, becoming stronger and more democratic.



Pictured Left to Right: Suzanne Mode, Kellie McGuire, former Local 8 Secretary Treasurer Cindy Schu, Sara Franklin, Corinne Cosentino

In this time of transition, we also want to enthusiastically welcome Corinne and Sara into their new roles. We look forward to the undeniable drive, vision, and ideas they will bring to their respective positions. We are fortunate to continue to have such capable, strong women leading our Union!

Executive Board

Sara Franklin

President

Emmanuel Flores

Vice President

Corinne Cosentino

Business Manager

Erin Adamson

Secretary-Treasurer

Katrina Ondeck

Recording Secretary

Garrett Bryan

Central

Anthony Forte

Central

Sara Jimenez-Orozco

Central

Miriam Ramirez

Central

Bela Sanchez

Central

Aaron Shay

Central

Eli Waldman

Central

Corina Yballa

Central

Yesenia Colvin

East

Brenda Martinson

East

Naudia Ortiz

East

Lindsay Rivas

East

Shelly Dana

North

Elizabeth Maass

North

Misha Smith

North

Francis Tarango

North

Anna Anderson

South/West

Paul Bender

South/West

Al'Dianna Hale

South/West

Brick Kawabata

South/West

Benjamin Peterson

South/West

Maria Rodriguez

South/West

Kyra Williams

South/West

Trustees

Elaine Carlson, Trustee

David Evans, Trustee

Lois Jamieson, Trustee

Shannon Mains, Trustee

Joan Weiss, Trustee

Shop Steward Spotlight: Charelle Woods

Charelle Woods is a dedicated advocate for her coworkers, her community, and her Union, OPEIU Local 8. As a Shop Steward, she stands up for fairness, dignity, and respect in the workplace, ensuring that every voice is heard.

With 20 years of service at Trios Health (formerly Kennewick General Hospital), Charelle has worn many hats, working in the medical/surgical, ICU, and Progressive Care units as a HUC (CNA, Unit Secretary, and Tele Tech.) Her colleagues often turn to her for guidance, knowing they can count on her support and leadership.

“I love helping my coworkers find their voice,” Charelle shared. “For many, English is a second language, and at times I believe they are not treated fairly because of that. I listen and help find solutions—whether it’s writing an email, sitting in on a meeting, or connecting them with the right resources. I do this for everyone, not just for employees for whom English is their second language.”

Charelle’s dedication has been widely recognized. In 2024, she received the Trios Health Mercy Award for her compassion and unwavering commitment to helping others. In 2020, she was honored with LifeCenter Northwest’s LifeSaver Award for her efforts in improving donation outcomes and fostering a culture of generosity.

Beyond her work at Trios Health, Charelle is the founder and President of Lovin’ Me 911, a nonprofit organization that promotes body positivity, self-love, and expression of art through fashion. She also organizes “Loving The Skin I’m In,” an annual body positivity fashion show celebrating diversity in race, socioeconomic background, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, and disability status. Charelle then donates the proceeds of the show to an organization that serves the community.

Charelle’s unwavering commitment to service, inclusion, and advocacy is truly inspiring. We are proud to have her as a leader in our Union and our community.



Constituency Group Spotlight - Coalition of Labor Union Women

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!

CLUW, was founded in 1974 with four core objectives: to empower women for greater participation at all levels in the labor movement; to organizing the unorganized; to promote affirmative action, social and economic justice in the workplace; and to increase the participation of women in the political and legislative processes. Today, CLUW continues the fight for equal pay, child and elder care benefits, job security, safe workplaces, affordable healthcare, contraceptive equity, and protection from sexual harassment and violence in the workplace. There is one chapter in Washington State: King County. To learn more, visit <https://www.cluw.org/index.cfm>

continued from page 1

Please also join us in welcoming our newly elected Executive Board (many pictured below) who will continue Local 8's proud tradition of fighting for workers' rights and worker solidarity!



Pictured: The newly elected Regional Executive Board members in attendance at the assembly.

In addition to the regular board positions, the following members were elected to Alternate Regional Board positions: Central – **Elizabeth Flavin, Kenyatta McDowell, Emmaline Mills, David Olivera, Sheree Ugaitafa**; SW – **Brandon Ashford-Whitfield, Martie Skinner, Suzi Trumbull**; East – **Josiah Perez-Leon**. Elections were also held for one Trustee position, for which **Elaine Carlson** was elected, as well as for all Central Labor Council delegate positions.

Special Thank You to Our Outgoing Leaders

We extend a sincere thank you to the other outgoing officers who have dedicated their time, energy, and leadership to OPEIU Local 8 over the past three years. Their commitment has strengthened our union, and we are grateful for their service.

- Nikki Winston – North Region
- Elizabeth Flavin, David Olivera, and Byram Simpson – Central Region
- Brandon Ashford-Whitfield and Alex Taylor-Yaconetti – SW Region
- Robin Sullivan and Theresa Sullivan – East Region
- Fred Hutchins – Trustee

Staffing Update

We're excited to welcome Xavier Eddy as a Union Representative at Local 8! Xavier is a committed unionist with a deep dedication to building strong, lasting, and resilient worker power. With years of experience in the labor movement, he brings valuable knowledge, passion, and a drive to support and empower workers. We're thrilled to have him on board — welcome, Xavier!



Staff

Corinne Cosentino
Business Manager

Erin Adamson
Dir. of Contract Administration

Valarie Peaphon
Dir. of Contract Negotiations

Nallely Flores
Organizer

Omar Cuevas Vega
Organizer

Diane Arnold
Union Representative

Xavier Eddy
Union Representative

Phoebe Feldsher
Union Representative

Jesse Holtzinger-Cruz
Union Representative

Leslie Liddle
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

Lynn Brown
Billing Specialist

Richard Cox
Graphics and Comms Specialist

Kristine Alejandro
Membership Account Specialist

Rhonda Griffus
Bookkeeper

Kim Hernandez
Administrative Assistant



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



liuna#242/afl-cio

2025: The Year Local 8 Moves into Our Forever Home

We are thrilled to announce an exciting milestone for Local 8 – our very own union hall! In January, we purchased a building, and renovations are underway to create a space designed for our needs. Grand opening expected late 2025!

For decades, Local 8's main office was in the historic Labor Temple in Belltown – a place full of memories for many longtime members. When the building was sold in 2020, we moved to our current location in the Eastlake neighborhood of Seattle, renting space in another union's building. It became increasingly clear over time that our current space did not accommodate our needs and we began exploring other options, including the possibility of purchasing a building.

A huge thank you to our Building Committee for their dedication throughout this process! They developed a vision for our future space, set criteria for evaluating options, reviewed listings, visited properties, and spent countless hours weighing the pros and cons. After thorough consideration, they brought their recommendations to the Executive Board and, ultimately, to the September 2024 Membership Assembly, where members voted to move forward with the purchase and remodel of our new building. This subcommittee of the Executive Board is still meeting periodically to review progress on the remodel and will plan the grand opening.

We'll continue to share updates and can't wait to welcome members into the new space – a place to gather, organize, and build our union's future together.



Our new building, 6000 Southcenter Boulevard, Tukwila.