



Calendar

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

*Unless noted, all events are via Zoom.
Registration for each event will begin the month prior to event.*

Thurs., Oct. 13

New Shop Steward Training

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Sat., Oct. 22

South/West Regional Meeting

New Member Orientation:

9:00 - 9:30 am

Meeting: 9:30 - 11:30am

Tues., Nov. 8

Advanced Shop Steward Training

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Sat., Jan. 28, 2023

Membership Assembly

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

SeaTac and 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

Summer Fun at Union in the Park 2022

With the pandemic keeping us from having our usual member events and meetings in-person the last few years, we decided to take advantage of some nice summer weather to hold outdoor gatherings around Washington State at our inaugural "Union in the Park" tour. These events didn't have a formal agenda, but were focused on having fun together, meeting other OPEIU members in our area, playing games, and enjoying some food with our families and union siblings.

In July and August, OPEIU 8 members got together in Tacoma, Mount Vernon, Vancouver, Spokane, Tri-Cities and SeaTac.



Local 8 Members celebrate Union in the Park at different parks throughout Washington

We had so much fun at these events, it's something we hope to continue year after year! If you have feedback or ideas for future Union in the Park gatherings, please email corinne@opeiu8.org.

Executive Board

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Robin Sullivan

East

Brandon Galovin

North

Lucy Lopez

North

Elizabeth Maass

North

JoAnn Ortiz

North

Paul Bender

South/West

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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

Joan Weiss, Trustee

Valori Flake, Trustee

Fred Hutchins, Trustee

Shop Steward Spotlight: Mary Fassnacht

Mary is a Home Care worker at Coastal Community Action Program (CCAP). She was part of the Union Organizing Committee back in 1994 when she and her coworkers voted to become a part of OPEIU Local 8. She often shares stories of the mandatory employer meetings where they tried to convince them to not join the union. They used a loaf of bread as a visual of how much money the Agency had left to operate the Home Care, which was only the crust. The workers stuck together though, voted to be union, and signed their first contract in April of 1996.

Mary has been on every contract negotiation team since 2001, as well as serving as a union steward and a member of the Labor Management Committee. Before text messaging and before caregivers had access to emails, Mary and the other stewards would pick up the phone and call their coworkers to let them know what was going on with their union, tell them about a vote, or invite them to a bargaining unit Meeting. Mary has attended almost every Home Care Lobby Day and is not afraid to ask for what the Caregivers need or the needs of their agency. She even has doorbelled in the past for the Labor Council endorsed candidate in her district.

Mary's most important role, however, is when she puts on her union steward hat and attends the new employee orientation to introduce herself and her union to new coworkers, letting them know the fight they've had for their union contract. She talks about their rights as union members, the benefits in their contract, and tells them to contact her or the other stewards if they have any questions or concerns.

Mary is a strong advocate for CCAP Caregivers. The workers and their union are better for her activism.

Get Out the Vote

The General Election is fast approaching, and now more than ever workers must use their voice and vote to ensure we have political candidates that are fighting for us!

Dates & Deadlines

- October 21: Start of 18-day voting period (through Election Day). Ballots are mailed out and Accessible Voting Units (AVUs) are available at voting centers.
- October 31: Online and mail registrations must be received eight days before Election Day. Register here: <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>
- November 8: General Election. Any ballots not already returned must be postmarked no later than this date or deposited in an official drop box by 8 p.m. This is also the deadline for in-person voter registration or updates.

Other questions: Please contact Secretary of State at 800-448-4881 or elections@sos.wa.gov or visit <http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/>

Join OPEIU Political Action Committee (OPAL) now! Dues dollars aren't donated to political candidates; we ensure our voice is represented through separate voluntary contributions to OPAL. OPAL supports candidates who believe in collective bargaining rights, stand up to protect working families, and work for affordable housing, childcare, healthcare, and other vital social safety nets. For more information, please contact Erin Adamson at erin@opeiu8.org or visit <https://www.opeiu8.org/get-involved/political-action-committee-pac/>

Celebrating Contract Victories Around the State

In a year full of economic uncertainty and record-setting inflation, we are proud of the hard work that went into contract negotiations to win substantial increases and other benefit improvements that put our members on solid ground moving forward. Just to name a couple of the highlights:

- Local 8 members at **Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP)** negotiated equivalent to a 9.05% raise in 2022. The group focused on distributing wages in a way that helps bring the lowest paid worker to a living wage as defined by the MIT living wage calculator for the Seattle/King County area. During this contract cycle the bottom of the scale's annual salary will increase from \$47,447 to \$64,281 - an increase slightly over 35%!
- Local 8 members at **Seattle Housing Authority (SHA)** ratified a 3-year contract that includes: a retroactive 6.5%-7.5% wage increase for all employees in 2022, increased COLA ranges for 2023 and 2024, additional bereavement leave, Juneteenth as a paid holiday off, removal of outdated references to binary language, an improved overtime provision that all hours compensated will count toward overtime instead of only hours worked, and added a new option for employees to cash out vacation leave.



Union Bargaining Team at SHA (left to right, top to bottom): Vernida Jackson, Valarie Peaphon, Sophia Phillips, Shannon Mains. Not pictured: Deanna Montgomery Owens

- Local 8 members at the **Washington State Ferries (WSF)** ratified a two-year contract that includes: a 5% wage increase each year, additional pay upgrades for the Dispatch department, and other improvements to the overall compensation structure that reduce the duration of time between pay steps and added a new pay range. In addition, all employees that have an up-to-date COVID booster in 2023 will receive a \$1,000.00 one-time lump sum payment.
- Local 8 members at **Trios Healthcare** ratified an updated contract with historic wage increases, in some cases as high as 25%, with an overall average increase of 16% in 2022. This group worked hard to demonstrate union solidarity and union power to the employer. Other improvements to the contract included wage parity for Shift Differential, Weekend Premium Pay, and On-Call hours, recognition of Juneteenth, and concise language regarding reallocation of staff.

Staff

Suzanne Mode

Business Manager

Corinne Cosentino

Organizing Director

Nallely Flores

Organizer

Omar Cuevas Vega

Organizer

Erin Adamson

Union Representative

Phoebe Feldsher

Union Representative

Ida Kovacic

Union Representative

Leslie Liddle

Union Representative

Valarie Peaphon

Union Representative

Patrick Pedersen

Union Representative

Tara Powell

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Jessieca Navarro

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Race, Equity, and Social Justice Committee Holds Sign-Waving Event

Disappointed and disgusted by racism, hate crimes, SCOTUS’s decision on abortion, corporate greed, and local attacks on workers (from teachers on strike to Starbucks partners and employees of Homegrown), members of Local 8’s RESJ committee took to the streets to spread positive messages of equality, justice and worker power.



Local 8 Members gathered to wave signs in support of striking teachers and social justice.