

OPEU Elections

# Voter's Guide to Statewide Offices

## For President:

**Steven Green**

ODOT, Dist. 2, Local 730

*Qualifications:* Incumbent Dist. 2 Director; past-Dist. 2 Asst. Dir.; Employe Representation Committee chairperson; Retirement and Employe Benefits Committee member; BURC and Chapter officer; Union Steward.

*Why Candidate is Running for Office:* In the past two years our union has adopted a rational organizational structure, become a part of the international labor movement via affiliation and achieved a level of membership involvement in state contract negotiations never before approached. We have put the divisions of the past behind us and are now ready to move forward and become an important member of the Oregon labor movement.

To do this we cannot rest on what we have accomplished. We must develop a political organization capable of influencing those in the legislature and in local government. We must complete our internal organizing so that effective communication between the leadership and the membership can take place. We must include our local government units in our activities so that they become true functioning parts of our union. And, we must continue our growth through internal organizing and by the addition of non-represented and independent groups.

I have been fortunate enough to have been directly involved in our growth over this two-year period and am now asking for the opportunity to lead our union into the challenging times ahead.

**D.H. "Pete" Petry**

AFS, Dist. 5, Local 461

*Qualifications:* Incumbent OPEU Vice President; member since 1972; past-Chapter president and vice-president, 1972-1976; Dist. 5 Asst. Dir.; Affiliation Committee chairperson Government Relations and Union Operations Committee member; Gen. Council delegate, 1972-1981.

*Why Candidate is Running for Office:* A candidate for any office in our union must be completely dedicated to bettering the quality of life and the working conditions of the rank and file members.

This has been my reason for being involved so completely for the past nine years in OSEA-OPEU. During the past two years as vice-president—in conjunction with bargaining-unit leadership, board members and rank and file members—I have worked to help identify a number of long-range goals for our union. My reason for running for president of OPEU is to strengthen and solidify this union and to be able to follow through with the implementation of the following goals:

(1) For OPEU to become involved in the political process at all levels of government within the State of Oregon. We must not only be involved with our dollars, but we must also be involved in enlisting quality candidates and assisting them in their campaigns. They will then understand that we are willing to work hard for a person who is understanding of the needs of organized labor and with this type of involvement we are a political force to be reckoned with.

(2) From the office of president to the newest rank and file member, we must all become organizers for OPEU. We

cannot continue year after year representing bargaining units with only 20 percent to 40 percent membership. We must establish organizing committees in every bargaining unit, with a goal of 70 percent or 80 percent or more.

We must also continue to aggressively organize local government units. This can be done by establishing organizing committees at the district level, and these same concepts can be used in strike planning and decertification attempts by other unions.

(3) Melding of the leadership of the OPEU bargaining units, board of directors and statewide officers into a single-minded organization whose sole purpose is to serve the membership as a whole.

(4) The establishment of a health and welfare fund within OPEU. This fund would be patterned after the Bargaining Units Benefit Board (BUBB) and would be available to the local government units. The units would then have the option to include the fund in their bargaining demands. This fund could be a lifesaver for many of the smaller units.

(5) To see district leadership involved in the AFL-CIO labor councils in their districts (i.e. Multnomah, Lane, Marion, Coos, etc.). OPEU must continue to further its involvement in statewide labor organizations and in the councils of SEIU. We are the largest labor union in Oregon and the largest local of SEIU in the Northwest. Our involvement is imperative.

(6) The collective bargaining process must be continued after contracts are signed. We cannot allow this process to slow down or die out between negotiations as it has in the past. This is the responsibility of the union in its entirety, but specifically that of the locals.

(7) This union will not stand by while even one of our union brothers or sisters is being unfairly treated or discriminated against. For if one of us has been treated in such a manner, it is a personal affront against us all.

(8) The concept of comparable worth must be a goal of this union in future bargaining. It is a concept I wholeheartedly endorse and feel unions, especially OPEU, must work towards. This concept will insure that employees are compensated for their skills and the value of those skills to their employer and not for some arbitrary reason.

These goals will be the priorities of my term of office, if elected, and the promise to be open and available to you on any and all subjects, especially to insure that this union remains directed by and for the membership.

state to help campaign and support candidates for public office that, in return, will support our needs as union members and public employes.

**Steve Teters**

Health Div., Dist. 1, Local 333

*Qualifications:* Past-president, Local 333; BURC chairperson; DHR Coalition Bargaining Table rep.; DHR rep. to Central Bargaining Table; Government Relations Committee member.

*Why Candidate is Running for Office:* I feel that this organization needs new guidance and ideas and I can help to channel our energy towards our goals in collective bargaining and education of our members.

## For Sec.-Treas.:

**JoAnn R. Bowker**

AFS, Dist. 2, Local 461

*Qualifications:* Union Operations Committee member; past-Chapter secretary; treasurer, Local 461.

*Why Candidate is Running for Office:* This union is growing stronger and as it continues to develop we will need strong and committed leadership. This year has been a near financial disaster due in part to the heavy expenses incurred by bargaining. Our leaders will have to work hard to repair the damages and plan ahead to avoid future problems.

1982 is a non-bargaining year and can be a productive time. We can build a foundation for bargaining in 1983 by increasing membership, encouraging involvement of more members and preparing for 1983 bargaining.

Every budget from households to the Government is suffering cutbacks. We must attempt to curtail all unnecessary expenses, particularly those that require indebtedness of several years.

Although I have been an active union member a relatively short time I am firmly committed. I have time to devote to the future of this union. I am willing to learn, unafraid to ask questions and persistent enough to get answers.

**Carol Laizure-Jellison**

ODOT, Dist. 2, Local 731

*Qualifications:* Bargaining Unit Benefits Board (BUBB) member; secretary-treasurer, ODOT Local 731; Union Steward; Employe Benefits Committee member; Gen. Council delegate, 1980; past-president, Chapter 38; past-president, Chapter 1.

*Why Candidate is Running for Office:* I believe that my experience and skills would be a valuable addition to the Board and the leadership of this union. OPEU has taken large steps toward becoming a viable political force in our state. That growth must continue.

Public employes need to become aware of their potential for improving their own lives through active participation in the things that effect them; their local government, their workplace and their union.

As secretary-treasurer, I would apply my experience to strengthening the growth in awareness that is coming to all public employes through the political process and the collective bargaining process. By involving ourselves in our union, we will all grow and gain strength and have a meaningful impact on our work environment. By involving ourselves in the political processes of our state and local governments, we can effect changes that will have far-reaching influence on the collective bargaining process.

We can influence the way our contracts are settled by affecting the people in political office who have the final say in how much money we make and in how we perform our jobs.

## For Vice-Pres.:

**John. E. Clapp**

ODOT, Dist. 1, Local 730

*Qualifications:* President, Local 730; ODOT BURC chairperson; Gen. Council delegate, 1977-1981; Employe Relations Committee member, 1980-1981; ODOT rep. to Central Bargaining Table; ODOT Coalition Bargaining Table rep.

*Why Candidate is Running for Office:* Now is the time to start preparing for the 1983 collective bargaining contract. The only way public employes will ever get the raises, benefits and respect they deserve is through the election of public officials that are sympathetic to our needs. As vice-president I will direct my energies to developing groups of union employes in all areas of the

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