



At the 1980 General Council, Marty Blake, executive secretary of SEIU Local 49, lauds new affiliation between Service Employees International Union and OPEU (left photo); delegates on main floor listen to discussion on a resolution (top right photo); and executive director Thomas Gallagher (standing), vice

president Pete Petry (seated left) and former District 6 Director Darrell Sheridan (seated right) engage in discussion during lunch (bottom right photo).

## General Council Opens Sept. 24

Building OPEU into a strong political force and fiscal accountability will be the predominant themes at the 39th General Council.

Ten of the 43 resolutions that the assembled delegates will consider are directly related to fiscal matters. In addition, all resolutions must be accompanied with an estimate of their fiscal impact.

Five resolutions are aimed at increasing OPEU's clout in Oregon politics or at attaining specific legislation. In addition, both keynote speakers scheduled for the session—Congressman Ron Wyden and political commentator Russel Sadler—will address the problems of building a strong political movement.

The annual meeting will be held Sept. 24-26 at the Portland Hilton. All portions of the General Council are open to OPEU members.

Two resolutions that should draw considerable attention however, do not fall into fiscal or political categories. One would expand the Board of Directors from 11 to 17 members, by adding one member from each of the union's state bargaining coalitions. Another calls for the establishment of a strike fund. This reserve would be funded by assessing each member and Fair Share payer \$1 per month. The fund would be administered by a statewide union committee.

The fiscal resolution that should draw the most attention would limit General Council to once every two years. Supporters claim this resolution would save the union approximately \$50,000 per biennium.

The major political resolution of the session would establish a political action fund. Like the strike fund, members would be assessed \$1 per month. Seventy-five percent of the

money would go toward impacting state legislative races. The remainder would be used to promote OPEU strength in local government races.

Resolutions have been assigned to one of four committees; hearings will be conducted before the resolutions are brought to the floor of General

Council. Here is a summary of the major issues facing each committee:

### Union Operations Committee

Three resolutions relating to the union's dues structure will come before this committee: to assess dues at 1 percent of an employee's gross pay, with a \$15 and \$5 maximum-minimum, and to reduce dues for part-time and half-time employees.

This committee will also be asked to consider expanding rebates to locals and to continue funding for the Clerical Classification Study Committee.

### Membership Affairs Committee

Hearings on resolutions to limit General Councils to biennial sessions or only when a special session is called and on the proposed political action fund will be before this committee.

In addition, this committee will hear arguments on a resolution to increase terms of statewide officers from one year to two years.

**Constitution and By-laws Committee**  
Resolutions to expand the Board of Directors and to create a strike fund will come before this committee.

This committee will also review proposals to expand the number of delegates to General Council, to increase terms of local officers from one year to two years and to give final authority for state negotiating decisions to the central negotiating team.

### Retirement Committee

This committee will consider resolutions seeking methods to create a reserve fund for excess PERS monies, to bring public sector retirement income on par with private sector retirement income and to have BUBB write bid specifications that include retirees in the same insurance pool as active employees.

## All OPEU Members Invited to Convention

You don't have to be a delegate to attend General Council.

While the majority of activities will involve specific assignments to delegates to General Council, there will be many events that may be of interest to all members—especially those within easy driving distance of Portland.

Here are some of the highlights that have been scheduled for the three-day meeting:

### Political Commentator Russel Sadler

Sadler will comment on labor's image and how it impacts in the political process. He will be the featured speaker at lunch, scheduled for 12:00, Friday, Sept. 25.

### Congressman Ron Wyden

Wyden will discuss how political success cannot be achieved without grassroots involvement. He will be the featured speaker at dinner, scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 25.

### Health Care Cost Containment Panel

The panel will include Rep. Vera Katz and Sen. Tony Meeker, both are members of the legislative Ways and Means Committee; Douglas Wertz, M.D.; Alvin Washington, Assoc. Regional Manager

for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Oregon and William Hoelscher, a member of the BUBB Board. The panel will be moderated by Ted Wood, Employee Benefits Manager for Johnson & Higgins, a national insurance consulting firm. The panel is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 26.

### Health Care Exhibit and Movie

"Live or Die," a movie on how your lifestyle may directly contribute to heart and lung problems will be shown each morning at 8:00. In addition, a participatory health exhibit, which will include computerized health testing, will continue throughout the session.

### "Nine to Five"

The feature length movie "Nine to Five," starring Jane Fonda, Dolly Parton and Lily Tomlin will be shown at 8:00 p.m., Friday, Sept. 25. Admission is free to all OPEU members and their families.

Members who are not delegates and wish to attend the luncheon with Russel Sadler or the dinner with Congressman Wyden, must contact OPEU at least 24 hours in advance.

All General Council activities will be held at the Portland Hilton, 921 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Portland.