

**"Beaverton" – From
Page 6**

the official newsletter of the City of Beaverton. In that publication, management reported its success significantly slowing the rise in health insurance premiums.

Management's refusal to put any money on the table for a long-overdue COLA is another priority issue with Beaverton workers. The city continues to say they are unable to propose anything for a COLA until the dust settles from Measure 47/50. OPEU members' frustration with this effort to balance the budget on the backs of workers prompted a large contingent of workers to show up at the Mayor's ice cream social sporting stickers saying "we would like a COLA with our ice cream, please."

The top issue for Beaverton workers remains reform of the city's sick leave policy. The current system is considered incredibly cumbersome and difficult to understand by most workers and many managers. OPEU is also pushing for an expansion of the city's bereavement leave policy that would include more family members and would count all four days off as paid leave rather than being deducted from sick or personal leave.

Members of the OPEU bargaining team for Local 198 continue to struggle with the city's lack of initiative at the bargaining table. So far, 14 tentative agreements out of 35 contract articles have been reached – all moved by the Union. However, team members know that workers remain committed to taking action in the worksite until city negotiators agree to a fair contract.

How You Can Help

It's important that Mayor Drake hears the message that workers shouldn't bear the budget on their backs. If you live in Beaverton or know someone who does, contact OPEU Organizer Steven Ward at 503-235-5221 about ways to communicate this message to the mayor.

Child Center Votes Union

Workers at Springfield, Oregon's Child Center voted April 24, 1997 to join Oregon Public Employees Union/SEIU Local 503. The 27-to-11 vote, held at the children treatment center, came following a campaign in which workers' concerns about maintaining quality care at the Center took priority over economic issues. The Child Center provides day treatment to emotionally-disturbed children referred by local schools.

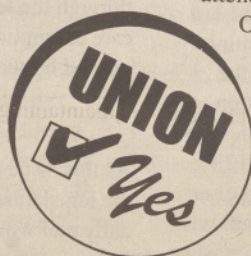
"We're the people who work with these children every day, helping them learn how to successfully function in school and at home," stated Mack Wilson, a teacher at the Center and a leader in the recent organizing campaign. "This campaign was as much about making sure we continued to have control over the essential day-to-day decisions in the care of these children as it was about reversing the erosion of our wages."

In a cost-cutting move, management recently reduced workers' vacation benefits by one week, in effect creating a significant

reduction in wages. The motivating factor among the 48 staff members, however, was the concern over growing loss of control over care decisions as the Center moved closer to a managed care environment.

The support for the Union apparently came as a surprise for the Center's manager, who chose not to attend the election – an event OPEU organizers and members of the Center's organizing committee considered unusual. No date has been set for initiating bargaining a first contract for the new unit.

The Child Center is the latest in a line of successful organizing drives by OPEU in the private, non-profit sector. Late last year, OPEU won a hard-fought organizing drive at Portland's Parry Center for Children, the oldest center in the State treating emotionally-disturbed children. Oregon Supported Living Program, ARC of Benton County and Betah Center are some of the other private, non-profit agencies whose members have elected to join OPEU.

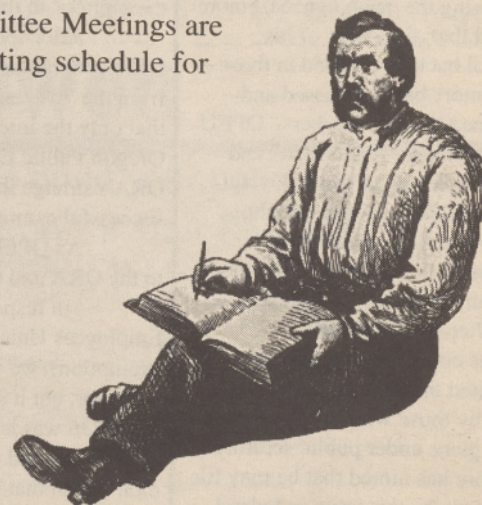


Don't Forget to Write These Important Dates in Your Calendar!

OPEU Board of Director and Executive Committee Meetings are open to all members. The following is the meeting schedule for the remainder of 1997:

- 7/12 Board of Directors
- 8/9 Executive Committee
- 9/13 Board of Directors
- 10/11 Executive Committee
- 11/8 Board of Directors
- 12/13 Executive Committee

All meetings take place at OPEU Headquarters from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. For more information, contact Linda DeLauder at 503-581-1505.



Legal Services Provider Offers New Web Site

OPEU members who take advantage of the legal services program offered through their OPEU benefits package can now turn to the Internet for program information. Phase I of Midwest Legal Services new web site has recently been completed.

The site currently offers attorney information based on geographic location – the member can simply enter a zip code and mileage radius to receive a list of attorneys in the area – as well as the ability to search specific areas of law. Future features for the site include benefit descriptions by policy, on-line enrollment capabilities and attorney biographies.

To access the site, visit Midwest Legal Services at:

<http://www.midwestlegal.com>

For more information about this new feature or for assistance with browsing the site, contact Midwest Legal Services at 1-800-888-4184 or at wsteenhoek@mlsml.com.