

SEIU Local 503, OPEU Prepares for General Council 2002

The next General Council will be held August 21-25, 2002 at the Alumni Center at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. General Council is SEIU Local 503, OPEU's equivalent of a legislative session, held every two years and attended by elected delegates from all of the Union's locals and districts. General Council is where we debate resolutions defining our mission and goals, approve the budget and review the State of the Union during the past two years. This is also a time when candidates for statewide offices have an opportunity to speak to the delegates regarding their campaign and their views as potential leaders of SEIU Local 503, OPEU. In order to help leaders and delegates prepare for General Council, we are publishing the following information.

THE RESOLUTION PROCESS: As per the Constitution and Bylaws of SEIU Local 503, OPEU, Article XV, Section 6:

"(1) The object of the resolution process is to seek a plan for solving problems for which no satisfactory plan of solution exists, to express a view not previously expressed to date, or revise the Union's position on a particular economic or social concern which directly or indirectly affects members of the Union. Plans of solution and views expressed shall be compatible with the general welfare and within the purpose of the Union. (For cost impact clarification, contact Martha Courtright, Finance Director at the Union Headquarters Office, 503-581-1505.)

"(2) Resolutions may be authored by any member. Resolutions should be in the form outlined by the Resolutions Review Committee (see sample, right). Local and District Officers are responsible to provide assistance.



"(3) Resolutions may be presented at district or local meetings to seek sponsorship. Districts and Locals may choose to endorse or reject sponsorship. Resolutions may be sponsored by being submitted with the signatures of fifty (50) active members.

"(4) Resolutions must be presented to the Resolutions Review Committee at least ninety (90) days before General Council. **(The deadline for resolutions to the 2002 General Council is May 10, 2002 at 5:00 pm at SEIU Local 503, OPEU Headquarters.)**

"(5) Late resolutions will not be accepted unless the subject matter is of such an emergent nature that it could not have been submitted in a timely manner. Decisions for acceptance of late resolutions are made by the Resolutions Review Committee with the ability of the author to appeal such decision to the Board of Directors."

The Resolutions Review Committee's responsibility is to coordinate all incoming resolutions. They research existing Union policies applicable to new resolutions for duplicity and impact on existing policies and procedures. Resolutions are then forwarded to SEIU Local 503, OPEU legal and legislative staff for review and comment and sent to the Finance Committee for a cost estimate if applicable. The Resolutions Review Committee may contact the author for clarification of a resolution. The original date of submission to the committee is the controlling date. If a resolution is returned to the sponsor for further review and/or action, the original receipt date is protected.

Sample General Council Resolution

2002 GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION
SEIU LOCAL 503, OPEU, AFL-CIO, CLC

Subject: Resolution Notice/Process

The subject should tell exactly what the resolution is about.

Submitted by: District X
Authored by: Ima Member

WHEREAS, the membership may not be aware of the resolution process, the timelines and/or formats; and

WHEREAS, the resolution process provides a very important method for members to use in defining the direction of the Union; and

WHEREAS, the timelines for the resolution, the format for their drafting, and the methods to move them to General Council need to be clearly described to the members; now, therefore

This is the "why" of the resolution—why something should be done, changed or implemented.

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503, OPEU:

That the January issue of The Oregon Public Employee prior to General Council will contain the resolution timelines, the method of moving the resolution through the process and a sample resolution format.

This is the "who, what and how" of what we want accomplished. This is the action we recommend our Union to take.

Be sure to get the necessary signature before submitting to the Resolutions Review Committee. Fill in the blanks so the Resolutions Review Committee can contact someone easily for additional information.

Signature: _____
Contact Person: _____
(Local President, District Director or Standing Committee Chairperson)
Address: _____

Phone _____
#s: _____
(Or signatures of 50 active members)

Send Attn: Resolutions Review Committee,
c/o SEIU Local 503, OPEU, PO Box 12159,
Salem, Oregon 97309-0159, to be received
no later than 5:00 pm, May 10, 2002.