

Civil & Human Rights Committee Gears Up



Nancy Padilla

by Nancy Padilla, Immediate Past President and Latino Caucus Chair

The Civil and Human Rights Committee met October 13, 2001 and developed a mission statement and goals. The Latino Caucus will have a membership meeting

on January 26, 2002. Members can call me at 541-481-9482, ext 244 or at home 541-567-2044 or e-mail me at npadilla@gohighspeed.com for more information.

It is the mission of the SEIU Local 503, OPEU Civil and Human Rights committee:

- To promote Civil and Human Rights in all areas that affect members.
- To coordinate education, training and activities in support of a diverse and tolerant membership.
- To cooperate and take a leading role with community groups which share our vision and goals so as to make visible Labor's commitment to Social Justice.

Our goals are:

- To have, as a part of all leadership training within the Union, a component on Civil and Human Rights.
- To assist the Caucus' to become more viable with in our local structure.
- To fully participate in the Internationals activities and to utilize the resources of SEIU to supplement our work in this area within our Local.
- To hold a conference open for all members as well as labor and community partners.

This is a very exciting time for everyone in SEIU Local 503, OPEU as we strengthen our focus on civil and human rights in the labor movement, our state, and the country. By the way, the next Committee meeting with all of the SEIU Local 503, OPEU Caucus Chairs and members is scheduled for January 26, 2002 at 10am at the SEIU Local 503 Portland office, 10401 NE Halsey Street.

Getting a CLUW

On October 4-7, I attended the Eleventh Biennial Convention of the Coalition of Labor

Union Women in Las Vegas, Nevada. I was sponsored by the SEIU Local 503 Woman's Committee, District 5 and my Local 412 CWW (Child Welfare Workers). I have been a member of CLUW for many years, however this is the first time I was able to attend the convention.

This year's theme was "Designing Our Own Future." Over six hundred women from different unions all over the United States attended, shared, laughed, cried, and resolved to do more. At least a hundred of the women were from SEIU, including SEIU Executive Vice President Pat Ford. CLUW President Gloria Johnson opened the convention, with the first few days devoted to hearing inspiring speakers and educational panel discussions, and attending energizing workshops. My favorite panel discussions were "Organizing the Unorganized: Getting the Work Done Together" and a session on HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention. At the Young Women Workers Forum, we watched with excitement these future leaders at work. An especially somber but moving time were Union members from New York who gave us a first-hand account on the events of September 11th.

The most important thing I learned is there are more women joining unions than men. Yet, women are not in high ranking leadership rolls. We must engage more women in building women's committees. We can design our own future if we try hard enough.

I hope to be able to put some new ideas I learned at the Convention in building our own local of SEIU.



At Work

Workers in Parks Win Temp Victory!

SEIU Local 503, OPEU attorney **Joel Rosenblit** represented Oregon Parks Department worker and SEIU Local 503 member **Angie Hazelton**, a Union Steward, and two of her co-workers who had been seasonal employees. They claimed they were improperly hired as temporary workers, because their employment was "not for the purposes of emergency, nonrecurring, or short-term workload needs," as required by ORS 240.309. Hazelton and her co-workers filed a complaint against the Department, who petitioned unsuccessfully to have the case thrown out. It went before ERB judge William Greer, who ruled in favor of the Union! Greer's "Conclusions of Law" stated, in part:

"The Department violated ORS 204.309 by employing Complainants as temporary employees to perform the subject work. To remedy the violation, we shall order the Department to cease and desist." Greer ordered the Department to "make Complainants whole for compensation and rights for the period in which they performed the subject work, with interest at 9 percent per annum, from the respective paydays until paid." The State can no longer

Meeting Notice



The Lavender Caucus is the caucus for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people and their friends within SEIU. There will be a Lavender Caucus meeting in Eugene on February 10. Dinner will be provided. Representatives of Eugene Pride and Portland Pride have been invited to give presentations. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Duell at (503)362-8351 or email her at lavendercaucus@yahoo.com.

Plus: *Just in Time for the Holidays:* Rosie the Riveter shirts!! A screen printed version of Rosie will be screened on a heather grey shirt with the "A Woman's Place Is In Her Union" logo. Sizes S to 4X are \$15 (above 4x is available for additional cost). For more information, or to order, call Lavendar Caucus Chair Elizabeth Duell at redheadedcyclone@yahoo.com or call her at (503)362-8351.