

At the 51st General Council

A vision that leads to action to victory in November and bargaining tables

SEIU Local 503, OPEU has a vision. It's the vision of a better life for working people and their families. It's the hope of living wage jobs. Secure, quality, affordable healthcare for everyone. The right to organize and join a union. A grievance procedure for issues that arise on the job. Working families living in comfort and security.

The members of our Union have a unique opportunity. We can make our vision a reality. At our 51st General Council this past August, 300 delegates came together for three days to share ideas and opinions, and make decisions about our vision for the future.

Over the course of those days, resolutions were discussed, debated and adopted that will define the goals and mission of our Union in the coming years. Significant time was spent reviewing the state of the Union, approving a budget and, through workshops, learning about a number of subjects important to our members such as PERS, homecare safety training, labor history, website design and our healthcare campaign.

Members adopted a number of resolutions including one that creates a special committee for the purpose of examining the current Board/District structure, exploring other compositions that may be more inclusive and representational, with the goal of preparing a recommendation to the Board of Directors in 2003 proposing how we might change our structure. This will, of course, be done with extensive member input. General Council delegates, should the Board adopt the committee's proposal, will make the final decision.

Also adopted was a resolution on health security that promotes the Oregonians for Health Security Campaign, initiated as a result of the New Strength and Unity Plan adopted at the 2000 General



LESLIE FRANE



EILEEN KIRLIN



KATHIE BEST



TIM NESBITT



Delegates heard from speakers from our own Local such as President Kathie Best (top, third from left) and Executive Director Leslie Frane (left), SEIU International public division director Eileen Kirlin (second from left) and Oregon AFL-CIO President Tim Nesbitt (far right). Delegates had the bargaining tables in mind when we rallied at OSU (above) and the election in November when we heard from Ted Kulongoski (above right).



District directors and assistant district directors were sworn in (above); delegates favored and opposed various resolutions reported on by committees such as the Constitution & By-Laws, here represented by Joe DiNicola and Nancy Magill.

Council, making healthcare reform a decisive issue in the 2002 electoral season. This is a priority of our International Union as well, evidenced by the money committed by SEIU to Oregon to help make this a reality.

The evaluations from General Council indicate that delegates were overwhelmingly positive about the Council, the workshops, the celebration of victories won, the award's banquet, the opportunity to hear from the

statewide officer candidates, and . . . the band, *Soundminds*.

This is a challenging, yet rewarding journey we've embarked on. The degree of success we experience is really up to us. SEIU Local 503, OPEU members have the capacity to turn our vision to action, and eventually, to turn our actions into VICTORY!