



Sonya Reichwein (third from right) will bring skills back to her local at DMV. Pictured left to right are: Cynthia Harold, Sharon Clark, Cory McIntosh, Katie Powers, Sonya Reichwein, Russ Borden, and Mary Springer - SEIU leaders in the DMV Local.

“ A lot of people think the union automatically supports Democrats, but that just isn't the case. A lot of coalition building is done around the issues that affect and are important to working families. ”

Sonya Reichwein
CAP participant, DMV, Corvallis



SEIU Heroes: members will make the difference in 2004 elections

What do you call a janitor from New York City planning a rally in Cleveland with an accountant from Columbus?

What about a nurses aide from San Diego knocking on doors with a Local 503 homecare member in Bandon, Oregon? We're calling it "2004 in 2004." That's 2004 SEIU members coming off the job from locals all across the country to work full-time in battleground states doing political activity, with one goal in mind - elect a pro-working families president.

Since the 2000 general election was decided by just 6700 votes in 2000, Oregon is one of thirteen states considered a battleground state. This year, approximately 85 SEIU members from Locals 49 and 503 will be joined by SEIU members from other states to help build coalitions with community allies, canvass undecided voters, register new union members to vote, and educate people about important issues in Oregon.

Sonya Reichwein (DMV, Corvallis) is participating in the Capital Activist Program (CAP). She recently left her job for two months and is spending five weeks in Washington, DC and four weeks in Salem. She is learning communication skills, message development, internet use, and lobbying - skills that she will bring back to her local.

Sonya explains "It's very empowering to meet the legislators in person. I feel like I'm

part of the process. I really like that the legislative department and SEIU concentrates on the issues."

In SEIU lingo, these activists are "heroes". They get that title because of the sacrifice they are willing to make to be part of this truly historic project. They are called heroes because they recognize the long hours and sacrifices this job may sometimes entail. At the same time, they realize that our families and our union can't afford four more years of the status quo.

This exciting opportunity also gives members, many of whom are new to politics, a chance to learn from other seasoned activists about how to run a political campaign and get out the vote. These experiences and skills will follow workers back in to the workplace in November and will help to build a strong union and worksite political program in the future.

To find out more about the Heroes program, contact your organizer.

August 18-22, 2004 • OSU Alumni Center • Corvallis, OR Gearing Up for General Council

by Kathie Best, President, SEIU Local 503, OPEU

The General Council is the supreme governing body of our union and meets in regular session every even-numbered year. This year it will be held August 18 - 22 in Corvallis.

General Council delegates set the policy, goals and direction of our union. Elections for delegates are currently taking place in locals across the state. Districts will also be electing delegates to GC once we have the

results of the Board (District Director and Assistant Director) elections. Members at General Council will have the opportunity to hear from candidates for Statewide office.



Kathie Best

Calling all artists

This year we plan to celebrate our talent with an art exhibit of work done by members. We're also seeking donations for a silent auction. If you would like to donate or exhibit an art or craft piece or contribute to our silent auction, please contact Maureen Crawford at Salem HQ, ext 123.

This will be my last General Council as President of SEIU Local 503, OPEU. I look forward to seeing my friends and colleagues at this year's Council, as well as those just getting involved.

I sincerely hope to see all our locals and districts represented this year! Come and make your voices heard!

The 503 Voice is published by SEIU Local 503, OPEU.

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