

# The 503 VOICE

## Vision to Action!

See inside for Statewide Candidate Statements...

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## Health care or raises? We demand both!

by Leslie Frane, Executive Director, SEIU Local 503, OPEU

It's that time again!

In a few months, the 30,000 SEIU members who work for DAS, the Oregon University System, and the Home Care Commission will begin bargaining new contracts.

### Our goals are clear

For DAS and OUS, we need to get our steps back, win fair cost of living increases, and protect our health insurance. Since health care costs continue to skyrocket, protecting our benefits will again be a challenge. But based on conversations with members throughout the state, I've concluded that this year, we cannot allow management to force us to choose between good health care and good raises. This year, we need to win both.

For home care workers, we need to build on the progress we made in our last contract. We won health coverage – but only for employees, not for their families. We need more than one paid day off a year, and our wage rate – \$8.73 for most home care workers – is still too low.

So the stakes are high. But I'm encouraged by the large numbers of state employees who have said to me "I was willing to

sacrifice last time because of the budget situation, but ENOUGH ALREADY with the state solving its budget problems on our backs." And by home care workers who have said "Last contract proved that when we stick together we can make progress. But we've only just begun."

Winning fair contracts will take tenacity, statewide action, and lots of membership participation. Here's how to get involved:

- Come to the DAS/OUS Bargaining Conference: July 24.
- Fill in a bargaining survey (to be distributed in August).
- Vote for pro-working families candidates in the November election.
- Participate in unity breaks, purple-up days, and other contract actions.
- For DAS & OUS, be ready, as a last resort, to strike if we need.

**GENERAL COUNCIL**  
AUGUST 18-21, 2004  
OSU Alumni Center, Corvallis

## In this Issue...

- Statewide Officer Statements . . . 2/3
- Healthcare Voters Unite! . . . . . flap
- Building a Positive Public Image . . . 4
- SEIU International Convention . . . . 4
- Message from the President . . . . . 4

## We Need Answers!

### THE CNIC ROUTE NEEDS IMPROVING

CNIC (Computer Networking Infrastructure Consolidation), the State's plan to consolidate data centers over the next 2 - 3 years, will have a significant impact on many agencies. 70% of the projected savings in the plan are labor costs. Yet the plan doesn't identify where the position reductions will be! The twelve state agencies affected are DHS, ODOT, Education, Employment, DCBS, Forestry, State Police, Corrections, Veterans Affairs, Revenue, DAS and OHCS.

**Come to SEIU's Strategy Committee meetings on the first and third Tuesdays every month at 5:30 p.m.** Represent your agency's issues, share information, discuss concerns, and help develop our action plan.

For more info contact Donna Glathar at 503-581-1505, x 140 (1-800-452-2146) or at [glathard@opeuseiu.org](mailto:glathard@opeuseiu.org)



In Jackson County members are facing a tough fight to protect their health insurance and receive a wage increase. In fact, the health insurance offer they received would result in a pay cut to more than half of the members. Members rallied on June 30, the day their contract expired.



Marion County members vote on their tentative contract agreement – one that includes fully paid health care, wage and step increases, and improvements in language. Participation was critical in getting more than the boss wanted to give. Members held weekly rally/barbecues, circulated petitions, and wore stickers to pressure county commissioners.