

Jan. 28
SAVE THE DATE!
See inside flap

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Make a Difference

Become a Member Leader

by Joe DiNicola, SEIU Local 503 President

Have you ever wondered

how decisions are made at SEIU? Our union is member-run. Elected members make decisions at every level and work to make sure co-workers know what they can do to make a difference. When members step up and get active, we all make progress in contract negotiations, at the legislature, and in our communities.

If you've ever talked with a co-worker about what our wages, health benefits and working conditions should be, you might consider becoming a **bargaining delegate**.

If you've ever thought you would like to represent your co-workers and give them a voice in how we run our union, you could step up to become a **General Council delegate**. General Council is the supreme

governing body of our union. We meet every two years — in 2006 council meets August 23 – 26 in Eugene. Every member is eligible to run, and only members can be elected as delegates.

You could also take on a statewide leadership role on our **Board of Directors**. We elect District Directors from every region in Oregon. Again, only members can run for Board seats.

Next year, we will also hold elections for our Local 503 **statewide officers** — Executive Director, President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Each local also elects **local officers** to conduct the business of their local and to represent our union in their worksites. As a local officer, you can help co-workers get the information they need right where you work.

Stewards help members make sure our contracts are honored at the worksite — through worksite actions, communication, and all steps of handling grievances.

This issue of *The 503 Voice* gives an overview of many ways you can become a leader and make a difference. Once you decide what position you want to run for, talk to your organizer, your steward or your local officers about nominations, timelines and what you need to get started.

“Someone from our union reached out and helped homecare workers like me. Last month, for the first time, I went out to talk to child care providers about belonging to our union. Now I'm the leader, reaching out my hand to help others.”



Sally Cumberworth, is an in-home care provider from Cave Junction. She joined SEIU in 2003.

6 Ways to be a Member Leader

1 BARGAINING DELEGATE

Members develop bargaining proposals, sit across the table from management to negotiate and make decisions about what to accept (or not accept) in our contracts.

2 GENERAL COUNCIL DELEGATE

General Council delegates debate and discuss policies, adopt a budget and set our course for the next two years.

3 DISTRICT DIRECTOR/BOARD MEMBER

Our union is member-run and 503's Board of District Directors governs our union between General Councils.

4 STATEWIDE OFFICER

Executive Director, President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer. (see duties on page 4).

5 LOCAL OFFICER

Local officers are elected to conduct the business of our union at the worksite.

6 STEWARD

Stewards are our union's representatives at our worksites, making sure contracts are honored.

6,000 child care providers set to join our union



3,342 child care providers signed cards to become part of our union. We are working with the Governor's office for an Executive Order to recognize 6,000 child care workers as part of SEIU Local 503, OPEU. Pictured carrying cases of cards are Diana McCready (left) and Ruth Nelson (right), child care providers from Portland.