

DISTRICT 6: District Director (2 positions available)

Name	What are your qualifications for this office?	Other union experience:	Why are you seeking this office, your goals?	Goals for your District?	Biggest single issue/how to resolve?	Other info:
Gary "Gus" Cole Homecare 	As a member of SEIU I have performed many tasks - Steward; Bargaining Delegate; Asst Dist Dir Homecare Council; Dist Dir Homecare Council; General Council Delegate; member of a General Council Resolutions Committee; CAPE Delegate; Member of the Committee to Rewrite CAPE C&B's. I have also completed the 2004 Leadership Academy, served as the President of the Clatsop-Tillamook CLC, and as a member of the AFL-CIO State Fed E Board. I worked for seven months as a SEIU Hero in the 2004 Presidential campaign. The next two years will be a time of great transition for SEIU 503. Traditionally SEIU 503 has represented public employees in their quest for better working conditions through organizing and political activities. But now we have expanded our organization to include large numbers of daycare, nursing home, and private non profit workers from across Oregon. We face the challenges of tailoring SEIU to meet their needs and of training these new members, so that their numbers will benefit our long time members. As a Homecare worker I belong to the first group of non-traditional workers incorporated into SEIU 503. The experience of working with union members from a variety of agencies, as well as my own local, can help weld these new members into a force of activists. And have no doubt, in time this group of low wage - no benefits workers will produce some of our most impassioned activists. In District 6 restructuring will cause great change. We represent workers in a rural environment, working in small units over a large geographical area. This isolation is our greatest unifying factor. Redistricting will place some, if not all these rural workers in districts of predominantly urban workers from large work sites. Without careful planning many of these workers will feel alienated. District 6 must assume a leadership role in this process to assure this does not happen.					
Janet M. Ferris OYA 	Prior Assistant District 6 Director, Current District 6 Director, worksite Steward 7 years, and serving on Stewards Committee several years.	Currently serving on Executive Committee.	I enjoy sitting on the Board and helping to make important decisions for SEIU's future.	To build a stronger District by getting members more involved in the union by joining political campaigns and problem solving worksite actions.	Bad ballot measures and the Governor election. To inform members about the ballot measures and the choices we will face in electing a Governor. Encouraging all to vote.	I have been asked by District and worksite members to run again.
Lyfie "Joan" Holgate DHS 	I am a committed, dependable, experienced activist whom you can hold accountable. I have served as ADD. I currently serve as treasurer for District 6 and past-treasurer for DHS Local.	I am a 29-year union member who is a 19-year shop steward veteran. I participated in two strikes - captain in 1995. I am the CAPE chair and a member of other committees. I have been reappointed to the strike hardship committee.	As DD, I would serve the members of District 6 in an effective way. I have held several positions and feel these experiences have prepared me for this office. My goals are to help SEIU grow in numbers and strength and to encourage greater participation. I would like to see a blending of the veteran members (with their knowledge and history) with the new members (with their ideals and energy) for they are both important.	I would strengthen the communication lines up and down the ladder of 503 from leadership to line staff. I would strengthen communication lines between the locals. Members appear to be disjointed with growth in fields such as nursing home, child care workers, etc. All members should have access to the district minutes in a timely manner.	I feel it is imperative that the members in District 6 not lose their voice. The breaking up of our District into the Senatorial districts would dilute the voice of our rural members. As the union contemplates changes in structure and operations, I feel it is important that rural members have a voice and not feel neglected by being appendages of large communities. Open communication should be encouraged and not discouraged.	I believe SEIU is moving in the right direction. I feel the biggest issue is continuity of the various factions. Open and free communication is vital if the union is going to merge and function. This bonding needs to be at the first rung of the ladder to the last rung.
Sandra Mies-Grandham Employment 	I have served as the District 6 Assistant Director. Currently I am in the position as one of District 6's Directors. Over the past 7 years I contributed and coordinated in multi-local union worksite actions. I have participated at General Council as a delegate. I remain committed to providing strong communication links between SEIU Local 503 Board & District 6.	I have served on statewide SEIU Local 503 committees such as CAPE and the Civil & Human Rights Committee. I have worked closely with other state agencies to set up regional union meetings at our worksite. Over the years, I have encouraged participation by members in conjunction with internal & external organizing.	Continuing to work each day for SEIU Local 503 to make equality a reality. Maintain strong ties to promote basic workers' rights for all. To serve as a conduit and a resource for new members and advertise educational opportunities available. Strengthen ties where possible in securing a positive image for activism in SEIU Local 503.	Ensure that services provided by State agencies in my district are not cut or contracted out. Continue to maintain and fight for real raises and affordable healthcare. Stay informed on contract bargaining issues.	Communication with the State's Executive and Legislature Branches will be the biggest single issue we all face as Oregonians and union members. I propose to continue working at all levels to build and grow coalitions in democracy and unity.	I am dedicated to the purpose of representing and working for the benefit of all employers of SEIU Local 503 District 6. I will work for resolution and consensus wherever appropriate.

DISTRICT 6: Assistant District Director (2 positions available)

Name	What are your qualifications for this office?	Union Experience:	Why are you seeking this office, your goals?	Goals for your District?	Biggest single issue/how to resolve?	Other info:
Bill Kinyoun ODFW (Fish & Wildlife) 	•One of first ODFW employees to step forward to be a steward - 2 years •District 6 CAPE delegate •ODFW General Council Delegate	Working in my capacity as a union steward I represented two ODFW employees who were unfairly forced into an involuntary job transfer. Working in cooperation with other community groups we achieved a significant victory when mangement reversed their decision and re-instated the affected employees to their rightful positions.	I am seeking this office so that District 6 continues to have a strong voice in union business & affairs. My goals for the union are to expand and strengthen union representation in rural areas.	My goals for the district: increase participation and awareness of represented employees within District 6.	The biggest single issue facing the union during my term is electing candidates who support workers rights including access to affordable healthcare. My district goals of increasing awareness & participation of represented employees will help bring about a grass roots effort to elect those people best qualified to achieve these goals.	
Mary Wood Homecare 	I have been very active with Homecare and have taken many leadership trainings that have been offered by SEIU. I am very politically active in my community as well as State wide. I have been active with external organizing for Nursing Homes & Child Care.	I am a graduate of Leadership Academy, have taken communication skills classes. I have been a VOC & MOC for Nursing Homes & Child Care. I attended every Lobby Day for Homecare.	I want to be elected ADD for Dist 6 because I feel I am very qualified and want to work to get a better communication between the locals, Dist & the Board of Directors.	My goals are better communication between the locals, Dist & the Board of Directors. I will strive to attend local meetings to keep all informed of what is going on in the Dist.	I believe the political agenda will be very important the next two years. Who we elect & how we hold them accountable to the voters. The ballot measures will have a great affect on the State's budget next contract cycle. I would work to keep the locals more informed of the political agenda.	

A new state hospital – a matter of where and when

by Lew Cronenberg, Mental Health Therapist, President OSH, Sub-Local 392

We've been fighting to improve conditions at Oregon State Hospital for years. We'd been having meetings and discussing what could be done before the Governor even had a task force on the hospital.

We took reporters through to see what conditions were actually like. We did a lot of work to stop violence in the workplace. We met with Senator Courtney and other elected leaders and lobbied our legislators. We talked to anybody that would listen. At our last General Council we met with politicians. We had strategy meetings.

We did everything we could to make sure people heard our side of the story and the conditions we were working under. No matter how bad conditions are - the overcrowding, the understaffing - we continue to do our jobs. Our work is a calling.

A committee of SEIU members who work at the Oregon State Hospital met with Governor Kulongoski last week to discuss plans for the hospital and to seek assurances that no matter what happens, patients would get the quality care they rely on us for. The Governor understands that we are the safety net and that there will always be a need for our hospital.

But times are changing and some people don't belong in the state hospital; they belong in the community. We want to make sure those people get the same quality of care they would get if they were under our care. The work of caring for the state's mentally ill population should be done by

state workers. We're pleased that the Governor has agreed that the new hospital will be staffed by union represented state workers, but we are worried that care in the community will increasingly be contracted out to private companies.

The Master Plan report by the task force on Oregon State Hospital will be released at the end of February. When they first decided that they would close the state hospital, we were told that it might be replaced by a smaller hospital, and the smaller hospital might not be a state facility. Now all versions of the Plan include building a new hospital and adding more beds. The Governor told us, it's not a matter of "if" anymore, it's a matter of "where and when."



SEIU members met With Governor Kulongoski on Feb 6.