



IN HIS OWN WORDS

“I think the plan (the Oregon Health Plan) is dead... I don't think it's government's role to deliver or pay for health care.”

“Governor candidates vary on how to deal with the Oregon Health Plan.” Associated Press, April 23, 2006.

In a debate before the Portland City Club, Saxton opposed new regulations on Oregon's payday loan industry, which in some cases can charge annualized interest rates that top 500%:

“I think the market is the better answer.”

Statesman Journal, May 1, 2006, “After failed bid in 2002, Saxton retools his image.”

“I recently proposed an alternative - I even called it “radical” - solution, namely reconstituting PERS by either terminating the existing PERS system and starting over, or by terminating the contracts of Oregon's public employees should their unions refuse to negotiate a new contract.”

Eugene Register Guard, June 9, 2005, “Guest Viewpoint”.

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DAS & OUS 2007 Contract Campaign Kick-off

Saturday, July 22, 2006

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wilsonville Holiday Inn
25425 SW 95th Ave, Wilsonville

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

- surveys
- elect our central table bargaining team
- discuss strategy

This conference is for DAS and OUS bargaining delegates, Local officers, stewards, CATs, SEIU Board Members. All other members are welcome to attend.

What are we going to do in the November election?

2:30 p.m. Members will discuss on what's best for our union.

For this portion of the agenda we will be joined by members from Homecare, Local Government, Private Non-Profit, Nursing Homes, & Child Care.

General Council How I See It...

My first General Council in 2000 was overwhelming to me - coming into this huge hall filled with people, talking about all kinds of issues. Now I find it exhilarating and fun to hear so many different points of view from so many people. It's democracy in action!

Caroline Mitchell is a homecare worker from Bandon.



This is my fifth General Council. I think it's a way to do something, get involved, find out about how our union works. It's amazing! We're

a member-run organization and this process is vital.



Russ Gilbert, ODOT in Hood River, checks weight, size and safety of commercial vehicles.

I've been to a few General Councils. It's very exciting. There are tons of interesting, diverse people. We talk about big issues. It's an opportunity to participate by joining committees and speaking up at committee meetings or on “the floor.” General Council is an important process that we can all participate in.

Susan Johnson is an Engineering Technician at the City of Wilsonville.



GENERAL COUNCIL
Lane County Community College
Eugene, August 23 - 26

Why I need a Union

By David E. Mears, OSU Transportation Services

The other day, I noticed an empty tissue box on an office counter. I pointed it out, and the person behind the counter cheerfully replaced it with a full one. Not that I needed a tissue at that moment, or that the person who replaced the empty box had nothing better to do, or that I am always on 'tissue patrol.' I wouldn't have even been aware that tissues were available at this counter if the box hadn't been empty. A full box would have gone unnoticed.

What does this silly story have to do with the Union?

The benefits we all derive from our union have a lot in common with that box of tissue. They are taken for granted and go unnoticed unless the box is empty. Or we have a runny nose. A living wage, fully paid health insurance, job security, workplace safety, and a quality work environment are sitting on our counter every day. Secured for us by union members long since retired ...did I mention retirement?... and written into regulations and contracts so everyone continues to benefit now and forever without needing to give it another thought.

It's a good feeling, isn't it?

Well, it's all a lie! The harsh truth is that the benefits box empties quickly, and it

takes constant volunteer efforts by many dedicated union members to keep a full box on everyone's counter. The worksite is riddled with an onslaught from pollen, cold and flu bugs. Our union contract negotiating team volunteers long hours to free your contract of managerial mucus. It is a thankless, stressful, undertaking and they need your support.

That's also a lie! They don't need your support. YOU need THEIR support. They need your encouragement and a small token of your time. Wear a union button. Ask your co-workers to wear one too. Attend a union meeting and offer a few minutes of help. It's the right thing to do, like covering your mouth when you cough.



David Mears is a mechanic who keeps campus vehicles running smoothly at Oregon State University in Corvallis.



L-R: At the Alamo are Steve Shumate (Homecare), Darlene Wright (Retired, DMV) Carlie Jackson (DHS), Brian Vogt (DHS), Jenny Garner (DHS), Lisa Donoho (staff), and Mary Springer (DMV).

We are changing the world!

Six SEIU 503 members and one staff member volunteered to go to San Antonio, Texas to lend their hands and hearts in SEIU Local 5's effort to organize city and county workers.

Texas is a right-to-work state, and the fact that the city of San Antonio and the county will not agree to bargaining contract rights, as they have in Houston, makes it very difficult for workers to have the leverage needed to make gains in their workplace. Although the cost of living in San Antonio is comparable to Salem, the workforce is paid much less for the same work done by many of our members. The federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour remains the standard in Texas.

Mary Springer, a volunteer organizer and DMV local member, reported, "For at least 10 hours a day for two weeks straight, we did house and worksite visits, general meetings and shift changes in over 100 degree weather. It was hard, arduous and emotional, but also gratifying. These workers make next to nothing and have no job

security or protections."

Local 503 members made a difference in changing the balance of power in Texas. They made great strides in gaining membership through this campaign that will help workers in San Antonio achieve the leverage they'll need to make real improvements.

"The strength of our union is directly related to the activity of our members. Apathy leads to poverty," states Carlie Jackson, a volunteer organizer and member of our DHS local. "If we are to overcome our present circumstances, it is up to us as members to become involved. If we don't, we risk striding down the same road that Texas is on right now."

They have a saying in SEIU Texas: "If you can change Texas, you can change the world." We took this saying to heart and helped change the world one door knock and one worker at a time.

To get involved as a volunteer organizer call Michael Alexander: 1-800-527-9374 x418.