



**A full busload of members from Eastern Oregon (pictured with Representative Bob Jenson/R-Pendleton) traveled five hours to talk to legislators about the skills, experience, and dedication that enable them to provide high quality care to the severely disabled residents who live at Eastern Oregon Training Center.**

**When services to Oregonians are threatened...**

## SEIU members act fast

**SEIU member activism is a key reason why, two months after issuing his budget, the Governor reversed his stance and took the proposal to shut EOTC off the table. It's also why federal funding for county services will likely be extended for at least one more year. These two examples illustrate the difference it makes when members step up and speak out on behalf of our clients and communities.**

### TO KEEP THE EOTC FACILITY OPEN

When workers at the Eastern Oregon Training Center (EOTC) learned that the Governor's budget included a plan to close their facility in Pendleton, they sprang into action. They organized a lobby effort that involved nearly twenty-five SEIU members catching a bus to Salem at 4:30 a.m. to meet with legislators. They also wrote letters, made phone calls, and signed petitions.

George Harwood, a nurse at the training center, reminded legislators that EOTC residents have severe developmental disabilities, and that many have lived at EOTC for their entire adult lives. He urged legislators to recognize the impact that closure would have on residents who, by the nature of their disabilities, "don't handle change very well."

June Mazzei, who helps EOTC residents with daily activities, explained that "(this) is about our clients, but it's also about not closing down a very successful facility and starting two other facilities west of the Cascades."

### TO PROTECT COUNTY SERVICES

SEIU Local 503 members from Oregon's counties are taking action to protect county services and hundreds of jobs. The law that provides federal dollars to counties that lost revenue when National Forestland was removed from the tax rolls, expired in 2006. SEIU members have been working hard to convince Congress to reauthorize the legislation.

All 16 libraries in Jackson County closed April 6. To date, we have petitioned state and federal legislators; met with Congressional representatives; testified before the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; and written letters to the editor and guest editorials. Four SEIU Local 503 members went to Washington, DC (Amy Blossom and Buck Eichler from Jackson County, Terry Yantis from Curry County, Terry Drever-Gee from Baker County and Aimee Wilson from the SEIU Oregon State Council.)

Buck Eichler from Jackson County says, "The sweetest part of our whirlwind trip was learning on the flight back, that our bill passed the House. Jackson County Commissioner, Dave Gilmour, said we were instrumental in picking up the votes needed to get the bill passed. There is now a possibility of a one to five year extension of the timber payments."

As we wait for word from Washington, members in Jackson, Curry and Josephine counties are working to pass local levies to provide a safety net if the federal funding is not continued.

# What Members Do by Joe DiNicola, SEIU Local 503, OPEU President

Every member of SEIU Local 503, OPEU knows we stand together to negotiate contracts and raise standards for workers. Members stand together to win better wages and working conditions. Members stand together to defend contract rights.

### Members unite to raise standards

In state government, on university campuses, in local governments and private non-profit agencies, members fight for dignity and respect. Members unite to raise standards and win better contracts for nursing home workers and childcare and homecare providers. It doesn't matter what kind of work you do or where you live. From Prineville to Pendleton, Ashland to Astoria, from Clackamas County to Klamath Falls, "When you take one of us on, you take all of us on."

Members also know that it takes more than sitting at a bargaining table to improve the lives of workers and working families. Every legislative session, members fill the Capitol with purple and talk to legislators one on one. Members make sure elected officials from city councilors to county commissioners, from state representatives to United States Senators to the Governor all understand that we are the workers who make Oregon work.

### Members defend public services

Members help everyone understand the true cost of closing a facility or shutting down public services and how that hurts every Oregonian. Members know that every Oregonian counts on the services we provide, whether it's Driver and Motor Vehicles, Oregon Department of Transportation, the Department of Human

Services or libraries in Jackson County, Beaverton and Baker County.

Members stand together with nursing home workers in Lincoln City, Medford and Milton Freewater who provide quality care for some of the most vulnerable Oregonians and deserve respect for the work they do. Members help every Oregonian understand that homecare workers provide services and quality care that clients count on to be able to remain in their homes and live with dignity. Members stand together with childcare workers who make it possible for Oregonians to go to work every day, confident their children are safe and well-cared for.

### Members do what it takes to win big for workers

It doesn't matter if elected officials work in Salem or in Washington, DC. Members go anywhere and talk to anyone and everyone to help build a better future for every working family. Every day, members talk to co-workers, neighbors, friends and families about what matters to all workers. SEIU Local 503, OPEU members take on the big fights at the ballot box and we win.

Where we work, at the Capitol and in the streets, SEIU Local 503, OPEU members do what it takes to win big for workers. Find out what you can do to help. Talk to any steward, any local officer or any organizer about what you can do to add your voice and make a difference. "When you take one of us on, you take all of us on!"



**Joe DiNicola**  
President



**Members find creative ways to get their point across at selective salary presentations. Mental Health Specialists (MHS) from Oregon State Hospital came up with the theme, "MHS workers are riding out of town."**

## SEIU Bargaining Team Chair Cory McIntosh speaks out! This may be a test – we're holding firm

On March 6, 2007, management gave us their opening economic offer for the DAS and OUS contracts. Based on that proposal, it's clear that they do not respect the work of our members.

The offer was a 1% raise in October of 2007 and another 1% raise in October of 2008. On health insurance, they offered full timers fully paid health premiums, but only until January 1, 2009. After that, if medical insurance premium rates go up by more than 8%, we would either have to start paying for our premiums, or else give up or postpone the one percent raise!

Management's proposal did not even address the Union's living wage proposal, which would require the State to pay all full-time state workers enough to put them above the gross income limit for food stamp eligibility for a family of four.

When the state was having economic problems, our members voted to accept a wage freeze in the 2003-2005 contract.

Now that the economy is recovering, it's insulting for the State to offer us cost of living adjustments (COLA's) that are less than 1/3 of the expected inflation rate.

As chair of the DAS Bargaining team, I can tell you that we are holding firm to our core economic proposals. They are:

- A COLA that keeps up with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) –which is the best indicator of the actual inflation rate.
- A fixed minimum dollar amount on the COLA so that low-wage workers see a real increase in their paychecks.
- A living wage for all full-time State employees so that no full-time worker earns less than the gross income limit for food stamp eligibility for a family of four.
- Maintenance of our current medical insurance, with fully-paid premiums for full time employees and no increased costs for part timers.

Perhaps this offer is a test. A test of how serious we are about our commitment to our members, to the work we do, and to the need to raise the pay of our lowest paid workers.

This is the time for us to pull together and show our commitment to making progress for ourselves and our families. Turn out for your Regional Strategy meetings and bargaining sessions whenever possible. Show management that we're extremely serious and united for a fair contract.



**Cory McIntosh**  
Bargaining Team Chair, Salem who supports the computer needs of all Driver and Motor Vehicle Service's employees