

BOARD ELECTIONS 2008



Belinda M Melendez

Ashland OR 97520

1 dedication, commitment, organizes member functions, coordinates w/ other members to discuss committees, & activities, attend district meetings, hold local office 2 yrs, Steward, go to officer & steward trainings, coordinate phone bank calls for CAPE, newsletter articles at local level, worksite campaigns, recruit members, delegate to general council in '06, Chair Women's council 084.

2 Handled 12 different possible grievances, one went to arbitration screening, 5 resolved without discipline or loss of work. Others issues discussed to resolve before actions by HR. Encourage Steward communication and officer mtgs.

3 To become more of a functioning member and work to guide others to participate as well. To assist in mentoring to empower members to assist others and display unity and cooperation w/ other members. Be a voice for others until they find their own voice as part of our Union.

4 Be a clear voice and communicate my readiness to be available, respond & answers questions, guide members into growth and empowerment for self-communicate and coordinate to others their part their importance in the drive for unity and knowledge about what we are and what we do as a unit. Consistent education for who we are and help others learn the same to enrich our lives.

5 Political agendas and nationwide as well as state & local issues that we need to be sure we communicate our position on to all members. Promote trust and unity for all our welfare & our children's welfare on #1 issue - Health Care.

6 My position on all issues is about 'us' the 'we' team We must work together even if we disagree at times for the betterment of the whole - not the 'one'. As a supervisor in my position at work and working with students - I have learned and continue to work on - patience, tolerance and respect for others as well as myself while getting the job done. "We" are a team - There is no 'I' or 'U' in team.

Regional Seat 14

(One member who works in the Oregon Coast region)



Gary 'Gus' Cole

Astoria OR 97103

For the last two years I have served on the Board of Directors as one of two representatives from the Oregon Coast. I ran then because I wanted to work on the details of restructure and admission of the new Child Care Local, a local akin to my own. Now we are faced with the admission of the new Adult Foster Home Local. Isn't life wonderful? During this period I have also served as Home Care's first Chief Steward and a delegate to the CAPE Committee.

I am asking you to return me to the Board of Directors for another two years, that I may continue this work. When we begin business under our new structure minor problems will invariably arise, calling for some policy changes. These changes will be small, but there may be many of them. I'm also sure that our membership will grow, within both existing locals and those to be newly formed. We will need to adjust our structure to accommodate these new members. New members will expand our role in SEIU, bringing new challenges and opportunities. We must be prepared to look forward in an exciting, and as yet unknown, manner.

Our new structure opens the possibility of the Balkanization of our locals. Only General Council and the Stewards Conference will bring together leaders from all locals to discuss the issues of the whole. We will need find ways, formal and informal, to increase interaction among locals. In any organization as large and diverse as 503 tensions and disagreements will arise from time to time. We must constantly work to maintain unity in the face of occasional division. Under our old structure we have an excellent track record in this area. I am sure we will find means to excel under the new.



Janet Ferris

Tillamook OR 97141

1 Former District Director, Former Assistant DD
Steward 9 years

2 Steward Committee 7 years

3 I am seeking this office to represent the members in my region. I want to be able to keep them informed of the changes & challenges of our SEIU 503 union.

4 To continue to organize, and keep members informed on the issues we as a union will face, such as bargaining, political issues and re-organizing

5 Political issues, organize members to fight for worker friendly candidates and to fight against bad ballot measures



Sandy Huckleberry

North Bend OR 97459

1 My greatest qualification for this position is my dedication and love for 503. I have served SEIU, Local 503 as a political activist attending Lobby Days, leading the re-elect Arnie Roblan campaign within 503 and helping to bring DHS Coos/Curry to 40% CAPE participation - the highest percentage of population in the state. I have worked diligently during contract campaigns to keep my co-workers informed, escalate participation by leading worksite actions and helped to identify new leaders. I am a hard worker. I am dedicated to continue to build SEIU, Local 503 and grow the labor movement by improving the lives of working America.

2 I have served as a Page for General Council. I taught a workshop in the last Stewards Conference about building strength in the worksite. I have been effective in working with leaders from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, ODOT, Employment Department, Oregon Youth Authority, Parks Department and other divisions of DHS on the South Coast.

3 I believe that the current issue with SEIU's President has fractured our unity, causing strife and division. During my term I will work to repair relations and get back to the real work of 503.

4 Serving a rural portion of the State has its challenges. It is more difficult to stay connected and feel part of. My biggest goal is to build that bridge that helps rural members in my sector feel connected not only to SEIU, Local 503 in a more productive way but to the labor movement and International conversations.

5 We need to get our Union back to a "We thing", not a "Me thing".

6 I am motivated and a motivator. I believe in our members. Our work touches the lives of every Oregonian. Our Union works for us so we can work for Oregon. I would be proud to serve and represent you.



Sandra Mies-Grantham

Newport OR 97365

1 I have served one full term as a District Director from the Coast. I am one of three directors elected to the Executive Committee in 2008.

2 Other union activities that I have been elected to in my Local include participation on the statewide labor & mgmt committee for Local 471. I am a CAPE committee member and a Steward in my local work site.

3 I am seeking this office to maintain and improve workers' basic right in Oregon. Other areas of focus would be:

- Fight privatization:
- Build coalitions to legislate health care security.
- Grow union membership to build power base.
- Focus on leadership development.

4 One of the goals for the Oregon Coast Region will be to develop positive integration plans under the new SEIU 503 representation structure to begin on August 24, 2008. I will promote solidarity and support across the bargaining units.

5 The looming issue for SEIU 503 will be in formulating a vision that includes a diverse and expanding membership. The direction taken will include educating our members on political and economic issues that are dividing our democratic society.

6 A focus on internal organizing to develop new activists and leaders is critical to the health of our union and its purpose. Strong internal organizing will lead to successful external organizing to build union density.

Regional Seat 15

(One member who works in the West Central Valley region)



James Jacobson

Eugene OR 97405

1 -Active in SEIU 503 & Local 085 (U of O) since 1998
-503 Board member (Dist 3S) August '06 to present

-Since March '07 to present, I've stood resolute with the majority on our Board to deny what we feel is an unjustified claim by the current 503 president for payment of 2,596 overtime hours.
-Member of the ad hoc committee to recall the current 503 president. Contact me for information on the recall.
-Grassroots organizing experience since 1970 in environmental, consumer, labor & peace movements. Gained experience in leadership positions, public speaking, media, training, consensus decision-making and meeting facilitation. Authored articles, columns, and news releases.

2 -U of O bargaining table representative, 2001-02
-Steward (Local 085) 2002 - '08
-Attended many SEIU bargaining, leadership, political trainings & conferences.

-Frequent volunteer for SEIU organizing & political projects: phone-banking, flyer distribution, signature-collection, etc.
-Contributor to and active in CAPE. Elected 10/07 as delegate to statewide CAPE Board.
-Writer of letters-to-editor (newspapers) on SEIU-supported issues, political measures & candidates.

3 I'll serve and represent SEIU members. I'll advocate improved communication between the Board and members in Region 15, and statewide. 2008 is a critical year for labor to unite in Oregon and nationally. We must be influential in determining pro-worker public policies, and elect worker-friendly candidates.

4 I'll seek broader input from members regarding our priorities. I'm committed to encourage growth of member participation in fighting for worker rights, income, health care, benefits; and in political action campaigns.

YOU are the Union! We'll be successful in advancing our rights, wages and health care needs when you and your fellow members are active and assertive in demanding that workers' voices are heard! I'll ask you to become more involved.

5 Dramatic increases in the cost of health care, prescription medicines & hospitalization must be controlled. Affordable, universal health care for all is a family value. We must support health care reform locally and nationally.

Strength in Union!

Regional Seat 16

(One member who works in the East Central Valley region)



Deborah Dombrowski

Corvallis OR 97330

1 I first joined this Union in 1974, was a member for 6 years, then moved to Montana. I came back to Oregon and joined the Union again in 1983. Since then I have

participated in our two historic strikes, been a CAT team member in every contract fight, became a steward in 1999, Secretary of my Local in 2000, then Vice President, then President. Currently I serve as Secretary of my Local. I also have served as Sec. for District 3 North. I have been a Bargaining Delegate, alternate bargaining table rep., General Council Delegate 3 times, participated in the 2nd board/district restructuring effort which bore no fruit, chaired the Local's election committee, gathered signatures on many petitions, helped fight many bad ballot measures, supported union/worker friendly politicians by doing knock and walks, lit drops, phone banking, etc. I've marched and sung and carried picket signs. I've manned picket lines and been a picket captain. I've stood in picket lines to support the striking Steelworkers and Teamsters seeking to organize. I've served grievances, been the grievant in a successful arbitration settlement, and stood firm on contract language to defend workers' rights in the workplace.

3 The restructuring is a great time to be active at a higher level, to help move the Union towards being an even more member-driven organization. And as we expand into more worker's lives through our efforts to organize workers who have previously been unrepresented, it's the perfect time to involve more people in the processes and decisions of the Union. I would like to see better communication between the organization and its members, higher membership, more involvement in CAPE and the political process, and a greater activity on the part of the members.

**Ballots will be mailed March 10
and are due at SEIU 503 HQ
in Salem by 5 PM, March 31.**