

22 Elected to SEIU 503's New Board of Directors

A total of 22 members have been elected to the SEIU 503 Board of Directors under a new structure designed to encourage geographic and sector diversity.

The newly elected members — 12 by geographic region of the state and 10 from designated employment sectors — take office at the biennial General Council in Eugene in August and serve until the 2010 General Council.

The change from prior geographic district voting was made to assure diverse Board representation. Members voted only for directors in their region and sector. The new Board will be sworn in during General Council in August. Four statewide officers will be elected this fall.

Here are the members of the incoming board, directors in bold, assistant directors in parentheses:

Seat 1 (Oregon University System)
Star Holmberg (Maggie Neel)

Seat 2 (Human Services)
Catherine Stearns (Nancy Padilla)

Seat 3 (ODOT)
Cameron McGinnis (Cory McIntosh)

Seat 4 (Specials)
Lea Spencer (Robert Sisk)

Seat 5 (Institutions)
Dan Smith (Deon Chandler)

Seat 6 (Local Government)
Gary Wolf (Buck Eichler)

Seat 7 (Private Non-Profit)
Kristie Krinock (Shaun Notdurft)

Seat 8 (Homecare)
Mary Wood (BG Gray)

Seat 9 (Nursing Homes)
Bruce McCutcheon (Carlotta Davison)

Seat 10 (Childcare)
Portia Moye (Laurel Jones)

Seat 11 (North Central/Eastern)
Jenny Garner (Drucilla Califf)

Seat 12 (South Central/Eastern)
Anita Pecoff (Jill Sipes)

Seat 13 (Southern)
Belinda Melendez (Sally Cumberworth)

Seat 14 (Coast)
Sandy Huckleberry (Gary "Gus" Cole)

Seat 15 (West Central Valley)
James Jacobson (Joe LaMont)

Seat 16 (East Central Valley)
Deborra Ann Low

Seat 17 (2) (Greater Salem)
Randy Davis, Rosalie Pedroza
(Peggy Salas, Cheryl Bergman)

Seat 18 (West Salem/Polk County)
Trish Lutgen (TBD)

Seat 19 (North Valley)
Phyllis Wills (Rena Chapel)

Seat 20 (West Portland)
Gina Santacrose (Mary Hubert-Godwin)

Seat 21 (Greater Portland)
Kay Schneider (Holly Fries)

The 503 VOICE

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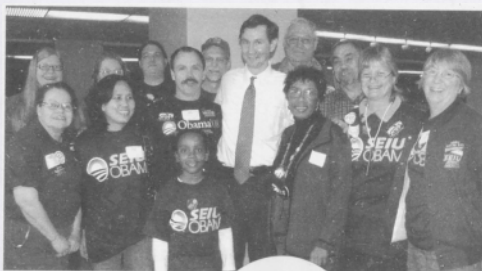
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Statewide Effort for Obama, Kroger Key SEIU 503 May Primary Campaign

From the White House to the State Capitol to city halls in Beaverton, Eugene and Portland, SEIU 503 members have targeted nearly 60 key contests in the May 20 primary.

Following an exciting political conference in April to kick-start the campaign effort, members have been going door-to-door, phoning, leafleting and generally spreading the word on behalf of worker-friendly candidates.



John Kroger with SEIU 503

Local 503 members have been among the most politically active in the international union, a point driven home this spring when the local was honored for the largest percentage increase of voluntary participation in CAPE (Citizen Action for Political Education) of any SEIU local in the nation. CAPE is funded by voluntary contributions of members to further the local's efforts in the political arena.

Two candidates featured at the conference, Presidential contender Barack Obama and Attorney General aspirant John Kroger, are high on the list of statewide candidates that SEIU 503 has endorsed. Others include three state legislators seeking higher office—Kate Brown for Secretary of State, Ben Westlund for State Treasurer and Jeff Merkley for the U.S. Senate.

Speaking by phone to Local 503 members at the April 5 Political Conference in Portland, Obama compared his path to the Presidency to the union's efforts on behalf of workers.

"Bottom-up organizing is the essence of what we are trying to do in our campaign and that's why I am so happy to have SEIU's endorsement," he said. He ticked off a list of goals he promised to fight for in the White House, including passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, restoring a worker-friendly U. S. Department of Labor and the institution of paid family leave.

SEIU 503 Executive Director Leslie Frane introduced Kroger, a law professor at Lewis & Clark University and former federal prosecutor, noting that while Kroger prosecuted the Enron Corporation, the firm of his primary opponent, corporate lawyer Greg Macpherson, defended the disgraced corporation. Kroger has spent his entire professional career in people-oriented pursuits.

As Attorney General, Kroger pledged to a rousing ovation that he would be "tough, independent and put workers and consumers first, not big corporations."

He said that while he prosecuted Enron in Houston, the company was actually headquartered at the World Trade Center in Portland because Oregon has been so lax in taxing or regulating businesses.

"They knew no one here would try to make them pay taxes or watch what they were doing," Kroger said. "Some of the worst crimes Enron committed came right out of downtown Portland. If I am elected Attorney General we are going to have a real corporate watchdog on the job."

Attacking epidemic methamphetamine use is another key priority because of its role in promoting property crime and child abuse across the state, Kroger said, but better treatment programs are essential because prosecution alone has never reduced drug use.

SEIU 503-endorsed candidates are on the web at seiu503.org