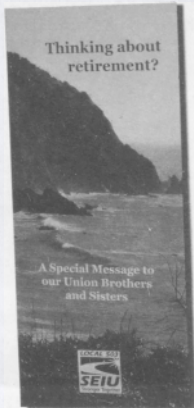


Not a Very Retiring Lot

A feisty group of SEIU 503 members is bent on expanding Retirees' sub-local 001.

According to a new recruiting brochure, in 1992 members founded the local "as a way for us to stay connected with one another and to make new friendships, share our experiences, stay politically active and serve our communities and maintain our union-member-only benefits provided by Local 503."



Members are especially active in lobbying for pension rights, preservation of social security, affordable and adequate long-term health care, protection against predatory lending and business practices and other issues of concern to retirees, but say the extra time retirement brings allows them to campaign for all goals sought by working families.

"The local has provided me with a vehicle to concentrate my activism on retiree issues within our union," member Barney Gorter said, "and it has provided me with invaluable entree to other retiree organizations around the state."

Workers who maintain union membership into retirement can access such benefits as membership in the Alliance for Retired Americans, legal services insurance and \$2500 of free life insurance as well as discounts on travel and other services.

Approaching retirement? Log onto www.opouseiu.org/Local001 or call Bob Rossi @ 800-452-2146 ext 141 for more information.



State Should Step Up for OUS and Restore Parity with DAS

Joe DiNicola, President

An extra step will be added to the top of every salary range for every job classification in every state agency effective June 30, 2009. At the same time, the bottom step of every salary range will be eliminated. This means that every worker in every state agency has won an extra step and a pay raise.

How did the new step raise happen after the last state contract was settled? When Governor Kulongoski announced special raises for state agency managers last October, SEIU Local 503, OPEU members across the state expressed outrage. If "recruitment and retention" is a serious issue for top-paid managers, isn't it just as important for front-line workers? When confronted by demands for fairness from state workers represented by SEIU Local 503, OPEU and AFSCME, the Governor agreed to add the new extra step and announced the agreement on December 13.

How will the new step be implemented? All workers at the top of their salary range on June 30, 2009 will get another step on their next salary eligibility date. All workers at the lowest step of their salary range will get an immediate step increase. In the long run, every worker in every job classification gets the extra step.

While state agency workers celebrate, this is also a time for every member to join together with SEIU Local 503, OPEU workers at each of the seven Oregon University System campuses. OUS members stood together with Department of Administrative Services members at the bargaining table on core economic issues, but are now left out in the cold under the DAS agreement with the Governor. If DAS managers and line workers face recruitment and retention problems, those same problems are even greater within OUS.

Parity with DAS workers was a "go home" issue for OUS during contract negotiations. After the contracts have been settled, SEIU Local 503, OPEU members will not stand silent and leave OUS workers behind.

A new top step for every worker must be a number one priority in the OUS budget. The good news is that OUS members have nearly 18 months ahead to organize and put pressure on the Chancellor's Office to do the right thing. The current contract expires on June 30, 2009. Every SEIU Local 503, OPEU member can help make sure that by the time the OUS contract expires, no worker is left behind.

State Makes August 23rd Lucy Lahr's "Day"

August 23, which would have been Lucy Lahr's 46th birthday, will be celebrated as "Workers' Rights/Social Justice Day" in Oregon to honor the memory of the longtime SEIU 503 local officer and activist in Lane County killed by a hit-and-run driver in October.

"We honor Lucy Lahr and recognize her dedicated advocacy by celebrating on her birthday workers' rights/social justice day," the Legislature declared in a resolution introduced by State Sen. Vicki Walker of Eugene during its February special session and signed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski, "asking that Oregonians give one hour of their day to making a difference in their community."

The resolution called Lahr "a leader in the Eugene-Springfield Labor Community" who "helped spearhead the effort to secure living wage standards in the city of Eugene and in Lane County and...was respected by



As members and staff look on, legislators pass resolution creating "Workers' Rights/Social Justice Day" in Lucy Lahr's name.

coworkers, management and administrators as a dedicated, effective and caring social worker who inspired her clients to identify and achieve goals for a better life for themselves and their children."

Lahr's "day" falls during next summer's 2008 SEIU 503 General Council, to be held at Lane Community College in Eugene, which should allow optimum participation by the union's leaders and members.