



2 Million Strong—and Growing



SEIU 503 convention delegation

SEIU kicked off its 24th International Convention last month in San Juan, Puerto Rico with the news that membership has surpassed two million—

more than doubling in size in the past dozen years.

For delegates from SEIU 503 and 3,500 colleagues from locals large and small, the announcement set the stage for passage of an ambitious Justice for All platform—an organizing and political plan with the goal of restoring balance in our society between people who work and people with wealth.

“We want to win a better future for all working people,” said Andy Stern, International President of SEIU. “And it’s going to take the active voice and participation of our union members to bring Justice for All to the millions more workers who are not yet represented by a union. We’ve doubled our size in 12 years. It took courage, persistence and a lot of organizing for us to reach this milestone. And I say today what I said 12 years ago: this is just the beginning.”

In his president’s report, Stern revealed that by implementing the divisions’ plans, at its next convention SEIU would become the largest union representing private sector workers in North American history and “for the first time be the largest state, county and municipal workers union in the Americas,” meaning “purple will lead the public sector.”

The Justice for All plan commits members to continue to build strength by uniting at least a half million more not-yet-union workers in the core industries of healthcare, property services and the public sector over the next four years.

For a complete rundown of convention highlights, log on to www.seiu2008.org/.



Dignity and Respect: More than a Slogan

by Joe DiNicola, President

In 1861, when the United States was on the brink of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln said,

“We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

At the 2008 SEIU International Convention in Puerto Rico divergent views and hard questions took center stage. What is the meaning of member democracy? Should individual SEIU affiliated locals (like SEIU Local 503, OPEU) retain the same level of independence as we have enjoyed historically? Or should we give up some of our local control and give SEIU International more authority to set strategy and enter agreements at the national level with employers like national hospital and nursing home corporations? When is it more efficient and effective to allow centralized national control, and at what point do members want to assert independence at the local level?

48 Win Union Scholarships

A total of 48 members and relatives have qualified for SEIU 503 scholarship awards for the 2008-2009 academic year — 24 \$500 awards for students entering college and 24 \$750 grants for continuing students.

Active, laid-off or retired members, their spouses, domestic partners and children or grandchildren less than 25 years of age when they enter college are eligible for the scholarships as are dependents of deceased members. They are awarded to undergraduates who can demonstrate both academic qualifications and financial need.

Applications for the 2009-10 academic year will be available in December on line at the Oregon Student Assistance Commission website — www.getcollegefunds.org — or from any Oregon college financial aid office and most Oregon high school counseling offices.

Here are this year’s recipients, their SEIU 503 connection, college and anticipated major field of study:

Kate Allen, DHS, continuing at Portland State, social sciences
Rachael Barrows, daughter of Thomas Barrows, DAS, entering Pacific Lutheran, education and history
Julie Blikstad, daughter of Jennifer Blikstad, Employment, entering George Fox, nursing
Benjamin Bodenmiller, son of Donald Bodenmiller, ODFW, entering Oregon State, computer science
Amanda Boice, daughter of Linda Boice, Employment, continuing at Nevada-Reno, pre-med
Jerry Boice, son of Linda Boice, Employment, continuing at Nevada-Reno; undecided
Bonny Chang, DHS, entering the U. of Washington, social sciences
Amelia Clay, daughter of Nancy Clay, DCBS, entering U. of San Francisco, social sciences and international relations
Lindy Layton, daughter of Craig Clayton, ODOT, continuing at OHSU, nursing
Brandon Crawford, son of Leonard Crawford, WOU, entering Willamette U., philosophy, languages
Deirdre Crowell, DHS, continuing at Oregon Tech, mechanical engineering, mathematics and statistics
Kasimera Dehart, daughter of Stacy Dehart, UO, entering Portland State, psychology
Caitlin Easter, daughter of Carol Easter, DHS, entering U. of Oregon, English, biology
Kendra George, daughter of Paul George, DHS, entering Western Oregon U., education
Wende Glimpse, daughter of Richard Glimpse, ODOT, continuing at Emporia State, library science
David Grimes, daughter of John Grimes, ODOT, entering Lewis & Clark, English
Donna Harris, PSU, continuing at Portland State, education, community development

Amanda Hartley, daughter of Julie Hartley, ODOT, entering SW Oregon CC, engineering
Julie Hauser, wife of Allen Hauser, PSU, continuing at Portland State, education
Travis Heide, son of Katherine Heide, WOU, entering U. of Oregon, business
Mideon Hoffman, son of Susan Freedman, Homecare, entering Oregon State, business
Benjamin Hulburt, son of Joseph Hulburt, ODFW, entering Oregon State, construction engineering, business
Elizabeth Kean, daughter of Robert Kean, Marion County, continuing at George Fox, education
Alysaa Koida, daughter of Kristin Engelbretson, PSU, continuing at U. of Puget Sound, international relations
Kayann Layton, daughter of Rene Layton, Wallowa County, entering Mt. Hood CC, dentistry
Eric Leaming, son of Gary Leaming, ODOT, continuing at Oregon Tech, civil engineering
Azalea Lewis, daughter of Terrena Lewis, DHS, entering Lewis & Clark, psychology
Melissa Linville, OSLP, continuing at U. of Oregon, special education
Kortney Loosli, daughter of Ryan Loosli, DHS, Brigham Young, Music
LaDawn Lowe, Justice, continuing at Portland State, human resources, marketing
Ryan McGoldrick, son of Steve McGoldrick, DHS, entering Gonzaga, business, biology
Barbara Pearce, Homecare, continuing at Lane CC, nursing, public health
Catherine Pickett, daughter of Steve Reinemer, City of Beaverton, continuing at U. of Portland, communication, business
Craig Pruitt, Education, continuing at Corban Col., computer science

Jennifer Pruitt, daughter of Craig Pruitt, Education, continuing at Masters Col., pre-med
Jessica Pruitt, daughter of Craig Pruitt, Education, continuing at Corban Col., international relations, religion
Katelyn Rathelegurche, daughter of the late Baron Rathelegurche, Linfield, business
Jeremy Rayman, son of Kathy Rayman, Jackson County, continuing at Southern Oregon U., business
Illaura Rossiter, granddaughter of Mary Rossiter, Homecare, entering Art Inst of Portland, fine arts
Jenny Seward, daughter of John Seward, Forestry, continuing at Willamette U., international relations, languages
Mitchell Shelton, son of Allen Shelton, Wallowa County, entering Lewis-Clark, medical technology, biology
Melissa Sweet, daughter of Minoo Sweet, DCBS, entering Lewis & Clark, liberal arts, human resources
Krystal Toderick, daughter of Irene Chavez, DHS, entering Willamette U., physical therapy, pre-med
Joseph VanDerNaald, son of Wayne VanDerNaald, ODFW, entering Portland State, psychology, liberal arts
Christopher Wagner, Forestry, continuing at Eastern Oregon U., education
Adrienne Wise, daughter of Marjorie Wise, UO, entering Reed Coll, undecided

Jessie Bostelle Memorial Scholarship
Nicolle Lavelle, daughter of Daniel Lavelle, UO, continuing at Portland State, graphic art, fine arts

Toni Lowery Scholarship
Richie Day, son of Hanteng Day, DHS, Dartmouth, economics, international relations

equals. There can be no place in any union for retaliation, discrimination, coercion or bullying. It is never appropriate for union brothers and sisters to attack each other, nor is it appropriate to target any individual member or group of members. No one should engage in a campaign of personal destruction or intimidation over a difference of opinion.

Dignity and respect are not just slogans for bargaining contracts or political campaigns. Members can’t leave dignity and respect for each other at the threshold of the union hall. Dignity and respect are core union values. When members abandon fair and respectful debate and ignore the need to protect each and every worker’s dignity and rights, then every union member is in jeopardy.

SEIU Local 503, OPEU members are justifiably proud of what we have accomplished together. Members in every corner of Oregon fought for and won better wages and held a tough line to defend quality, affordable health care. Members made unprecedented gains at the ballot box. Thousands of workers in new industries joined SEIU Local 503, OPEU and our great union is stronger as a result.

Success in the future means union members everywhere must continue to stand up for each other, each member must continue to look out for every other member and make sure the rights of every other member are always protected. That is when we can say we are truly, “Stronger Together.”