



2020 General Council

Lane County Events Center, Eugene OR

The 2020 General Council, SEIU Local 503's supreme governing body, will convene at the Lane Events Center in Eugene August 6-8, 2020. Council Training for appointed Committee Chairs and members will be scheduled prior to General Council convening.

Members of all SEIU 503 sublocals will elect voting delegates to General Council in the coming months during their sublocal elections. Even our smallest sublocal has at least one delegate. Delegates for larger locals are apportioned under an established formula. Members of the Board of Directors—Statewide Officers, Directors, and Assistant Directors—serve as delegates to General Council by virtue of their position.

See the Local Election Chart on pages 2-5 of this publication for details about your sublocal's elections. New and updated Election and General Council information will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

General Council Resolutions

A General Council resolution is SEIU 503's version of a proposed law – and every member has the right to legislate. To be considered, a resolution must be submitted through official action of a sublocal, the Board of Directors, or a Standing Committee. In the event a sublocal does not endorse a proposed resolution, the author of the resolution may present the resolution to the Resolutions Review Committee after obtaining the signatures of fifty (50) active members. Sublocal officers are responsible for providing assistance to members in the resolution drafting process.

Resolution sponsorship also means that no satisfactory solution or expressed view can be found by any action other than that of the General Council.

A proposed resolution should have a subject summarizing the intent as concisely as possible. It should start with one or more "Whereas" paragraphs, describing why something should be done, changed or implemented, and conclude with "Be It Resolved" – the proposed action. A proposed resolution shall embrace only one subject and matters properly connected therewith. Resolutions may be submitted to the Resolutions Review Committee up to 90 days before General Council convenes to be considered timely. The Board may submit resolutions up to 30 days before General Council convenes. General Council is scheduled to convene on Thursday, August 6, 2020.

See SEIU 503 Bylaws, Article IX - The General Council for additional information, available on our website: www.seiu503.org.

Long-Term Care Reform

By Melissa Unger, SEIU 503 Executive Director



70,000 Oregonians – nearly the population of Medford – work in caregiving jobs, providing services to seniors, people with disabilities, and children. This long-term care system is in crisis, and the problems we see today are getting worse. The time for bold action is now.

There is hope. When caregivers are able to join in union there are immediate results. The quality of care improves, with dramatic impact on people's lives, and families supported by caregivers are lifted out of poverty. In Oregon, there is a clear link to when homecare workers organized a union and results that helped consumers and caregivers.

The problems that plague this workforce are large and long-standing. For centuries, women have performed caregiving as an expectation. As caregiving has become a profession it has been women, specifically women of color and immigrants, who have filled the jobs. Since then caregiving has lived in the shadows, often unpaid or as low-wage, no-benefit jobs. The history of sexism and racism is the reason this profession is overlooked and undervalued.

Over the next decade, long-term care will be one of the largest growing professions in the United States. We must address the issues in this system now.

I believe that in order for SEIU members to continue increasing their wages, winning benefits, and improving the quality of care that we provide, we must lift this entire system up. We cannot succeed while the rest of the long-term care system is completely broken.

In the coming years, our union will focus on that monumental task. As we continue to fight for our members, we will also address the problems faced by non-union workers, by consumers, and their families.

This work can take many forms. We can and should push government – the largest funder of long-term care – to improve standards. We must organize more workers into unions so they have the power to advocate for themselves. We must organize consumers to apply public pressure to decision makers who can improve training, workforce development, and staffing standards.

We can do all these things and more. And we have to, because the workforce of the future is a workforce of care providers. It's on us to make sure those are good jobs.

2020 GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION SEIU LOCAL 503, OPEU

Subject: Resolution Name (should tell exactly what it's about)

Authored by: Member's name, or Standing Committee name, or Board of Directors

Submitted by: Sublocal Name (eg, "Homecare", or "SOU"), or Standing Committee, or Board of Directors

Resolution endorsed by (one of the below methods):
 Member signatures (50 or more) Sublocal vote at member meeting
 Standing Committee Board of Directors

Text of Resolution:
 Resolutions should have one or more "Whereas" statements, which define why the resolution is a good idea, and one or more "Be It Resolved" statements, which explain the "who, what, and how" of the proposed policy or action by the union. If the resolution is untimely, the "Whereas" statements should explain why the subject matter is of such an emergency nature that it could not have been submitted in a timely manner. If the resolution is to amend the Bylaws or AP&Ps, the "Be It Resolved" statements must address the specific language of the Bylaws or AP&Ps, with words to be removed in strikethrough and words to be inserted underlined.

Example resolution:

WHEREAS, the membership may not be aware of the resolution process, the timelines and/or formats; and

WHEREAS, the timelines for the resolution, the format for their drafting, and the methods to move them to General Council need to be clearly described to the members; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503, OPEU, that the first issue of the union's newsletter prior to General Council contain the resolution timelines, the method of moving the resolution through the process, and a sample resolution format.

Signature: _____

Contact Person: _____
 (Point person for 50 or more active members (attach signatures), Sublocal President, Standing Committee Chair, Board Member)

Contact Person Address: _____

Contact Person Best Phone (not work): _____

Contact Person Home Email: _____

Submit to: SEIU Local 503, OPEU Attn: Resolution Review Committee, PO Box 12159, Salem OR 97309 on or before 5:00pm on May 8, 2020

2020 GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION SEIU LOCAL 503, OPEU

Subject: Clarifying the General Council

Authored by: Lucinda Leader

Submitted by: SEIU 503 Great Workers' sublocal #123

Resolution endorsed by: (check one)
 Member signatures (50 or more) Sublocal vote at member meeting
 Standing Committee Board of Directors

WHEREAS, the current Bylaws provide that the General Council is the supreme governing body of the union, and

WHEREAS, "supreme" suggests the Star Wars Universe (Supreme commander, Supreme Archon, etc.), and

WHEREAS, many union members are not Star Wars fans, and

WHEREAS, our union should be inclusive, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bylaws Article VIII, Section 1, be amended as follows:
 The General Council is the ~~supreme~~ highest governing body of the Union and shall meet in regular session every even-numbered year.

Signature: Lucinda Leader

Contact Person: Lucinda Leader
 (Point person for 50 or more active members (attach signatures), Sublocal President, Standing Committee Chair, Board Member)

Contact Person Address: 123 Brite St, Portland, OR 97865

Contact Person Best Phone (not work): 503-999-9999

Contact Person Home Email: Lucinda.leader@gmail.com

Submit to: SEIU Local 503, OPEU Attn: Resolution Review Committee, PO Box 12159, Salem OR 97309 on or before 5:00pm on May 8, 2020