

MEMBERS GOT INVOLVED IN A BIG WAY

We accomplished these key goals because members got involved. Week after week workers came to the Capitol and told their stories. Because of the size of our union and members' clout, legislators were forced to listen to what we had to say. DMV workers explained what it meant to go two years without a raise. ODOT workers told the story about what it means to have insufficient health care. Homecare workers told what it means to care for the dying on \$9/hour with only one paid day off a year. Child welfare workers had legislators come to their workplace to see firsthand the impact workload issues have on abused children – and blocked legislative efforts to lay the blame on workers for breakdowns in the system. Lincoln County members marched on the business owned by a legislator who said he was for affordable health care, while he was maneuvering to kill the legislation.

This report is about our successes and failures. We stood up for ourselves. Nearly 700 workers attended Lobby Days. Many more bird-dogged legislators at home-district town halls.

CAPE'S NEXT STEPS FOR 2006

Our next step is to elect pro-worker candidates in 2006, so we don't have to tolerate some of the anti-worker legislation we defeated this session. The issues that we report on here serve as a key guide for CAPE leadership. CAPE leaders are members elected to our Political Action Committee Board. They, along with our Board of Directors and the SEIU State Council, make decisions on which candidates to elect or defeat. If as many members get involved in that process as in our lobby efforts, we'll be able to enact a truly pro-worker agenda in 2007.



“Seeing dozens of SEIU members from all over Oregon in the Capitol really made me feel like I’m part of something big. Knowing we were all there to push for affordable health care made me feel proud to be an active retiree.”

John Hawkins

SEIU Local 503, OPEU Retiree, former
Linn County Employee