

Workers Win When Members Tell Their Stories



"After years of trying to get workers' compensation for homecare, in 2007 the legislators that we worked to elect listened to us and realized that we deserved the same benefits as 99% of other Oregon workers."

Mary Wood

Child Care Provider, Depot Bay

When Care Providers Win, Vulnerable Oregonians Win

In 2007, care providers fought long and hard for improved quality of care for their clients and improved working conditions for providers, and in the end they made their voices heard and won victories.

Homecare workers won mandatory workers' compensation coverage by passing HB 3362. This is the same protection from on-the-job injuries that 99% of Oregon workers enjoy. Homecare workers will no longer have to bargain to get this protection.

Homecare workers also fought to protect funding for their contract. The state budgeted only a small raise for some homecare workers and for a two-year wage freeze for many others. Homecare workers were also threatened with the loss of fully-paid health insurance premiums for themselves. Our members won the fight by increasing the state budget by \$4M for homecare.

Nursing home workers lobbied hard for safe staffing levels in their facilities. Short staffing makes working conditions stressful and threatens the quality of care received. The hard work of front-line workers paid off with the passage of HB 3057 which included \$3M to fund additional staff.



"I appreciate the pro-worker legislature that backed SB 400. It's important we have the opportunity to negotiate safety during contract years. In the past management could do whatever they wanted. Now, for the first time, we have the right to have a say. For the legislators that backed us, we are going to back them during election cycles."

Jim Walker

Oregon State Hospital

SB 400-Bargaining over Safety, Staffing Levels for No-Strike Workers

Working under locked down conditions at a correctional facility or the Oregon State Hospital is dangerous work. For almost a decade workers who protect the public had been barred from talking about safety on the job during contract negotiations. Member leaders like Roy Carter, Dan Ferguson, John Cocks and Elray Sampson at the Oregon Youth Authority along with Randy Davis, Dan Smith and Jim Walker from the State Hospital made countless trips to the Capitol lobbying legislators to bring safety back to bargaining. **Now that SB 400 has been signed into law, our members will be able to force management to deal with inconsistent, out of date safety policies and staffing levels affecting on-the-job safety.**