

Building A Strong Alliance for Workers and Quality Services for All Oregonians

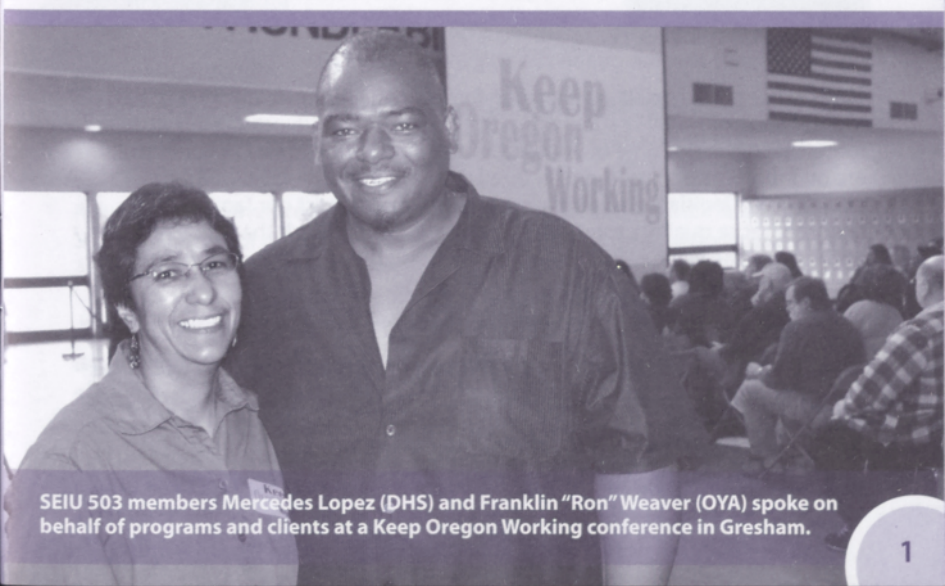
Our union builds partnerships with allies in the community in order to win on issues that matter to our members. There are a lot of organizations with whom we have worked closely, but this session there were a handful that stretched themselves to help our members win and to advance their own interests.

Nine organizations helped us form *Keep Oregon Working*, a loose-knit coalition that united around three key ideas.

- ▶ **To win on the budget**, the legislature had to raise revenue.
- ▶ **To win on revenue**, the legislature had to act and we will have to back those actions up at the ballot box.
- ▶ **Front-line, publicly funded workers had to receive fair treatment at the bargaining table.** It would have been impossible to win on the budget and on revenue if the state budget had been solely balanced on the backs of public employees.

Keep Oregon Working included community allies like AARP, Oregon PTA, and Children First for Oregon. From the business community, the Oregon Health Care Association—a trade association for nursing homes and assisted living facilities—joined. And our strong allies in labor—Oregon Education Association, AFSCME, AFT/Oregon, and the AFL-CIO—also played leadership roles.

It was not second nature for some of these groups to stand up for workers' rights. But members of each are sophisticated enough to understand that when workers win, our communities win. We owe them a lot for their support. We expect to be working with them shoulder to shoulder on the YES campaign to preserve funding for quality public services come January.



SEIU 503 members Mercedes Lopez (DHS) and Franklin "Ron" Weaver (OYA) spoke on behalf of programs and clients at a Keep Oregon Working conference in Gresham.