

Dignity

The Newsletter of the Homecare Workers Union

SEIU Local 503

May 2012

Bargaining Update

After 15 months of bargaining, we've made a ton a progress in a historic contract! Here are some flash points on the road to win a fair contract.

February 2011: Bargaining Begins! Prior to negotiations, members throughout the state filled out hundreds of bargaining surveys to provide crucial input on contract priorities and elected co-workers to serve on the bargaining team.

May 2011: Rally for a Better Way for Oregon. Members identify millions of dollars in savings for the State as alternatives to cuts to the services of vulnerable Oregonians. Thousands

of members from Ontario to Medford descend on Salem to advocate for necessary services.

June 2011: Personal Support Workers Join our Union. Personal Support Workers who care for people with developmental disabilities and mental health conditions vote overwhelmingly to join our Union, collect bargaining surveys, elect additional bargaining team members, and join homecare contract negotiations already underway.

November 2011-January 2012: Members Escalate Bargaining Campaign. After months of bargaining, the State is still proposing to eliminate health care for

thousands of homecare workers without critical movement on important issues like program consistency for caregivers of people with developmental disabilities. Over 1,000 homecare workers call the Governor urging him to take action, put up lawn signs, attend the Governor's speaking engagements, and testify at the Oregon Home Care Commission to advocate for our cause.

February 2012: Political Action Saves the Day. Members participate in the first-ever Developmental Disabilities focused lobby day. Homecare workers join with allies like AARP for a massive lobby day

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Homecare workers negotiating with the state.