

## **SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 3.15.23**

### **Take action!**

- Rally and delegation to deliver group disaster pay grievance  
Thursday 3/16 at 11 a.m. at PEC 501 N. Dixon St.

### **Rally for Disaster Pay**

Tomorrow a group of night custodians will gather at PEC and hold a rally regarding hazard pay and compensation for the recent snow days. Nutrition service workers were not paid, and weren't able to use their paid leave, while custodians had to use their paid leave or come in without disaster pay. Our goal is to make our grievances public and put pressure on the district to honor our contract. We will ask to speak with Frank and Whitney to share our stories and ask directly why we have been denied hazard pay and compensation. There will be chants, some speakers and an opportunity to hear from fellow workers about their experiences during the recent storm.

Between the financial impacts of missing work, and the dangerous as well as costly circumstances, many workers have been given yet another reason to be upset with the district. The district tries to portray themselves as caring about the wellbeing of their workers, yet, as with COVID pay, they have chosen to cut costs at our expense..

If you know of any fellow union members within the district, friends, or community members, let them know they are welcome to join! Other unions within PPS have also raised the issues around hazardous working conditions. PAT, for example, is bargaining around having schools without pests and with temperatures that are safe. Hazard pay is a huge issue for our city's bus drivers as well. The need for reliable hazard pay for all workers is also something inevitably linked with the fact that extreme weather events are bound to continue intensifying as the global climate crisis worsens.

### **3/11 General Meeting**

This past Saturday we had our March general meeting open to all members. We started by discussing bargaining, with ground rules now set for the subsequent meetings between SEIU and the district. All meetings will be in the afternoon and are open to any member as long as you are off the clock. The district didn't want to schedule any meetings for the morning because they claimed that missing even four nutrition service workers would make it impossible for nutrition services to function. The district also didn't want to let the meetings be recorded, even though our bargaining team pushed for this and PAT already has been recording and uploading their bargaining process to YouTube. Upcoming bargaining meetings are 4/7 at PEC (501 N. Dixon St.) from 1- 5 p.m. and 4/21 at SEIU Office 525 NE Oregon St. from 1 - 5 p.m.

There was also discussion of the district's strategy to divide and isolate workers, and a new member reached out to others about the issues they are facing at their school. Additionally, an update was given on the social media committee. We discussed the phases of the contract campaign and how we can prepare for the upcoming negotiations. General meetings are a good chance to meet your fellow members or ask questions.

## **International Working Women's Day March Summary**

Anya and Gabe joined the IWWD march last Saturday and spoke as members of SEIU 140. Other unions present included the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Practitioners (OFNHP), Starbucks Workers United, PSU Graduate Employees Union, and SEIU Local 89. March leaders talked about how women's liberation is part of the fight for economic justice and reminded us that the core of International Women's Day has always been about the class interests of working women.

Attendees also heard testimony of the exploitation faced by migrant women workers, particularly Filipino migrants who make up a large proportion of workers in nursing homes, hospitals, and caregiving work. Organizers denounced proposed new international 'free trade' deals like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which would worsen the exploitation and abuse of workers across the world, including in the US.

## **Education and Care Justice National Town Hall**

On Saturday, March 18th, at 9am, education and child care workers across the country, across sectors, and across our individual workplaces, will come together with one voice to make bold demands for our families, our students, and our communities. We will be joined by Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. [Will you RSVP to join us?](#)

## **Useful Links**

Union instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/seiulocal140/>

Our contract: [SEIU 140 Union Contract](#)

SEIU 140 webpage: <https://seiu503.org/pps/>

Local labor news: <https://nwlaborpress.org/>