

SEIU Local 140 Newsletter 8.30.24

Take Action!

- Attend the next PPS school board meeting September 10 at 6pm
- If you are a steward, or are interested in becoming one, you can join our steward team meeting September 14 at 11am at SEIU to learn more about collective action and building campaigns to fight against abuse in the workplace
- Join our next union meeting September 21 at noon, location TBD, followed by the Contract Action Team (CAT) meeting

Union Updates

Custodial workplace climate survey coming soon! NS survey later this fall.

In early September custodians will be receiving an invitation from PPS and SEIU to complete a climate survey. This will allow you to give direct anonymous feedback to management on how you feel the workplace could be improved in issues such as training, communication with management, morale, and safety.

This opportunity was one of many wins in the new contract that we ratified earlier this year. The information that you all provide in this survey can force management to acknowledge the many problems that exist, but we need everyone to complete the survey to get an accurate and unbiased account of what needs to change. PPS has finalized the survey and hopes to send it next week. Nutrition Service workers will have the opportunity to do a similar survey later this fall.

SEIU 503 Board of Directors Elections

Elections for SEIU 503 statewide officers and board of directors begins August 30th and runs through September 23rd. The Board of Directors governs the union between General Councils to monitor and carry out the policies that have been set. You can learn more about the 503 governance structure in our union [bylaws](#).

Union members will receive paper ballots to vote. If you need to update your address or request a replacement ballot or voter pamphlet during the voting period, please contact the Member Assistance Center at 1-844-503-7348, Monday through Friday, 8am – 6pm. We get to elect statewide officers as well as directors and assistant directors for both the local government and Clackamas/Multnomah county category. You can read more about candidates [here](#).

Picnic Recap

Around 40 members gathered for a picnic at Laurelhurst Park last weekend. We enjoyed delicious food, games, raffle prizes, and getting to know members from across the district. Thank you to everyone who came and to those who helped organize the event! Our sublocal also purchased a new batch of union shirts for the event which you can pick up at the next union meeting on September 21.

Getting involved in our Local

Union stewards and others interested in building campaigns to fight against exploitation and abuse in the workplace will be meeting Saturday, September 14th at the union office. We will discuss patterns we are noticing at PPS and how to hold management accountable to violations of our contract and our rights as workers.

The following weekend will be our regular monthly membership meeting on September 21 at noon. After discussing updates and hearing from our executive team, members are invited to stay for the first meeting of the new Contract and Action Team! Cody will lead the CAT in helping establish a structure for building collective strength as a union as we hold PPS accountable to our current contract, and work to build power to win an even better contract next time!

Local Solidarity

Grocery Workers on Strike

Fred Meyer workers represented by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) 555 are currently on a week-long Unfair Labor Practices (ULP) strike. Fred Meyer has refused to provide information to the union related to bargaining as well as hundreds of outstanding grievances filed by the union. They are also attempting to cut [\\$30 million](#) from their workers' health care plan. Workers at one store shared that they were unable to access the union website from the store's wifi. You can join them on the picket line at any Fred Meyer location. Even though stores may still be open, be sure to respect the picket line and take your business elsewhere!

In response to bad faith bargaining and other Unfair Labor Practices from New Seasons, 82% of New Seasons Labor Union members voted to call a one-day warning strike at 10 New Seasons Stores on Sunday, September 1. See this [page](#) for stores that will be on strike.

International Solidarity

SEIU Calls for End to Military Aid to Israel

On July 23, [SEIU](#) joined the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA), American Postal Workers Union (APWU), International Union of Painters (IUPAT), National Education Association (NEA), United Auto Workers (UAW) and United Electrical Workers (UE) in calling on President Biden to halt all aid to Israel. The letter states, “we believe that immediately cutting US military aid to the Israeli government is necessary to bring about a peaceful resolution to this conflict.” On August 9, the US released [\\$3.5 billion](#) to Israel to spend on US-made weapons. Two days before sending the letter, SEIU endorsed Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election.