



## Check-Up

*Information About You – The Union at Kaiser*

OFNHP Local 5017 • August 2008  
2045 SE Ankeny St., Portland, OR 97214  
(503) 657-9974 toll free 1-800-636-5017  
[www.ofnhp.org](http://www.ofnhp.org)



## Have a Good Time

**Annual Labor Day Potluck and Picnic Monday September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008  
Be Part of the OFNHP Contingent**

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council sponsors the largest Labor Day picnic in Oregon at Oaks Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It attracts about 10,000 people a year. Plenty of fun, music, food, drink and rides. Your entire family is invited. Come early! First come first served for free burgers and dogs beginning at 11AM until we run out. Make sure to RSVP to: [mbartlett@ofnhp.org](mailto:mbartlett@ofnhp.org)

Directions to Oaks Park -- [www.oakspark.com/directions.html](http://www.oakspark.com/directions.html)

**Bring a Special Dish and an Extra Cooler to Share**

## OFNHP Delegation Attends Historic AFT-Convention

Six OFNHP Local 5017 members joined more than 3,000 delegates who gathered for AFT's 80th convention in Chicago, IL, July 10-14, 2008. Delegates elected new leadership for the national union, endorsed Barack Obama for president, voted on amending the AFT Constitution and By-Laws, and debated resolutions on important policy issues. Attending for OFNHP were Kathy Geroux, Executive President OFNHP, Anna Mulesa RN Bargaining Unit President, Bing Wong, Vice President of Political Education, Nancy Amstad-Hite, Vice President of Publications, Jeff Harris RN, Kaiser Sunnyside and Theo Harper, MA LPC. Helen Lee, Director of Organizing for AFT Healthcare NW and the United Nurses of Legacy, also attended the convention.

### Three Women Elected to Top Leadership in AFT

Delegates to the 2008 AFT convention elected a new slate of national officers on July 14 in Chicago, voting to install Randi Weingarten as president, Antonia Cortese as secretary-treasurer and Lorretta Johnson as executive vice president. (Continued on Page 2)

### **Who Is Randi Weingarten?**

Randi Weingarten has served 10 years as president of the 200,000-member United Federation of Teachers (UFT), the largest union local in the United States

A former social studies teacher and lawyer, Weingarten has distinguished herself through her tireless advocacy for students and the union members who work with them in and out of classrooms. She is noted for her continual outreach to parents and community groups, and her success in joining them in effective coalitions. Weingarten has stood toe to toe with governors, mayors and schools chancellors on behalf of children and educators, and stands side by side with members in their total commitment to their profession and their communities.

During Weingarten's UFT tenure, the public schools saw a marked increase in student achievement. She negotiated a 43 percent increase in educators' salaries that helped the city recruit and retain qualified teachers. And her innovative differential pay programs have fostered teamwork over competition, and have amplified teachers' voices. In 2007, Weingarten mounted the single most successful organizing campaign in recent AFT history, bringing 28,000 New York City-based home child care workers into the union. Weingarten also has developed a strong national reputation for seeking new and creative ways to address persistent challenges.

### **Who Are Antonia Cortese and Lorretta Johnson?**

Antonia Cortese was first vice president of the now 600,000-member New York State United Teachers before coming to the AFT in 2004. She began her education career in Rome, N.Y., where she taught fourth grade and served as a school social worker. A member of numerous national education and service organizations, boards and commissions, Cortese also serves as the AFT's liaison to Special Olympics, the union's designated charitable foundation.

Lorretta Johnson began her career as a teacher's aide in the Baltimore City schools, where she organized a union to improve the work situation of paraprofessionals like herself, and has subsequently become a leading voice for Maryland's working families. Over her career, she has played a leading role in the national development of standards for the employment and training of classroom paraprofessionals, highlighting the importance of these positions in the ultimate success of schools.

All three new national officers are longtime members of the AFT executive council.

### **Executive Board OFNHP Local 5017, AFT-Healthcare NW, AFL-CIO**

Executive President - **Kathy Geroux**  
Executive Vice President - **Elex Tenney**  
Executive Secretary - **Samantha Owens**  
Executive Treasurer - **Meg McGowan-Tuttle**  
Kaiser RN Bargaining Unit President - **Anna Mulesa**  
Kaiser RN Bargaining Unit Vice President - **Karen Ferge**  
  
Kaiser RDH Bargaining Unit President - **Holly Morgan**  
Kaiser RDH Bargaining Unit Vice President - **Janine Rollins**  
  
Kaiser TECH Bargaining Unit President - **Esther Haberman**  
Kaiser TECH Bargaining Unit Vice President - **Jillian Kinney**  
Kaiser PRO Bargaining Unit President - **Tavo 'Buz' Guthrie**  
Kaiser PRO Bargaining Unit Vice President - **Signa Gibson**  
Kaiser LAB PRO Bargaining Unit President - **Frank Fleming**

PMH Bargaining Unit President - **Barbara Cole**  
PMH Bargaining Unit Vice President - **Dawn Hersberger**  
Kaiser LAB PRO Bargaining Unit Vice President - **Diana Gaffield**



## **RN VP Karen Ferge Participates in Candidate Interviews with AFT and OSEA**

Members of AFT-Oregon, OFNHP and the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) held historic joint candidate interviews for statewide elected offices on Saturday, July 19, 2008, and made recommendations in these races.

Candidates running for Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Bureau of Oregon Labor Industries were asked questions by AFT members about important policies that impact the working lives of our members -- from dealing with the Common School Fund and PERS investments to hospital staffing ratios to cutting down on fraud and forgery in the initiative process.

Those who participated and won AFT-Oregon, OFNHP and OSEA recommendations included :

- (BOLI) Commissioner: Brad Avakian
- Secretary of State: Kate Brown
- State Treasurer: Ben Westlund
- Attorney General: John Kroger

AFT-Oregon members present for the interviews included Mark Scwebke, AFT-Oregon President, Phil Gilmore, AFT-Oregon Executive VP; Ruth Kosto, AFT-Oregon VP Political Action. And AFT-Oregon Vice-Presidents Kelly Cowan, Local 3571 (PSUFA); Rodger Gamblin, Local 2417 (LCCEF); Bernadette Kapocias, Local 3190 (SWOCCFT), John Osborne, Local 6069 (CGE); David Rives, Local 2277 (PCCFF); and Joel Yoder, Local 4671 (HCU). Also attending were Local leaders and members Karen Ferge, Local 5017 (OFNHP), Regional Council); Deborah Hall, Local 3922 (PCCFCE) President

## **Four Ways you can make a difference in Election 2008**

**Register to Vote.** Are you new to Oregon? Have you moved since the last election? We are pushing for 100% voter registration and turnout. Download a voter registration form on the Secretary of State Website:

<http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/vr.htm>.

1. **Get Informed.** Ballot measures and candidates have an enormous impact on our jobs. To learn more, visit AFT-Oregon's website: <http://www.aft-oregon.org>.
2. **Become a Worksite Contact.** Can you help deliver fliers and have conversations with 5-10 of your fellow union members at work twice a month? Please contact the AFT-Oregon field representative assigned to your Local, or AFT-Oregon at: [aftor@aft-oregon.org](mailto:aftor@aft-oregon.org).
3. **Contribute to AFT-Oregon's Political Action Fund.** Each election cycle, members' voluntary contributions to PAF assist worker friendly candidates

and ballot measures. Download your contribution form today at <http://www.aft-oregon.org>. Not only will you help to make a difference, but your contribution may be tax deductible as well.



Ofnhp RN VP Karen Ferge (far Left) Consults With AFT-Oregon and OSEA Representatives on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> in Salem.

## You Are Invited by Kathy Geroux

### Please Join Us August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The next monthly OFNHP RN Bargaining Unit meeting will be held **Wednesday, August 13, from 6:30 – 8:30pm** at OFNHP (2045 SE Ankeny). These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for RNs to discuss RN bargaining unit specific issues.

#### Agenda:

- 1) Contract Re-opener
- 2) Maternal Child Respect Campaign - Next Steps
- 3) Status of Grievances
  - a) Backfill
  - b) Hiring Issue Resolution
  - c) Step Issue
  - d) Others
- 4) UCC Update
- 5) Staffing Issues
- 6) Q&A

These regularly scheduled meetings should encourage more involvement, participation, and communication among OFNHP RNs and create a clear, democratic process for decision making in the RN bargaining unit. Please join us. Be a part of the solutions as we examine issues directly affecting Kaiser RNs.

A map to the Union office is available at:

<http://www.ofnhp.org/?view=resources&item=863>

In solidarity,

Kathy Geroux, Executive President  
Anna Mulesa, President/OFNHP RN Bargaining Unit  
Karen Ferge, Vice President/OFNHP RN Bargaining Unit  
Cathy Swensen, OFNHP RN Contract Specialist



Please join us regarding  
Bargaining updates and provide  
the Coalition Leadership with  
feedback!

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

August 20th

6:30-8pm at SEIU Local 49, 3536  
SE 26th Ave. Portland, Oregon  
97202

\* Our Coalition Delegates will be  
attending the Delegate Conference  
in California on August 15 & 16th

\*\* Ratification: Each Union will be  
determining Date, Time and  
Location.

Kathy Geroux  
Executive President OFNHP

