I’m proud of the victories we’ve had this year for our members and all working families. We won because we stood together and with our leadership did the important work to make sure workers’ voices were heard. Though we face big challenges ahead, I know we’ll take on the tough fights and do whatever it takes to make sure we stand up for the issues that matter to our members.

Meg Niemi
President, SEIU Local 49

Held every four years, this convention sets the agenda for how our 2 million-member union will fight for working families. Convention committee members will help drive an agenda for our November elections, the Fight for $15, fixing our broken immigration system, dismantling structural racism and driving a powerful union-wide offense in the face of anti-worker attacks.

SEIU Local 49 is entitled to send 13 delegates, which are elected by a vote of our membership. Interested in attending this important convention?

If you are interested in nominating yourself or another member to attend, you can find a nomination form at www.seiu49.org, call 503-236-4949 x212 to have one sent to you, or stop by the SEIU 49 union hall during business hours. In-person voting will take place at our Leadership Conference from 9am-2pm on Saturday, February 6th in room 204 at the Oregon Convention Center. Request an absentee ballot in writing before February 4th – they will be sent out in the mail by Monday, February 8th, 2016. Absentee ballots must be received by 1pm on Tuesday, February 16th. Delegate elections will occur on Tuesday, February 16th.

QUESTIONS? Contact Keely at keelyd@seiu49.org or 503-236-4949 x212
This year we made a real difference for working families in Oregon and Washington. At our City Halls, workplaces and our nation’s Capitol, we flexed our collective strength, and made our voices heard. 2015 was the year we stood together and won big for our members and working families across our communities.

Together, we passed historic legislation in Oregon that improves safe staffing, implemented mandatory paid sick days, and addressed unfair law enforcement profiling. We settled good contracts that included pay raises and improved standards and work environments for thousands of our members. We had a historic victory with 1,100 new members from PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center voting to join our union. And we continued to move the dial forward on raising the minimum wage for all working families.

Our victories were not by chance. We had a plan with the muscle, collective strength, and resources behind it. At every level, from our contract fights to passing legislation, we made sure that members, our allies and the community put a spotlight on the issues that matter most to working families.

2016 will be an even bigger year for working families. As we quickly approach election season, we know that a wave of unprecedented anti-worker legislation is on the horizon. We know that corporations and executives continue to earn millions, while the rest of us are finding it more difficult than ever to get access to affordable healthcare, earn a living wage, or a retirement we can count on.

As we look to the year ahead, we will need to pull together like never before to make sure that workers’ and our families’ voices are heard.

Across the nation, thousands of airport workers have come together to raise standards and bring good jobs with fair wages to our nation’s airports. Here in Portland, PDX airport workers brought home huge victories. First, they fought to ensure PDX passed a set of minimum standards that addressed their key concerns around security, safety, equipment problems and service quality. The passing of these standards paved the way for workers to fight for good union jobs and a fair $15 minimum wage. Remaining determined, workers continued their fight bringing awareness to issues at our airport while contributing to a national airport campaign that saw thousands of airport workers mobilizing across the country. As the year closed, airport workers have made major strides with employers beginning to recognize their demands for a union. Airport workers are closer than ever to landing good union jobs and fair wages for contracted workers at the airport.
PORTLAND MAYOR RAISES CITY WORKERS (our members) to $15/hour

“This year, we pulled together to pass a fair $15 minimum wage for all contracted workers that work at the City. This has made all the difference for me and my coworkers. Raising the minimum wage helps all working families and it is why I’ll continue to fight – so that all working families have a living wage and respect on the job.”

Linda Sporer
Security Officer at City Hall

This past Spring our union welcomed 1,100 caregivers from Sacred Heart in Springfield and Eugene into our union – the biggest private-sector union election win in Oregon in over a decade. In the face of a tough fight these caregivers stood together to organize their union for better jobs and quality care. Now, these caregivers have joined workers from across the PeaceHealth system that are part of our union. Together with caregivers from St. John Medical Center in Longview, these workers will have collective power to make real improvements for themselves and their families. Stay Tuned: They are bargaining for first contract and will need your help as they move into action!

KAISER CONTRACT WIN PROVES STRENGTH’S IN NUMBERS

Facing a tough, national contract fight, 4000 Kaiser members locally pulled together with 100,000 across the nation – stickering up, doing delegations, holding rallies, taking action at work and doing whatever it took to make sure they brought home a fair contract. By coming together, Kaiser members won on all their priorities, including: 7% raises for everyone, protecting their pensions, securing retiree medical benefits, protecting dental coverage and adding orthodontia for their kids, increasing money for education and protecting their local contract.

SACRED HEART CAREGIVERS MAKE HISTORY
THEY JOIN MEMBERS ACROSS PEACEHEALTH TO FIGHT FOR GOOD JOBS & QUALITY CARE

This year, we pulled together to pass a fair $15 minimum wage for all contracted workers that work at the City. This has made all the difference for me and my coworkers. Raising the minimum wage helps all working families and it is why I’ll continue to fight – so that all working families have a living wage and respect on the job.

Linda Sporer
Security Officer at City Hall
This legislative session, working families in Oregon and Washington won big. Our efforts were fueled by our Political Action Fund (COPE) and through contributions made by our members we won monumental improvements for working families across Oregon. This year, we won concrete improvements for working families:

**IN WASHINGTON:**

**WE EXPANDED VOTING RIGHTS AND MADE ELECTIONS MORE FAIR.** In key areas in our state, we reduced the influence of big corporate money and improved voting rights and electoral access for communities of color.

**IN OREGON:**

**WE EXPANDED ACCESS TO SICK TIME** by raising sick time standards across our state, requiring most employers to provide a minimum of 5 days of earned sick time while preventing discipline for using it. Oregon now has the strongest sick leave policy in the nation.

**WE BANNED THE BOX.** Job applicants with criminal records, who have served their time, now have a fair chance to rejoin the community without being discriminated against when applying for work.

**WE IMPROVED RETIREMENT SECURITY** by increasing the number of Oregonians who have access to a safe, easy and effective way to save for retirement.

**WE BANNED POLICE PROFILING,** requiring evidence-based-policing instead of the discredited and discriminatory practice of engaging individuals that “fit the profile.”

**WE MADE HEALTHCARE STAFFING SAFER** by increasing the voice that LPNs and CNAs have in staffing committees and hospital staffing policy.

**WE RAISED WAGES & EXPANDED PROTECTIONS** for our members and all employees of Qualified Rehabilitation Facilities.

(Above) CNA Samantha Stimson outside the Oregon Capitol building during a day of outreach to elected leaders on the importance of safe staffing.

This past legislative session, we proved just how much we can do together. But now is not the time to rest on the sidelines. 2016 elections are right around the corner and the stakes are higher than ever, with big fights ahead. It will take all of us, pulling together, to fight back against corporations and the millions being poured into anti-worker and anti-immigrant agendas. We’ll need to work with allies to raise the wage, fight wage theft and make affordable housing a reality. Find out more about two key campaigns at the web addresses on the right.