

SEIU Local 503, OPEU Local 085 UO Workers  
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

All candidates were invited to submit a candidate statement of not more than 200 words to share with classified workers. Where a statement has not been provided, candidates' names are listed as seen on the ballot. Ballots were mailed to all classified employees home addresses on 2/26/10. If you do not receive a ballot, replacement ballots are available by calling the SEIU Eugene Field Office, (541) 342-1055.

President

Gary Malone: I have served as a steward for approximately 12 years. I have served on general council two terms and as an alternate one term. I have been an International SEIU delegate, served on various statewide committees and have lobbied for higher education in Salem. Please consider voting for me as your next Local 085 President. I will be honored to serve you.

Vice President

Johnny Earl

Chief Contact

Lisa Sieracki: My goal as Chief Contact is to revitalize our communications network on campus--with your help! Yes, we have email, a newsletter and monthly meetings, but we need more of that old fashioned kind of networking, one on one! If you are ready to learn more about the union and share your knowledge, enthusiasm and solidarity with your coworkers, please get in touch with me!

Secretary

Chuck Theobald: I am running for your Executive Council Secretary, as well as for a General Council delegate position, and a position on the Strike Hardship Fund Committee. I have served as Secretary for a year now, having been appointed by the Executive Committee upon the resignation of the previous Secretary. I have also served for two years on the Strike Hardship Fund Committee. I would like to continue serving our Local in both these capacities, and to attend the General Council as a delegate this year. In my time with the Union, I have seen the strength we bring to each other and to the University. I would like to do my part to maintain this, and to increase member participation in the governance of the Union. I believe that I am well qualified for each of the positions I am seeking, and have a belief that our Union is worth whatever time we contribute. I encourage you to vote in all upcoming elections, and ask for your vote in the next one.

## Treasurer

Donna Laue: I feel I have a heart for service and have been lucky enough to work part-time at this time in my life, so it seems to be a good time to “give back”. Specifically, regarding running for Treasurer, I have a background in bookkeeping so I feel I have the skills necessary for that position.

Deanna Berglund: I would like a chance to continue to serve on the Local 085 Executive Committee in the position of Treasurer. One of the primary goals of the local leadership is increasing the number of our represented employees who are union members and expanding the outreach to those members, and I want to support this continuing effort. I have served as local treasurer for several terms in the past, and am familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the position. I have also been a CAT for many years, and currently am on the Executive Committee as Chief Bargaining Delegate. I have also recently been serving as the designated representative for the UO on the statewide Higher Ed Council. This group has been reconvened to lead the effort to promote our members’ interests in the debate for governance changes for the Oregon University System that we expect will be taken up by the state legislature next year. I would like, at the Executive Committee’s pleasure, to continue in that role, and the council member must be an elected official. For all of the reasons above, I would appreciate your vote for Local 085 treasurer.

## Membership Organizer/Coordinator

Star Holmberg: The position of Membership Coordinator appeals to me because it affords me the opportunity to promote the positive benefits of becoming a member. And I know from having sat as a Representative at the Bargaining Table that the members, and their participation in the contract campaign, are essential to the process. Contracts are not won at that table, and the more members we have to back up our Rep, the better our chances of success! This is “collective bargaining,” so let’s build the membership. Your vote of confidence and your help with drawing in more members will help towards making ours a stronger union!

## Newsletter Editor

Kurt Willcox: I believe we must have an active and effective communications program in our local union. That will help us expand support for the union among our members. And it will help us coordinate that support for bargaining, political action, and other group activities. Our communications must reach out to all corners of campus and to off-campus sites, so everyone feels included. We need to tell our co-workers more about what our union is doing right here at the UO, especially our representation work, so they can see what their volunteer leaders are doing on their behalf. We need to make sure we communicate regularly and in formats that everyone can access easily. And we must solicit input from those we represent. I have not worked at the UO very long, but I have a lot of experience producing union newsletters, websites, brochures, and surveys. I would appreciate the opportunity to edit the Local Focus and to work with the Local Executive Board to enhance union communications at the UO.

## General Council

Lois Yoshishige: I am interested in running for General Council Delegate. I have represented our UO local at least 8 General Councils, have brought forward resolutions such as re-uniting with the DAS unit and having an annual December 10 Day of Action to protect the freedom to form unions. I enjoy General Council and hope you will vote for me again to represent you.

Johnny Earl  
Gary Malone  
Della Green  
Kurt Willcox

Jim Greig  
Chuck Theobald  
Candice Woyak  
Theodora Ko Thompson

## Stewards

Stephanie Denby: I've always felt it a privilege to represent the classified staff at the UO. I see us (stewards and other union activists) as the proverbial "line in the sand" between the classified and those that wish to not treat us as co-workers with the basic respect that we deserve.

Chris Enquist: I would like the privilege to serve as your steward. I have been employed at the UO for nearly five years, three of them as a non-union student employee. I have seen my pay, benefits, job satisfaction, and relationship with management improve since I became a classified staff member. I am currently a Public Safety Officer, and a member of CSTDAC (Classified Staff Training and Development Committee). My department has been experiencing a period of rapid growth and change since 2007. Partially in response to these changes, I started to take an active role in the UODPS Labor-Management Meetings. These meetings have resulted in a strong partnership between management and classified staff to both improve the working conditions for all employees at UODPS and to strive to continue to increase the level of professionalism at UODPS. I personally hold that the best way to approach labor-management issues is through a cooperative approach. There is always a time and place for union representatives to take strong actions on the behalf of classified staff. It is my hope that, if elected as a steward, I can act in partnership with management for a stronger University of Oregon.

Lois Yoshishige: I would like your vote as steward. During these tough economic times, having a strong union is the best security. I am proud of the work I have done as a steward in enforcing the contract and supporting classified employees in worksite issues. I'm also asking you to vote for Gary Malone as President. He has done an excellent job as Chief Steward for the past 2 years, representing classified employees in grievance meetings and challenging HR on contract interpretations. I will stay with Gary and our local to continue to build strong union leadership. Thanks for your support!

James Jacobson: Thanks for considering me again to be one of your Stewards. I've served as Steward since early 2002. Prior to that I was your UO Bargaining Rep in the 2001 contract talks. In August of 1997 I started working in College of Education (Special Ed) and not long after became a member of Local 085 & SEIU 503. Being a

Steward is how a concerned member volunteers (*nope, no stipend involved*) to help fellow members and learns to ensure that our Collective Bargaining Agreement (contract) is honored by UO management. A “Shop Steward” advises members who may need assistance with disciplinary proceedings and how to wisely interact with supervisors, managers, administrators or deal with “bully boss” behavior. It’s a rewarding and challenging experience, and I strongly encourage you to attend “Leadership Trainings,” soon and try your hand at being a Steward. My best regards and warmest thanks for being a Member of SEIU and for voting in our Local 085 election.

Katie Tate: I have been a steward for four terms and I would like to continue this very important service to my classified coworkers. All classified employees have the right to be aided in their pursuit of fairness and recognition in the workplace. I take my work seriously and enjoy serving in the capacity of advocate, defender, counselor, and SEIU contract enforcer.

Theodora Ko Thompson: I am running for steward because it is an area that I’d like to know and understand better, have a hands-on grasp of the issues that classified staff in the various workplaces e.g. issues that impact health and safety; barriers that impact upward mobility and development in skills, professional training and educational opportunities for both professional and personal development and growth, and bully boss issues. I’d like to learn from the motley crew of stewards who’ve stepped forward, and who continue to do so - an admirable group who are often 'invisible' in what they do - to enforce the collective bargaining agreement.

Maya Larson  
Paul Buchanan  
John Anthony  
Gary Malone  
Beki Holbrook  
Donna Laue

Carla McNelly  
Bowen Garner  
Rick Tabor  
Johnny Earl  
Laura Gerards

## Bargaining Committee

Star Holmberg: While I have no desire to be the U.O. Bargaining Rep, I do wish to lend my support to the Bargaining Committee, and especially the Bargaining Rep. I have conferred extensively with both Deanna Berglund and Maya Larson, and I am in support of a shift in leadership responsibility. I want to make myself available for mentoring to the Bargaining Rep, especially if we have a new person from the U.O. sitting at the table. For more detail of the sort of shift I support, please read Deanna’s and Maya’s statements for the Bargaining Committee. I am there for you and them!

Maya Larson: My first union membership was as a U.O. GTF during the 90s while earning my MA in philosophy. Then, as a Registrar’s Office classified employee, I became a member of Local 085. In short order I craved more involvement. During the last bargaining campaign I attended rallies, local meetings and a bargaining conference. Also, I emailed UO decision makers. As a steward I have come to appreciate how important contract wording is, and how hard the Higher Education bargaining team

worked to protect it in 2009. Besides stewardship, I've received training in conflict management, leadership, and communication. My philosophy degree honed my skills in debate, critical analysis, and viewing the big picture. As an administrative program assistant, I'm fluent in the language of administration and bureaucracy. I would love to serve on the bargaining committee. In fact, I am interested in being the table representative, and would especially like doing this with Deanna Berglund as alternate. As we face possible further cuts in the upcoming bargaining, as well as a new OUS governance model, our union's challenge is great. I would be honored to put my skills to work for you as we face this challenge together.

Deanna Berglund: I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve the UO classified staff as a member of the Local 085 bargaining committee. I have served as the Chief Bargaining Delegate during the last two bargaining cycles, and as the alternate table rep during the campaign prior to that. I do not plan to run for the position of Chief Bargaining Delegate again, as I believe it is time to step aside and build new leadership by encouraging another member to accept this incredibly rewarding position. I do want to remain a member of the committee to mentor the next Chief Bargaining Delegate, ideally as the alternate table rep if that is supported by the next bargaining committee. The next contract campaign will prove to be another difficult one, and I want to be in the best position possible to share my experience and provide continuity to that effort. I deeply appreciate the opportunity the UO membership gave me to serve as the table rep and the support I received during the last two contract campaigns, and ask for your support once again by voting for me as a committee member.

Katie Tate  
Johnny Earl  
John Weatherly  
Candice Woyak

Strike Hardship Committee

Beth Singler  
Chuck Theobald  
Lisa Sieracki  
Steve Wager

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