

**From:** SEIU Healthcare 775NW [mrc@seiu775.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 1:55 PM  
**To:** Neil Parekh  
**Subject:** [test] KWA Campaign Update #1 (February 17, 2010)



**Below is an update on the effort by Korean Women's Association home care workers to win a fair contract. After having a positive collaborative relationship for many years, new leadership at KWA is taking an aggressive anti-union position as workers seek to bargain a new contract.**

KWA is the only agency represented by SEIU Healthcare 775NW that is seeking cuts to take-home pay for home care workers who make just over \$10/hr. Their proposals - including making workers pay 30-cents an hour for workers' compensation (L&I) coverage, refusing to pay mileage between clients, and failing to fully fund caregiver training - amount to a pay cut of almost 3% and put quality care for vulnerable clients at risk.

For more information, visit <http://kwa.seiu775.org/>.

### **SEIU Healthcare 775NW Calls For Mediation; KWA Continues To Delay**

KWA has refused to set new bargaining dates with workers and it has now been 33 days since KWA has come to the table. SEIU Healthcare 775NW proposed federal mediation, but after reluctantly agreeing to mediation, KWA still has not been willing to set dates with the federal arbitrator.

### **Workers File Federal Charges For Unfair Labor Practices**

On January 28, SEIU Healthcare 775NW filed multiple federal charges of unfair labor practices against Korean Women's Association. Executive Director Peter Ansara and other KWA management have repeatedly violated federal labor law by preventing workers from freely participating in union activities, pushing workers to get rid of their union, failing to respect some workers' wishes to remain neutral, discriminating against union supporters, and refusing to bargain.

A number of very brave workers have given affidavits in support of the charges and we expect that more workers will come forward to give witness to KWA's unlawful conduct.

## **Caregivers Take To the Airwaves**

KWA home care workers began telling their story on Korean radio stations and in Korean newspapers across Pierce and King Counties.

## **Workers Rally for Fairness Candlelight Vigil**

On Wednesday workers will gather at Pacific Center, Church of God in Christ for a candlelight vigil in support of a fair contract for workers at KWA.

## **Rally for Respect**

Last Monday, more than 90 KWA home care workers, 775 members and community allies rallied outside the KWA Tacoma office demanding respect for home care aides. Deborah Moore, a bargaining team member, spoke about what the KWA proposals would mean to her personally. She said that she would have difficulty continuing to live in her apartment if she was forced to pay 30 cents per hour for L&I (a 3% pay cut).

Additionally, Deborah explained how offended she was that she was forced to sit in a mandatory anti-union meeting financed by scarce Medicaid dollars. The crowd also heard from Tacoma City Councilmember Ryan Mello and Alice Woldt of the Washington Association of Churches.

[Click here to watch the video online.](#)

## **Revenue Rally**

Meanwhile, SEIU Healthcare 775NW home care workers remain focused on fighting proposed deep cuts to home care services in Olympia. On Monday, dozens of SEIU Healthcare 775NW members including KWA leaders Deborah Moore and Chelsea Stine served as event marshals and joined more than 5,000 activists on the Capitol steps demanding the legislature raise revenue to prevent cuts to our state's safety-net.

## **Political and Community Leaders Continue To Support Caregivers**

Everyday more and more elected leaders and community express interest in showing support for KWA home care workers. Four of the five members of the Snohomish County Council, four members of the Seattle City Council, 15 legislators, and other local elected officials have signed onto the letter supporting efforts to win a fair contract and to fully fund worker training. Also signing on are organizations like the Minority Executive Directors Coalition, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Washington Association of Churches, and Statewide Poverty Action Network.

**For more information and updates, visit <http://kwa.seiu775.org>**

**Respect for Workers Equals Respect For Clients!**

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