



# CGE Independent

A Publication of the Coalition of Graduate Employees, AFT Local 6069

September 2007

## CGE, Your Voice at Oregon State University

To all returning and new CGE members,

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year at Oregon State. CGE has been involved in many issues that make our lives as graduate students better. Prior to OSU graduate employees forming CGE, grad employees had no health insurance, no minimum salaries, no protections for unfair workloads, no dispute resolution procedure, no mandate of fair treatment and no relief from ever-growing OSU fees.

Since 2001, CGE has won contracts that include written guarantees for all of these, including health insurance for all graduate employees and the implementation of a fee differential of \$250 per quarter, which took effect last fall.

Improvements still need to be made. OSU human resource administrators continue to be disrespectful of our right to have a union and to be treated as an equal voice in our work and contributions to the University. Our health plan should be both better and cheaper. Fees can be eliminated. Salaries should be increased for all OSU grad employees. Workloads and course loads are high. And there are more.

This coming academic year CGE will again be bargaining with the University. Everything related to our work for the University can be opened for discussion. Everything can be improved if we work together. Everything can be impacted for the worse if we are not united.

CGE is a member-run organization. We invite you to join us at the bargaining table as a member of the bargaining team and as an observer. Please make your voice heard and take the bargaining survey at our website. Make CGE stronger by becoming a building representative and by supporting CGE's calls for action.

Welcome to CGE. We hope to see you around and hopefully we can make this a great year for all graduate students.

Sincerely,  
Jim Neeway  
President

### Upcoming Events

September:	Department Orientations
September 20 <sup>th</sup> 6-10 PM	<b>Welcome Back BBQ!</b> Maple Grove Shelter, Avery Park
September – October	CGE 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Scavenger Hunt FREE COFFEE, see inside details
October 18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting Thurs.	Fall General Membership Time and location, TBD
October 9 – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Membership Drive Ask how you can volunteer!
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bargaining Training Seminar Time and location, TBD
TBD	Weekly Executive Council Meetings, Westminster House

Contact CGE by phone or email to  
answer any of your questions!  
541-757-7141 [cge@peak.org](mailto:cge@peak.org)



# WELCOME BACK BBQ !!

BEER, FREE FOOD, FREE FUN, FREE BEER, FREE FOOD, FREE FUN, FREE FOOD, FREE

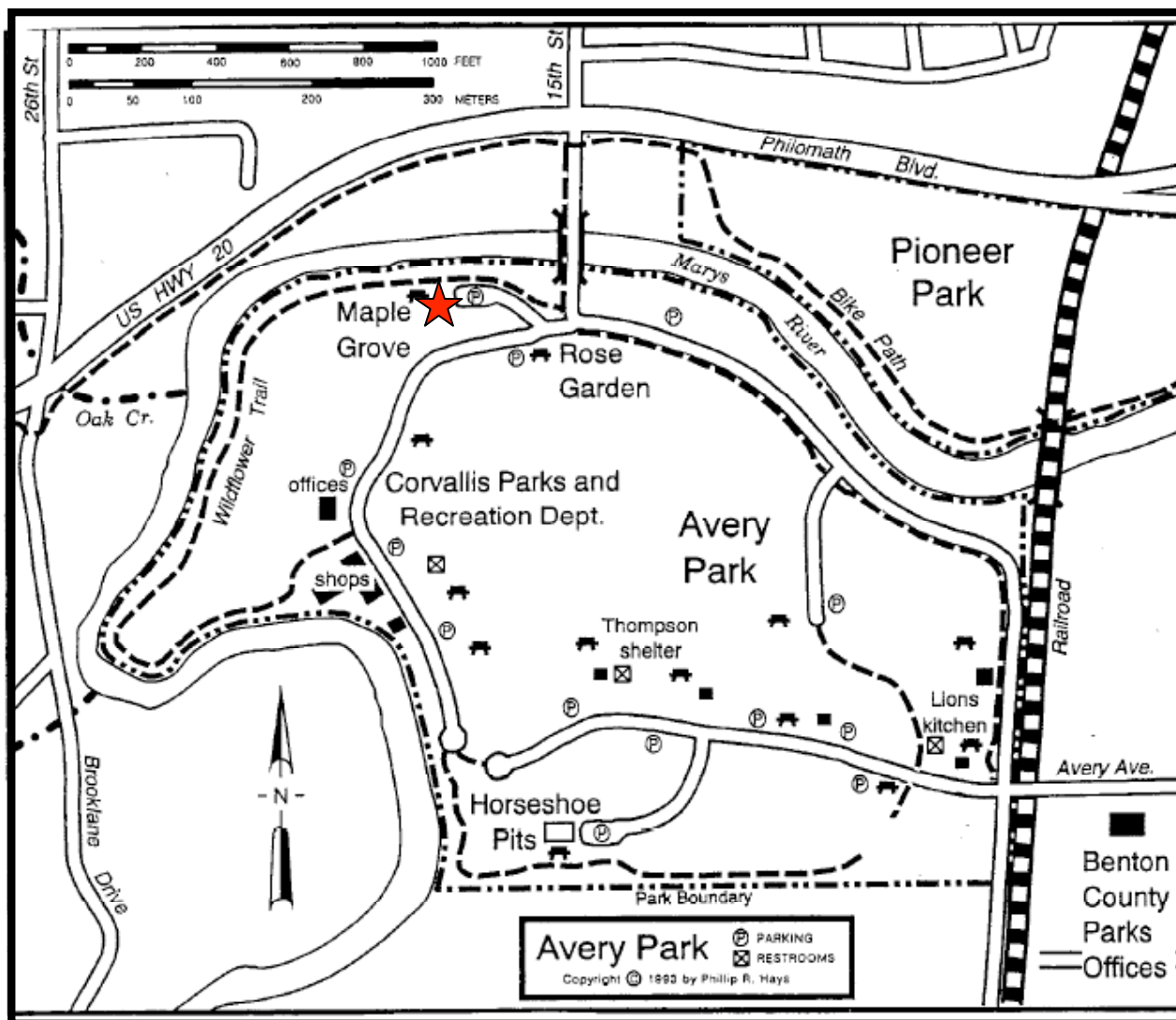
FREE FOOD, FREE FUN, FREE

FUN, FREE BEER, FREE FOOD

Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
Avery Park – Maple Grove Shelter  
6-10 PM

CGE will provide the burgers, munchies, soft drinks & beer –  
You just need provide yourself!  
Come meet other new/returning graduate students from all over  
campus and enjoy free food and drinks.  
All Graduate Employees Welcome - Bring Your Family  
See you there!

FREE FOOD. FREE FUN. FREE BEER. FREE FOOD. FREE FUN. FREE BEER. FREE FOOD



## Fall General Membership Meeting (G M M)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

The Fall GMM will take place on  
**Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Time and place TBD.

#### Discussion Topics:

- Welcome!
- Upcoming Events
  - Bargaining
  - Scavenger Hunt
  - Fall Membership Drive
- Cope

As always, food and beverages  
will be provide.

## TAKE THE BARGAINING SURVEY

Please log on to  
[www.peak.org/~cge](http://www.peak.org/~cge)

CGE will tally the survey results to determine what Graduate Students feel are the most important issues for the upcoming Contract Negotiations.

*Your* input is needed: CGE Bargains on *your* behalf, to resolve matters of interest most important to *you!*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual CGE Scavenger Hunt

### CGE Scavenger Hunt Fall 2007

### How Well Do You Know YOUR Union? (aka - Free Coffee!)

Join your fellow CGE-ers this fall on an epic quest –

#### The First Annual CGE Scavenger Hunt

Log on to the CGE website:

[www.peak.org/~cge/](http://www.peak.org/~cge/)

Click on your department's link to begin the hunt

Those who finish successfully will be richly rewarded with **free coffee!**

## International Students

### *Focus Group*

#### Are you an International Student?

If so, CGE would love to hear from you!

CGE is coordinating a focus group of international students. CGE wants to know which issues are most important to you.

- What would you like to see in the next contract?
- What would make CGE more accessible to you?
- What has your experience with CGE been like?

As we approach the upcoming contract negotiations we need the input of all our members. Please contact us and share your thoughts.

541-757-7141 or [cge@peak.org](mailto:cge@peak.org)

## Bargaining Team Needed

3 more members are needed  
for the Bargaining Team!!

Negotiate Face to Face over  
YOUR contract with OSU  
administration!!

Interested? Contact the CGE  
Office.

## Executive Council Summer Retreat

On Monday, September 27, the CGE Executive Council and Staff gathered at the 'Secret Gardens of 8<sup>th</sup> St.' for a four and a half hour loooooonnnng meeting.

The entire Executive Council was there: President: Jim Neeway (Chemistry), Vice-President Organizing: John Osborne (Mathematics), Vice-President Bargaining: Joe Tyburczy (Zoology), Vice-President Communication: Allison Weinstein (Geology), and Secretary/Treasurer: Rob Hess (Computer Science), along with staff personnel Liz Dickinson, Chad Burger and Yonna Carroll, and AFT Field Agent Brett Nair.

The agenda included a Strategic Planning Discussion that detailed benchmarks, brainstorming, communication, and actions for the upcoming year. We also discussed the Bargaining Calendar, including research and member recruitment. Organizing issues included a review of current literature, the incoming GA letter, orientations, non-member letter, the membership drive and the new database. Also discussed were COPE deductions, new staff hire, t-shirt/beanie design and the newsletter.

Allison Weinstein won the sandwich eating contest, consuming 1 and 7/8 sandwiches along with handfuls of chips, veggies, and salad!

Chad and Brett remained amazingly chipper having completed the Portland Century (100 mile) bike ride the day before!



### WELCOME TO THE STAFF!!

Over the summer, Yonna Carroll, AFT National Representative, joined the CGE staff. Yonna has been working with the AFT for nine years in places such as New Jersey, New Orleans, Portland and Kansas City.

She will be working with Chad, Liz, Brett and all the officers and activists to assist in our contract negotiations.

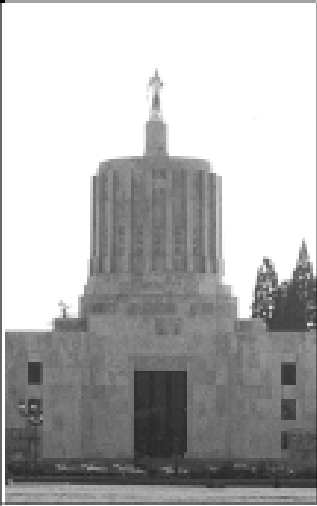
Feel free to stop by the CGE office to meet Yonna. She doesn't bite (or does she?!).

Or you can reach her by email at  
[ycarroll@aft.org](mailto:ycarroll@aft.org)

### The CGE Independent is published by:

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# AFT-Oregon Political Action, Our Future. Our Values.

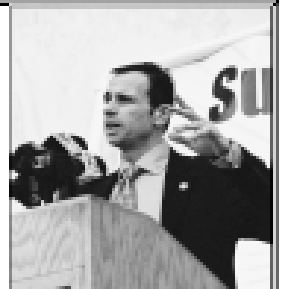


## *What is at stake?*

- Better contracts, secure health benefits and protecting our retirement.
- The freedom of workers to form unions.
- Adequate funding to ensure quality education from childhood to graduate studies.
- Access to affordable and accessible health insurance for all Americans.
- Defending our voice on local boards and commissions.
- Protecting our state from out of state interest groups and their ballot measures that would harm our public services.
- Our voice in the next Presidential Election.

## *Ways to get involved with AFT-Oregon's Committee on Political Education (COPE).*

- Join other members and donate to AFT-Oregon COPE. COPE is the voluntary political action fund of AFT. Members give monthly to expand our voice in politics. Members filing taxes in Oregon are eligible for a \$50 (single filer) or \$100 (filing jointly) tax credit.
- Volunteer for union political activities like making phones calls, going door-to-door or attending a campaign rally.
- Talk to your local's Political Action officer or a member of the executive board about getting involved as a worksite contact, and distributing important information to your co-workers.
- Attend a meeting with your legislator or member of Congress to discuss the issues that are important to members.



*AFT Member Larry Galtis has been elected with the help of members who give to COPE to the Oregon House of Representatives. He now chairs the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education where he has been a strong leader for our schools and education employees.*

# AFT-Oregon COPE Payroll Deduction Authorization Card

The undersigned authorizes (name of employer) \_\_\_\_\_ to deduct from each regular paycheck the amount indicated below. This deduction is made to AFT-Oregon COPE, and shall be forwarded to AFT-Oregon COPE, 7035 SW Hampton ST, Tigard, OR 97223.

I make this authorization voluntarily, without fear of reprisal and understand that it is not a condition of union membership.

I understand that this money will be used to make political contributions by AFT COPE. AFT COPE may engage in joint fundraising efforts with the AFL-CIO. I reserve the right to end this deduction, if done in writing to both the employer and union.

■ Please deduct from my paycheck:  \$5,  \$10,  \$\_\_\_\_ Other, per \_\_\_ month \_\_\_ pay period and forward it to AFT-Oregon COPE PAC.  
(Please complete the following for our records)

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Local No. \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Signature is needed to meet requirements of federal election laws. Contributions to AFT-COPE are not deductible for federal tax purposes. Oregon contributors may be eligible for the state Political Tax Credit. For more information call AFT-Oregon at 503-595-3880.  
(Please Return Form to Local Union or Payroll Office to Begin Deductions)