

Chris Gustafson (he/him)

I am Chris Gustafson and I am proud to be running for CPPW Treasurer as part of the Build Strong slate of candidates. I am a dedicated labor activist and committed to ensuring financial transparency, accountability, and equity for all members of the CPPW family.

I am a finance professional with more than 20 years experience in public and private organizations and have an MBA in International Finance. I have worked at the City of Portland for six years, am a Financial Analyst III, and currently have the role of Accounting Lead for the Portland Housing Bureau.

Since shortly after the successful election to organize CPPW, I have served as an at large member of the Organizing Committee, have been active as a Co-Chief Steward, continue to serve as a member of the Bargaining Committee, and before adoption was active on the Constitution and Bylaws committee. Prior to my most recent promotion, I was a trustee with AFSCME 189 and served as part of the executive board during the last DCTU contract negotiation.

The first Treasurer will codify the financial systems and procedures for the CPPW, so it is critically important that a member with the necessary qualifications fills that role. Crucially, this will involve standing up a proper accounting system that can record all the organization's financial transactions, report clear and understandable financial performance measures, and is useful for forecasting future financial requirements. I have previous experience implementing such systems and have the required skill set to perform these functions for the CPPW.

In addition to the accounting system, the first Treasurer will need to establish the formal financial procedures for the organization. As the lead on the PHB subrecipient monitoring team, I am responsible for reviewing the financial policies and procedures for Community Based Organizations that contract with the Bureau. I am a subject matter expert in this area and this experience will be extremely useful in codification of the future CPPW policies and procedures.

Looking forward, I would be keen to establish programs for the membership that encourage financial literacy and preparedness. One of my key take aways from the contract bargaining I experienced with DCTU is that the time to prepare for a strike is right now. It is too late to prepare when you are at a contract impasse. To that end, I would support a program to incentivize members to establish individual strike preparedness funds. Having a united membership with the resources to stay on the picket line for several weeks is the ultimate tool the Union has at our disposal in contract negotiations and it behooves us to keep that tool well honed and ready to deploy.

As Treasurer, I will be dedicated to working transparently and constructively with the other members of the Executive Team, the Audit Committee, and outside auditors. I ask for your vote for Treasurer and if selected promise to serve the CPPW with integrity and honor.