



SEIU News

UPDATE

Old Year, New Year :-

Here we are, in a brand new year.

In 2006, we fought till September for our current Joint contract, (covering the Commissioners Administrative & Independent Board Units) which has yet to be printed and distributed. Hopefully, we won't have too much longer to wait. As of 1 January, 2007, the workers under this contract will be making \$1.20 more per hour than they were 30 September.

Under this contract, Health Care co-premium paycheck deductions became effective 1 January, 2007, and will begin to show up on your paychecks this month. Since the first paycheck of the year covers a pay period spanning the last week of 2006, as well as the first week of 2007 (a split pay period), the earliest that we should hope to see the increase is the 26 January paycheck; but it may be possible that we won't see it till February. Please don't get upset. When it comes, it will have the retroactive adjusted pay from New Years Day.

The separately bargaining Court-Related / Court Appointed Units have not settled on a new contract and have opted to proceed to Interest Arbitration in March. We all hope that things move along a little faster than that.

Here's hoping that this year will bring us some positive things.

Reclassification & Insurance Committees:

Part of the Joint Contract calls for member committees to oversee reclassification & insurances.

If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, please contact your Steward or Delegate ASAP and ask to be considered .

Mandatory Overtime: -

This past October, our state General Assembly passed a bill to address the concerns about Mandatory Overtime, and it went to the Senate, where it died.

When a bill has passed one body but not passed another by the end of the session, the incoming (both new and used) legislators have to pick it up, dust it off, and start all over, if they are so inclined. We will have to start all over again on this issue, pressuring our legislators to do the right thing, and we hope this time we can get it pushed through in a more reasonable time period. Log onto www.seiu1199P.org and sign up for action alerts and emails to your legislators on this issue.

Candidates Needed/ Worksite Elections :-

SEIU Local 668 will be holding worksite elections for Stewards in January, 2007. Flyers have already been posted & distributed.

We are most effective when each department has at least two Stewards, with an Alternate to cover when the Chief Steward isn't there.

The rewards are great when you can help another member.

So size up your co-workers for those who might meet the needs of the employees in your department. (continued next column)

Quote of the Month

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia."

-Charles Schultz,
Peanuts author

(UPDATE cont.)

Prospective candidates please contact the Election Committee.

Immigration Bill: -

The U.S. Senate plans to introduce it's immigration bill this month, with an eye towards passage in March or April. Drafting lawmakers of this bi-partisan Bill include Sen.'s **Edward M. Kennedy** (D), of Massachusetts and **John McCain** of Arizona.

The Republican House of 2006 defeated a similar Senate Bill last year.

Segregation: -

Public schools are less integrated today than they were in 1970. In the South, many school systems, once segregated by law, have been freed from court oversight and, with the return to neighborhood schools, have reverted to their former state.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in the name of preventing race discrimination, on 4 December, heard arguments to stop local schools from voluntarily adopting plans to promote integration. We await their decision.

President Bush's Justice Department joined those opposing these plans; effectively seeking to overturn *Brown v. Board of Education*.

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**Watch for notices about the
next
SEIU Joint
Membership Meeting**

**Don't be in the dark,
Come to the meeting!**

Local 668 (PSSU) Leadership

Kathy Jellison, President
Roni Hamiel, Secretary Treasurer
John Terpko, Chapter 4 Chair
Natalie Keys, Vice Chair
Vacant, Secretary
Tim O'Donnell, Treasurer
Linda Andrews, Retired Affairs
Kim Steadman, Co-Chair Steward Council
Bea Abril, Co-Chair Steward Council
Jim Boyd— Business Agent

SEIU 668**Court-Related /Court-Appointed
Negotiation Team Members**

1. **Holly Lusebrink**—DJ Sec.
 2. **Jim Berger**—Dom. Rel.
 3. **Wanda Evancho**—Prothonotary
 4. **Cass Vogel**—Prothonotary
 5. **Jackie Luchetti**—DJ Sec.
 6. **Dave Danser**—Dep. Sheriff
 7. **Larry Shuga**—Dep. Sheriff
 8. **Michelle Whiting**—DA Vic./Wit.
 9. **Tracy Casteel**—DJ Sec.
 10. **Steve Felter**— Dep. Sheriff
- Alt. **Tom Zullo**—Dom. Rel.
 Alt. **Roberta Strezlecki**—DJ Sec.

PUZZLER

It's time for another chance to win a \$10 prize! Just correctly answer this month's Puzzler, mail it to "PUZZLER" SEIU NEWS c/o the address below right, and have it be the one drawn on 1 February.

When was the last time the United States declared war? Hint: Not December, 1941.

In order to claim your prize, please include your name, Department or Office, and phone number with your answer.

Open to SEIU members.

Important Notice!

If you transfer from the Manor to another job with the County, or vice-versa, you should notify the Union & Payroll as you may be changing your local.

Please sign a new Union application to retain your right to Union benefits. ###

> Our 2007 UNION HOLIDAYS are : New Year's Day (1/1); Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/15); President's Day (2/19); Good Friday (4/6); Memorial Day (5/28); Flag Day (6/14); Independence Day (7/4); Labor Day (9/3); Columbus Day (10/8); Veterans Day (11/12); Thanksgiving Day (11/22) & day after (11/23); Christmas Day (12/25); and your Personal Days.

Other Days to Remember

Lincoln's B'Day—2/12
 Valentine's Day—2/14
 Chinese new Year—2/18

Another Privatization Grab

You may have seen reports in the news about a possible leasing of the Pennsylvania Turnpike to private business. In the rush to privatize the aging roads and bridges there have been very few independent assessments of whether these projects are good for taxpayers — or just for the dealmakers who structure the deals.

This arrangement of state roads may produce a short-term gain over 10 years or so, but some of these leases last over 60 years, giving the lessee the right to raise rates and profits over most of the term. And the state still has to patrol & enforce collections on the leased roads.

Governor Rendel should slow down on this project while similar projects are evaluated more fully. Our elected officials should not be turning over their fiduciary duties so that some privateers can hold captive users (us) and charge whatever they want. ###

Fulfill College Goals

Check in at www.seiu.org & click on "Member Benefits" to see the 5 different SEIU scholarship programs available for 2007-2008.

There are 53 scholarships up to \$5000 that enable SEIU members & their children to pursue their educational goals at accredited colleges, universities, and technical schools.

Applications are already available for some of them.

District 1199P Leadership

Thomas DeBruin, Pres., District 1199P
Kevin Hefty, Vice Pres. Long-Term Care
Margie Butler, Executive Board Member
Doris Hardy, President, W.C. Chapter
Laura McGuiggan, W.C. Chap. V.P. 1
Gene Delia, W.C. Chap. V.P. 2
Chris Bureau, W.C. Chap. Sec.
Mike Harenski, W.C. Chap. Treas.
Ed Urbaniak, Chief Delegate /Nursing
Jack Matlock, Chief Delegate /Ancillary

Get the Facts !

Visit www.seiu.org ;
www.seiu1199P.org ;
www.seiu668.org ; &
www.seiu668ch4.org

Universal Health Care

The number one issue concerning our members is that of Health Care. We must not give up on this.

Rising costs associated with the insurance companies are really hurting all working people in this country. We've tried to deal with this consistently in Contract bargaining, but keep taking hits.

When so much of the costs go toward managing the programs and to company profits, of course the industry keeps raising prices. Federal plans use a significantly smaller percentage share for administration of the funds.

We should be resolved to continue to write letters & emails, and speak, to our congresspersons urging them to support a single payer system supported by the federal government.

Let's also support the political candidates with the best plans and efforts towards this. ###

S.E.I.U. NEWS is put together by Union people for the benefit of the members of S.E.I.U. Joint Bargaining Committee of Westmoreland County and has been published most months since January, 1995. Submit articles for print to : seiuwc@zoominternet.net , or mail to : SEIUNews, c/o Bud Santimyer, editor, 608 S. Broadway St., Scottdale, PA. 15683.