



# SEIU News

## UPDATE

### Stern Remarks: (from [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org))

"We know that we are as far today from the New Deal as the New Deal was from the Civil War. We're going from employer-managed work lives to self-managed work lives."

"We know that profits are at the highest percentage of the GDP in American history. Wages are at the lowest percentage in history, and that the market and the trickle-down theory of the Chicago school of economics has now proven to be totally bankrupt, that the market is no longer a way we distribute wealth. In fact, the market is distributing inequality."

"We live in a country right now where more than 80% of all Americans think that the American Dream, the dream that their kids will do better than their parents, is not going to be true. This is not the America we need. That's why what we do in government, in unions, and as a county has huge implications at this moment in history."

"The good news is that, although there is clearly hostility—by certainly see it by Writer's Guild strike and other places—by Corporate America and corporate conservatives towards unions, the desire of American workers to have an organization at work has never been higher... it's the highest it's been in nearly 50 years because people understand that there's an imbalance of power, that there's an imbalance of wealth, and that workers need some kind of strength if they're going to be able to change their lives."

Log on for more from International President Andy Stern.

### Dental Plan:

Due to a very low number of applicants, the offer of a group dental plan to our employees has been withdrawn at this time.

Those who did fill out applications should have received letters to this effect in December.

### Local 668 SWEB:

At the 8 December, 2007 State Wide Executive Board meeting in Harrisburg, committee appointments were approved. The complete committee list can be found on our website at [www.seiu668.org](http://www.seiu668.org).

Any member or staff who wants to attend a conference, convention, or training, must contribute at least \$20 to the American Dream Fund (ADF) and at least \$5/pay to the Committee on Political Education (COPE).

### Union Dues:

SEIU Healthcare dues were increased to the maximum level in November. This makes the rate 1.8% of gross pay, not including overtime, up to a maximum deduction of \$70 plus \$1 each month.

SEIU Local 668 dues remain at the 2007 rate of 1.39% of gross pay. This 668 dues is deducted each pay.

## Quote of the Month

**"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."**

-Martin Luther King, Jr. speech (1964)

## Scholarships

Through five different scholarship programs, SEIU awards 52 scholarships that enable SEIU members and their children to pursue their educational goals at accredited colleges, universities, and technical schools.

Applications must be postmarked or filed online by midnight March 1, 2008. Winners will be notified in late spring and announced on [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org).

SEIU's scholarships are open to SEIU members or their children. The John Geagan Scholarship is also open to local union staff. Membership must be for three continuous years as of September 1, 2008. All awards must be for the academic year(s) awarded. Graduate students are not eligible. Scholarship awards are limited to one per household.

For more information or applications, log onto [seiu.org](http://seiu.org) and click on the "Member Benefits and Education" link.

## Pennsylvania Labor History

1942, The Stabilization Act gave President Roosevelt the authority to stabilize wages based on September 15, 1942 levels.

1943 Roosevelt made an executive order to create a Committee on Fair Employment Practices to eliminate employment discrimination in war industries based on race, creed, color or national origin. The Smith-Connally (War Labor Disputes Act) authorized plant seizure if needed to avoid interference with the war effort.

1944 There are 18,600,000 union workers in the US, and 3,500,000 are women.

1945 World War II ends. The CIO affiliated with the newly created World Federation of Trade Unions. The AFL did not join because it felt the labor organizations of the Soviet Union were not "free and democratic".

**Local 668 (PSSU) Leadership***Kathy Jellison, President**Roni Hamiel, Secretary Treasurer**John Terpko, Chapter 4 Chair**Natalie Keys, Vice Chair**Gail Terpko, Secretary**Tim O'Donnell, Treasurer**Linda Andrews, Retired Affairs**Kim Steadman, Chair / Steward Council**Jim Boyd, Business Agent***> 2008 UNION HOLIDAYS are :**

New Year's Day (1/1); Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/21); President's Day (2/18); Good Friday (3/21); Memorial Day (5/26); Flag Day (6/14); Independence Day (7/4); Labor Day (9/1); Columbus Day (10/13); Veterans Day (11/11); Thanksgiving Day (11/27) & day after (11/28); Christmas Day (12/25); and your Personal Days.

**Other Days to Remember***Groundhog Day—Sat., 2 Feb.**Ash Wednesday—Wed., 6 Feb.**Lincoln's Birthday, Tues., 12 Feb.**Valentine's Day—Thurs., 14 Feb.***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**Brooke Brissel, Organizer***Puzzler**

Last month's Puzzler was: "Who was Sam Gompers?"

And the answer, sent in by **Beverly Misner** of the Veterans Affairs office is: "Sam Gompers was the first president of the American Federation of Labor." He was the founder and president for all but one year from 1886 through 1924.

Beverly takes home a selection of union merchandise.

For this month's Puzzler, we ask:

**Q) Who was the first woman who ran for the Presidency of the U.S. and when?**

Prize) Assorted Union merchandise.

All Westmoreland County SEIU 668 or SEIUHealthcare members and their family members are eligible.

Send printed answer, by Friday, 1 February; with Name, Local, Worksite, and phone number to :

"Puzzler", c/o 608 S. Broadway St.,  
Scottsdale, PA. 15683

**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 Santimyler, editor,  
608 S. Broadway St., Scottsdale, PA.  
15683.

**Get the Facts !**

Visit [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org) ;  
[www.seiuhealthcare.org](http://www.seiuhealthcare.org) ;  
[www.seiu668.org](http://www.seiu668.org) ;  
& [www.seiu668ch4.org](http://www.seiu668ch4.org)

**Fulfillment:**

By Bro. Bud Santimyler

In today's U.S. workplace, it is reported that the average job lasts just 3.2 years. Pension plans are being dismantled, health insurance benefits are being cut, pink slip notices received instead of gold watch ceremonies.

How do you view your work? Is it something that you are passionate about? Is there something about it that you love? Do you welcome the opportunities it offers you, and do you appreciate where you are going? Do you enjoy the company of your co-workers? Do you feel that you are the only one who does any work? Is it just something you do that produces a paycheck?

Being in a job you hate doesn't make sense as a long-term plan. Could your intelligence and experience lead to more fulfilling work that expands your soul and enriches your being? Would another boss appreciate you? Could you do better somewhere else?

A job is how we earn a living and is a task or duty to perform. Your job just helps you to meet your bills.

Career means to move at speed, to rush. You can go rushing around for a long time and never really get anywhere. In today's world, even professionals with careers chose to get off the track and select another field, searching for something more gratifying.

Your career is not necessarily your calling, but you can choose to have several careers and jobs without redirecting your life's path.

Your vocation is that which you are "called" to do; the thing you do that makes a difference. This is your best avenue to fulfillment. It is the light in your life that guides you in the right direction, even when pushed around by life's distractions.

Depending on your answers to these questions you may have made a decision for your life. I and others find our passion in helping others. We choose to try to make things better through Union activism. Our efforts have helped people keep jobs when they needed it, and achieved benefits for more people. Make a difference. Find your calling, join SEIU to work for the future!

