



Service Employees International Union, Healthcare PA & Local 668 PSSU
 Joint Bargaining Committee of Westmoreland County SEIU

Volume 14/3

Wednesday,
 12 March,
 2008

SEIU News

UPDATE

Presidential Endorsement:

SEIU had been letting the individual State SEIU organization elected Leadership choose who they wanted to support in this primary. Since he had dropped out, those who had voted to support John Edwards reconsidered. In February, all SEIU state organizations were asked for their votes.

After reflection on Union issues and where each candidates' positions were on these, Pennsylvania voted to support Barack Obama and most of the others did as well, New York had voted to support Hillary Clinton. None supported any Republican candidate.

Because of the overwhelming support for **Senator Obama**, the International has endorsed him for President of the United States.

Joint Contract 668/Healthcare Coming:

On Wednesday, 20 February, after over a year of back and forth proofreading; the Westmoreland County Joint Contract for SEIU 668(PSSU) and SEIU Healthcare PA was signed by the negotiations team members and has been sent for printing. It should be in your hands shortly. We apologize for the lengthy delay.

CR/CA units :

The Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board conducted an election on Thursday, 6 March in the Courthouse lobby Commissioners Meeting Rooms, for the Court Related/Court Appointed units that won an arbitration award in November after several years of negotiations and arbitration hearings. All specifics of the election were dictated by the Board including where and when to vote.

All members of the Court Related and Court Appointed bargaining units were eligible to vote on whether to stay with SEIU; go to the Westmoreland County Court Related Employee Association; or chose to go with no representation.

SEIU encouraged all of the affected members in the CR/CA to vote. The reported results of the Court Appointed votes were: - 99 for WCREA; 23 for SEIU/PSSU; and 1 Voided ballot. The reported results of the Court Related tally were: 97 for WCREA; 22 for SEIU/PSSU; 2 for No Representation; and 1 Voided ballot.

This represents over 68% total votes to leave SEIU/PSSU.

We will miss those SEIU-supportive former members, sisters & brothers; and we should wish all these employees well in their future contract negotiations.

Delegate Training:

SEIU Healthcare PA will be doing a series of delegate trainings at Westmoreland Manor. If anyone is interested, they can email Organizer Brooke Brissel at brisselb@seihealthcarepa.org or call and leave a message at 1-800-252-3894 ext. 1166. dates will be posted on the Union bulletin board for the trainings, which will begin in April.

(Continued next column)

Quote of the Month

*"Every private citizen has
 a public responsibility."*

- Myra Janco Daniels

UPDATE (CONT.)

Voter Registration:

It is clear that the Pennsylvania primary election on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 will play a significant role in deciding who will lead this great country of ours for at least the next four years.

1976 was the last time that voters in Pennsylvania had any real impact on the outcome of Presidential politics. It is an exciting time for voters of all demographic backgrounds.

We want to ensure that our members are integral to this history that is being written. Therefore, we are encouraging all members, regardless of party affiliation, to register to vote A.S.A.P.

If you want to participate in the April 22, 2008 primary, you must register by March 24, 2008.

Once you are registered, VOTE !

GIS Department:

Last year, a new department was created from the Tax Mapping Department. This new department under the Directorship of Randy Strong (formerly of the Planning Department) will be translating Deeds into the tax maps and "overlying" these maps onto overhead arial views available online through a GIS link on the County website www.co.westmoreland.pa.us.

The GIS Department is currently being relocated from the Courthouse 4th floor Tax Office to share space with the Recorder of Deeds on the fifth floor.

There have been some retirements from the clerical section of the Department and any interested employees should bid for the positions when they become available. Cartographer positions have recently been posted and bidders tested for those positions.

There may be future open Cartographer (Tax Mapper) positions should the Department expand.

Please, should any of you be considering a move in this direction, ... (continued next page)

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

Be an MPO !

This Presidential Primary season is very exciting for many people. Though it appears at this time that the Republican candidate may be pretty well chosen; Democrat candidates are still in contention and Pennsylvania may have a real voice in who will go on to the General Election in November.

There are websites that question what your issues are and will match you to politicians who most closely feel the way you do. Compare the candidates before choosing.

If anyone is interested in working on the 2008 election, it is not too late to apply to be an MPO (Member Political Organizer).

Applications can be obtained from Str. Karen Ribaric or Str. Brooke Brissell, and must be returned as soon as possible. This year there may also be an opportunity for part-time MPO's, previously all MPO's were full-time.

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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.

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Get the Facts !

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

> 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)[5-day ops get the previous Friday, 6/13 off]; 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

Palm Sunday—Sun., 16 Mar.
St Patricks Day—Mon., 17 Mar.
Spring Begins—Thurs., 20 Mar.
Easter—Sun., 23 Mar.

UPDATE (cont.)

. . . there is tuition reimbursement available for college education. The tuition reimbursement information and request forms are kept in the Department of Human Resources.

PSSU Business Agent leaving :

Str. Karen Ribaric will replace our Business Agent, Jim Boyd, as Jim will retire from SEIU 668 on March 14th. Karen has been employed by SEIU 668 in the Johnstown office since October of 1998. She resides in Cambria County with her 14-year-old daughter, Ashlee. Karen and her fiance, Dave Klimaszewski, plan to be married on May 8, 2008.

Karen suggests that you begin to learn to spell her new last name before May! Karen asks that you call her at 800-272-0474 Ext. 18 or you may email her (from your home email account) at RIBBARIC668@aol.com if you have any questions, suggestions or comments. Be sure to visit www.seiu668.org. STRONGER TOGETHER.

Reminder:

Log onto www.seiu668ch4.org for chapter meeting minutes, free email accounts, and etc.

There will be a dinner meeting of the PSSU Local Unit Comm. Chairs on Friday, March 14th, in Harrisburg. PSSU State Wide Executive Board (SWEB) is Saturday, March 15th. Watch for future meeting notices.

District 1199P Leadership

Thomas DeBruin, Pres., District 1199P
Kevin Hesty, 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
Brooke Brissel, Organizer

Public Services Contest

Enter the "Everybody Wins" contest with ideas to improve public services and win up to \$5,000.

For an entry form, requirements and rules, contact "Everybody Wins" at 866-562-1459 or go to www.PublicDivisionVision.org/Everybody_Wins.

Puzzler


Last month's Puzzler was: "When was the Wagner Act passed and what did it do?"

Answers were sent in by employees who are no longer eligible.

We will keep this Puzzler for one more month to see if any eligible member can answer it.

Prize) Assorted Union "stuff."

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

Send printed answer, by Friday, 1 Feb. ; with Name, Local, Work-site, and phone number to :

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

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seiuwc@zoominternet.net , or mail to:
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 c/o Bud Santimyer, editor,
 608 S. Broadway St., Scottdale, PA.
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