



Service Employees International Union, District 1199P & Local 668 PSSU
 Joint Bargaining Committee of Westmoreland County SEIU

Volume 12/04

Wednesday,
 12 April,
 2006

SEIU News

UPDATE

Contract Negotiations: Our SEIU contracts expired at midnight following the 31st of December, 2005. We are continuing to work under the terms and conditions of the previous contracts, until they are replaced by new contracts.

The Joint 1199P/668 (Commissioners Residual / Row Office / Independent Board Units) Team last met with the County on Monday, 3 April. We did make some headway, getting several tentative agreements on specific issues, pending the contract approval.

Also at this meeting, the County gave their economic proposal to us. It was not acceptable, as the lowest-paid employees still; over the course of the proposed provisions; would not have any financial gain to speak of, and with the cost of living increasing the way it does, real income would decrease remarkably. Something has to be done to help raise the lowest paid employees to a decent, above-poverty wage.

The County hopes to get us to agree to "screw-the-new-guy" by giving concessions on EA & sick days. They also keep pounding on their perceived necessity for health care co-premiums & deductibles. So far, their proposals have been decidedly un-inspiring.

This team is scheduled to negotiate again on 18 & 19 April.

The 668 Court-Related/Court Appointed Team is negotiating separately & will continue their separate sessions as can be arranged.

District 1199P elections: The Westmoreland Manor (1199P) members have nominated & voted for Delegates (previously known as Stewards) and various other offices within 1199P. Thank you for your support & participation.

Election official results are due sometime in June.

Local 668 Leadership Training: Chapter 4 Vice-Chair, **Natalie Keys** reports that Leadership Training has been scheduled for September 14 - 16, 2007; at the Hershey Convention Center in Harrisburg. Anyone who wishes to attend Leadership Training *MUST* first have completed basic Steward's training from their local chapters *AND* be a registered voter. Basic Steward training will probably be addressed at the 12 April SEIU 668 Chapter 4 member meeting.

Member Spotlight: Member Spotlight nominating forms have been distributed to all offices for 668 member recognition. Please fill them out & return them.

Discipline: If you disagree with any disciplinary action, you have the right to file a grievance. Disciplines for attendance should be removed from your file after 18 months.

Lobby Day: It's not too early to start planning for Lobby Day; Tuesday, 23rd May. Please see your Steward if you plan on attending so we can get a rough count of participants. Local 668 Chapter 4 wants to do this first class, so early planning is important. All (travel & meal) expenses will be paid by the chapter. Visit www.seiu668ch4.org for more information.

###

Quote of the Month

"Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor."

- James Baldwin, *Nobody Knows My Name*

March for Parks

There were 450 marchers & 50 business sponsors this year raising \$37,000 for Westmoreland County Parks projects.

The team champion was the First Lutheran Church with \$2,508. The "Home Team," of which SEIU members were a part, was second with \$2,353. Third place was taken by the Westmoreland County Solicitors with \$1,855.

We thank all who helped to improve our County parks and trails.

Mark 31 March, 2007 for the next "March for Parks."

New Union Benefit for Local 668 Chapter 4 Members

Chapter 4 Chair, **John Terpko**, has set up a new website for members in the four counties of our Chapter. Using the website, members can set up a free webmail account.

You will first have to enable Java Script, or, if you don't already have it, download the free software from java.com. Once you have done this, you will be able to read the site and use the links & webmail.

The site is www.seiu668ch4.org.

Watch for notices about the next SEIU Joint 1199P / 668 Membership Meeting

Be a part of the action!

Help prepare for our next contract, Join our CATEam!

Local 668 (PSSU) Leadership*Kathy Jellison, President**Roni Hamiel, Secretary Treasurer**John Terpko, Chapter 4 Chair**Natalie Keys, Vice Chair**Bea Abril, Secretary**Kieth Saunders, Treasurer**Linda Andrews, Retired Affairs**Kim Steadman, Co-Chair Steward Council**Bea Abril, Co-Chair Steward Council**Jim Boyd— Union Rep.*

> Our 2006 UNION HOLIDAYS are : New Year's Day (1/1) [5-day ops got Mon., 2nd Jan. off]; Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/16); President's Day (2/20); Good Friday (4/14); Memorial Day (5/29); Flag Day (6/14); Independence Day (7/4); Labor Day (9/4); Columbus Day (10/9); Veterans Day (11/11); Thanksgiving Day (11/23) & day after (11/24); Christmas Day (12/25); and your Personal Days.

Other Days to Remember

Passover—Thurs., 4/13

Easter—Sun., 4/16

Cinco de Mayo—Fri., 5/5

Mother's Day—Sun., 5/14

Negotiation Team Members**SEIU 1199P Residual Units:**

1. **Debby Christner**—LPN
2. **Gene Delia**—Laundry
3. **Carrie Morris**—Housekeeping
4. **Doris Hardy**—CNA
5. **Chris Bureau**—Admissions
6. **Dee Nasri**—RN
7. **Jack Matlock**—Housekeeping
8. **Bette Elliott**—CNA (12-8)
9. **Jeff Elliott**—Manor Maint.
10. **Bill Smail**—Manor Maint.

Alt. **Laura McGuiggan**—Restorative**SEIU 668 Residual / Row Office/ I.B. Units:**

1. **Kim Steadman**—Parks
2. **Natalie Keys**—Parks
3. **Bud Santimyer**—Tax Asmt.
4. **Rachel Deckard**—911
5. **Tim O'Donnell**—911
6. **Michael Kalp**—911
7. **Sue Crouse**—AAA
8. **Frank (Spike) Globosky**—Parks
9. **John Lauffer**—AAA
10. **Lou Patrick**—Roads

Alt. **Pat Stefanon**—Crthse Maint.**SEIU 668 Court Related /Appointed:**

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.**Congratulations**

... To **Chris "Chachi" Martino**; TCO at the 911/DPS center; upon the birth of his daughter, Taylor Ann.

Our Condolences

... To CNA **Patricia Dovie** and husband, Tom; upon the death of her mother, Ethel M. "Barbs" Overly on March 11th.

... To RN **Gretchen Prah** and husband, James upon the passing of her mother-in-law, Mary A. Prah, also on March 11th.

... To RCA **Cheryl Kush**, and daughters Jennifer & Brandi upon the death of her husband, Henry L. Kush, on March 12th.

Important Notice!

It is very important to remember that when you take a job bid in another unit, you may be changing your local.

If you transfer from the Manor to another job with the County, or vice-versa, you should notify the Union & Payroll. Dues deductions are also different.

Please sign a new Union application to retain your right to Union benefits & the right to vote on your next contract. ###

District 1199P Leadership*Thomas DeBruin, Pres., District 1199P**Margie Butler, Executive Board Member**Doris Hardy, Co-Chief Steward /Nursing**Ed Urbaniak, Co-Chief Steward /**Nursing**Jack Matlock, Chief Steward /Ancillary**Martilynne Middleton, Union Rep.**Kevin Hefty, Union Rep.***"WEINGARTEN" RIGHTS:**

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled, in a 1975 case, [*NLRB v. Weingarten, Inc. 420 US 251*] that unionized employees have certain rights.

If you have a reasonable belief that discipline or other adverse consequences may result from what you say, you have the right to request union representation.

However, it is your responsibility to know and to request these rights.

When you make the request for a union representative to be present, management can:

(1) stop questioning until the "rep" arrives.

(2) call off the interview; or

(3) tell you that it will call off the interview unless you voluntarily give up your rights to a union representative (an option you should always refuse).

If 2 or more stewards are available, it is your right - not the employer's - to decide who you want to represent you; but if there is only one, that's who you get.

Get the Facts !Visit www.seiu.org ;www.seiu1199P.org; www.seiu668.org ;& www.seiu668ch4.org

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.