



# SEIU News

Wednesday,  
9 April,  
2008

## UPDATE

### Primary Fever:

This election is getting pretty exciting as Pennsylvania has a significant say in who gets to be the eventual Democratic candidate for President. Senator **John McCain**, the presumptive Republican candidate is focusing on the General Election in November.

**Senator Clinton** has visited the area to meet people and to speak at several venues. She has supported many Union issue positions in the past. See [www.HillaryClinton.com](http://www.HillaryClinton.com).

Several of our members went to the **Senator Obama** rally at Hempfield High School on 28 March, to hear his answers to audience questions. He also has supported Union positions, and SEIU has endorsed him. The diverse crowd of people, ranging in age from young teen to senior citizen, appeared to enjoy the overall experience. See [www.BarackObama.com](http://www.BarackObama.com).

Perhaps you'd like to check an independent website for candidate comparisons to your opinions. Some good sites are [www.glassbooth.org](http://www.glassbooth.org); or for veteran/military, [www.vajoe.com](http://www.vajoe.com).

### Delegate Training:

Beginning in April, SEIU Healthcare PA will be doing a series of delegate trainings at Westmoreland Manor:

- April 10th at 3:30p.m. —Module 1—"We are Union!"
- April 17th at 12 noon & 3:30p.m.—Module 2—"Dealing with Workplace Problems."
- April 23rd at 7 a.m., 12 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.—Module 7—Public communication: "Our Message and the Messenger."

If anyone is interested, they can email Organizer Brooke Brissel at [brisselb@seiuhealthcarepa.org](mailto:brisselb@seiuhealthcarepa.org) or call and leave a message at 1-800-252-3894 ext. 1166. The training session dates & times will be posted on the Union bulletin board.

### SEIU 668 Chapter 4 Meeting:

At the regular scheduled member meeting on Tuesday, 25 March, much action was taken.

Discussed Dr. Davis at IUP and "free training" offered to Chapter 4 from IUP paid by unclaimed grants.

Chapter 4 will make a donation of \$100 for the March for Parks and marked "for trees at Cedar Creek Park."

We appointed Bro. Brian C. Orczeck as **Veterans Affairs Liaison** to assist members who are military veterans. Brian can be reached at [orczeck@seiu668ch4.org](mailto:orczeck@seiu668ch4.org).

Minutes of the meeting can be read at [www.seiu668ch4.org](http://www.seiu668ch4.org).

### March for Parks:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to those who marched or donated to the "Home Team" for the March for Parks. Your efforts raised over \$4,400 out of the \$51,000 total for . . . (Continued next column)

### Quote of the Month

*"There are no shortcuts to  
anyplace worth going."*

- Beverly Sills, soprano

**UPDATE (CONT.)** . . .the Westmoreland County Parks Citizens Advisory Board.

The "Home Team" was the inspiration of the county employees who work in the parks and are SEIU Local 668 members, . . .and we were the top team for money raised. This truly shows that our chapter is embracing the union-community connection, which is a fundamental goal of our local's vision. We all should be proud. In solidarity,

//signed//

JOHNE TERPKO

Chairperson, Chapter 4  
SEIU Local 668

### PSSU Business Agent:

New Local 668 Business Agent **Str. Karen Ribaric** has been meeting stewards, members, and has met with H.R Director, C. Dominick.

She asks that you call her at 800-272-0474 Ext. 18 or you may email her (from your home email account) at [RIBARIC668@aol.com](mailto:RIBARIC668@aol.com) if you have any questions, suggestions or comments. Be sure to visit [www.seiu668.org](http://www.seiu668.org).

### SEIU & Union Plus:

Visit [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org) and complete the short pop-up union form to learn about your special union benefits.

Union Plus turns hopes into homes. Union members can take advantage of a full-range of a unique Mortgage Assistance program (1-800-848-6466) [www.unionplus.org/mortgage](http://www.unionplus.org/mortgage).

The UnionPlus Credit Card's Safety Net offers valuable protection if you are facing financial hardship. You may have already seen some of the brochures on display.

Free legal service help is available for SEIU members and their families. UnionPlus.org lawyers offer free 30-minute consultations, document review, enrollment, and a discount on hourly rates. (1-800-993-8886).

Find money for continuing education for yourself and your family. (Continued next page)

**Local 668 (PSSU) Leadership**

*Kathy Jettison, 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*  
**Karen Ribaric, 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.

If anyone is interested in working on the 22 April 2008 Primary election, it is not too late to apply to be an MPO (Member Political Organizer).

We are also seeking members willing to man the phone banks each Tuesday leading up to Primary Election Day.

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 the New Site at  
[www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org) ;  
[www.seiuhealthcarepa.org](http://www.seiuhealthcarepa.org) ;  
[www.seiu668.org](http://www.seiu668.org) ;  
 & [www.seiu668ch4.org](http://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**

*Passover Begins (sundown) - 20 April*  
**Primary Election—22 April**  
*Earth Day—22 April*  
*National Arbor Day—25 April*  
*International Labor Day—1 May*  
**Be Kind To Animals Week—4 -10 May**  
*Cinco de Mayo—5 May*  
*Karen & Dave Wed—8 May*  
*Mother's Day—11 May*  
*Armed Forces Day—17 May*  
*National Maritime Day— 22 May*

**In Sympathy**

**To sister Mary Jo Santimyer, LPN  
 upon the death of her dear Uncle,  
 Stan Koza, on 28 March.**

**UPDATE (cont.) . . .**

Search for scholarships and apply for education loans at [www.unionplus.org/education](http://www.unionplus.org/education).

Consumer tips, dental care savings, discounted flowers, car rental, Disney hotels and other items are made available to you at this marvelous website. A new benefit is includes discounts up to 30% on Norwegian Cruise Line.

**Reminder:**

Log onto [www.seiu668ch4.org](http://www.seiu668ch4.org) for chapter meeting minutes, and etcetera.

Any member interested in being on the Re-Classification Committee, contact your steward ASAP.

**Our Contract History:**

The SEIU/Westmoreland County first (1977) contract had the lowest employee pay-rate at \$2.75/HR, or \$4,647.50/year.

The lowest paid employee in 2008 makes \$12.34/HR, or \$20,854.60/year.

###

**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**  
**Brooke Brissel, Organizer**

**Puzzler**

The answer to last month's Puzzler was:

A) The Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act) passed in 1935 established the first national labor policy of protecting the right of workers to organize and to elect their representatives for collective bargaining.

Answers were sent in by members who are not eligible. No prize awarded this month.

April Puzzler : "What percentage describes the Westmoreland County pay increase for the lowest paid employee from 1977 to 2008?"

Prize) Assorted Union "stuff."

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

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

"Puzzler",

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

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[seiuwc@zoominternet.net](mailto:seiuwc@zoominternet.net), or mail to:

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