



# SEIU News

## UPDATE

### Contract Negotiations:

We are continuing to work under the terms and conditions of the previous Westmoreland County / SEIU contracts, which expired Dec. 31st; while bargaining for new ones.

SEIU Local 668 Pres. **Kathy Jellison** was here for the negotiation session ending at 11 P.M. on Wed., 2 August which resulted in no appreciable movement. As this goes to press, we don't really have much new to tell. Our next session is scheduled for Wed., 9 August.

I learned long ago that if change is to occur, one must be willing to strive for it, to challenge Authority, fight for respectful treatment, & do the right things for the least among us. Sometimes we must "do the unthinkable." So we have got to think up strategies we've never thought before!

We've discussed matters with you at Member & Worksite Meetings, and the Union is now willing to negotiate Health Care Co-Premiums in return for (1) elimination of the 1-hr lunch "entitlement" for 65-hour/pay employees, (2) the adjustment of more Job pay grades, & (3) decent pay raises to all in order for us to afford the Co-Premiums on top of the cost of living. I think that if they aren't ready to negotiate this, then they don't really want those Co-Premiums. They just want to whip the public sentiment up, and they may be trying to force us into an unwanted and lengthy strike; to beat us into the ground.

We believe that the phase-in of more hours for those 65-hr employees will benefit the public, and actually end up costing less by adding the time as workers leave County service. Fewer employees, fewer benefits paid. More time working, less time eating, better service to the public.

They say there isn't enough work to justify this, but our members say they will accept the possibility of layoffs, if there isn't. It seems the main reason for resisting the extra time is political one-up-man-ship over the Row Officers. They probably also want to drive a wedge further between these workers and all the others. Doing the right thing can be difficult.

Please, stay focused on this contract! By standing together, we can achieve great things. Come to Meetings whenever you can possibly do so, because you know that VOTES that could affect your job & future may be taken at any member meeting. Deciding to give it a miss, because you don't think it's important is just wrong. This stuff affects us all; every Meeting and every Vote is important!

### Labor United Celebration:

Each year, the Greater Westmoreland Labor Council hosts the largest free admission Labor Day Celebration this side of the Mississippi.

Come one, come all to the *Labor United Celebration* at Northmoreland Park on Sunday-Monday 3rd & 4th September, 2006.

Kids rides; Live music; food booths; Bingo. Enjoy the fun of this annual event. **Jackie Houser** is still involved, and she encourages volunteers to work at food booth or Bingo. Let us know if you can!

## Quote of the Month

*"Dictators believe in only one liberty  
—the liberty to do away  
with all the other liberties."*

Unknown

## Oil Import Quiz

Q.) What Country provided the single largest volume of the U.S.'s oil imports (2001—2005)?

1 Winner of \$10 Gift certificate will be drawn from all correct answers submitted by SEIU Members or their family members postmarked prior to Labor Day, 4 Sept., 2006. Mail your answers to OIL QUIZ c/o Bud Santimyer at address at bottom right of page 2.

## Bad Boss Website

Working America launched the "My Bad Boss Contest" at [www.workingamerica.org/badboss](http://www.workingamerica.org/badboss) to give workers a chance to speak out about the difficulties they face on the job every day. Submissions are over, but you can log in & vote for your favorite stories every day. The finalists are now competing to win that free vacation with airfare included!

The best stories are posted on the **badboss** website, and readers vote on their favorite until Thursday, 10 August. You can vote once each day! ###

Watch for notices about the  
next  
SEIU 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**Keith 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.

**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**Gene Delia, W.C. Chap. V.P.**Laura McGuiggan, W.C. Chap. V.P.**Chris Bureau, W.C. Chap. Sec.**Mike Harenski, W.C. Chap. Treas.**Ed Urbaniak, Chief Delegate /Nursing**Jack Matlock, Chief Delegate /Ancillary***Time for an American Solution**

As the employer-based system of Health Care collapses, average Americans are getting squeezed under the weight of stagnant wages and rising Health Care costs while a staggering 45 million people have no coverage at all.

As the most diverse union in North America, SEIU's membership brings a unique understanding of the crisis as caregivers, as consumers fighting to maintain health care, and as low-wage earners struggling to gain coverage.

The SEIU-led grassroots network "Americans for Health Care" has brought together small business owners, working people, seniors, health care workers, and elected officials to pass legislation that has resulted in lowered costs and expanded coverage.

But our work is far from done. It's going to take a fundamental change to replace the failing employer-based system with a model for the 21st Log onto [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org) for more information. ###

**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 & the right to vote on your next contract. ###

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

1. Debby Christner—LPN
2. Gene Delia—Housekeeping
3. Carrie Morris—Housekeeping
4. Doris Hardy—Central Supply
5. Chris Bureau—Admissions
6. Dee Nasri—RN
7. Jack Matlock—Housekeeping
8. Bette Elliott—CNA (12-8)
9. Bill Smail—Manor Maint.
10. Laura McGuiggan—Restorative Alt. Ed Urbaniak—RN

**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.

**Huge Implications for Nurses**

This summer, the five-member, Bush-appointed National Labor Relations Board is set to issue decisions in three cases that might deny union members job protections under federal labor law. In each case—two involving nurses—the Board will decide whether to reclassify certain types of workers as supervisors. But instead of benefiting employees with increased compensation, the reclassification would strip them of rights and protections on the job.

For years, nurses' ability to be protected when they join together in SEIU has helped them to hold hospitals and nursing homes accountable to better patient care. Learn more about what's at stake for nurses and their patients. Log on to [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org).

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**Get the Facts ! Visit [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org) ;****[www.seiu1199P.org](http://www.seiu1199P.org);****[www.seiu668.org](http://www.seiu668.org) ; & \*****[www.seiu668ch4.org](http://www.seiu668ch4.org)**

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