



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

Volume 13/12

Wednesday,
 12 Dec.,
 2007

SEIU News

UPDATE

Court-Related & Court Appointed:

Some members of the Court Appointed/Court Related Unit have filed a petition with the Pa Labor Relations Board to be represented by an organization other than SEIU 668 PSSU. The actions of these members jeopardizes the arbitration award handed down by Arbitrator Grossinger on November 7. This deprives members of that Unit of all of the wage and economic increases in the award.

The award could ultimately become null and void. The actions of these few members will definitely result in a prolonged delay of members getting a contract with the County and could result in their having to bargain again from scratch. This could result in a further delay, perhaps as long as two years or more. If the case gets tied up in litigation it could prevent us from bargaining in 2009.

We have fought and won the battle with the County to maintain longevity and current sick leave benefits. If there is an election for new representation and the membership votes in favor of it, these items will definitely be on the table. Retroactivity will again be on the table - if we get to the table- but it will be for 2007 forward, the time period already covered by the award. Do the leaders behind this Petition truly have the interests of the members as the heart of their actions?

Jim Boyd, Business Agent;
 SEIU 668 PSSU, 877-275-1885

Residual Units (Joint) Contract :

Since the contract is not yet printed, let's review some of the changes so you can prepare for next year. Full-time employee medical benefits deductions increase in 2008. These per-pay increases are up an extra dollar for the employee (\$9), or for the employee/children (\$18). Employee/spouse and family coverage increases by \$3, to \$21 and \$25. Physician office visits remain the same at \$20, and Emergency room visits stay at \$50.

All employees shall receive a 50 cents/hour increase on 1 January, 2008; and 60 cents/hour increases in 2009 & 2010.

Here's hoping that the contract will be finally edited and printed soon.

Dental Plan:

The SEIU Health Committee has gotten the County to agree to offer Dental coverage to the workforce, effective January, 2008.

Highlights include a choice of 2 plans, single & family coverage, visits to any dentist, and reliable claims turnaround.

Currently offered only to the SEIU-eligible employees of the Commissioner's Residual Units; the plan presentations have begun at various worksites. If you are interested in Dental coverage for yourself or your family, please make every effort to attend a presentation as it becomes available. (continued next column)

Quote of the Month

*"Yet is every man his greatest enemy,
 and, as it were, his own executioner."*

- Thomas Browne, *Religio Medici*

UPDATE (continued) ...

Stewards B.J. McKelvey in the Controllers and Bud Santimyer in the Tax Assessment office have some more information packets and application forms.

The forms should be filled out and returned to Bud as soon as possible this month if you wish to get one of the offered plans.

Four-Letter Word :

With "Fees" becoming a four-letter word for big banks, lawmakers must limit the "anything goes" fee-driven profit model of America's biggest banks and put an end to the "culture of coziness" between banks and federal regulators, urges SEIU as the union unveiled measures to protect working families from the range of exploitive practices that have enabled some banks to raise deposit service charges by 70% between 2002 and 2006.

Log onto seiu.org for more information.

Nurses Nationwide Back Appalachian RN's:

SEIU Healthcare nurses from New York, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Tennessee, and Washington State mobilized in Lexington, Kentucky recently to join Appalachian nurses who are taking a stand for quality patient care.

Nurses at 9 hospitals in Kentucky and West Virginia at the Appalachian Regional Healthcare system have been on strike since Oct 1 to protect their voice on staffing and patient care. Seiu.org has more on this. ###

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.

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

> Our remaining 2007 UNION HOLIDAYS are : Christmas Day (12/25); and possibly your Personal Days.

Other Days to Remember

Winter Solstice—12/22

Christmas Eve—12/24

Boxing Day—12/26

Kwanzaa begins—12/26

New Year's Eve—12/31

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 Burzau, 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: "In what year, and under which President, did Pennsylvania coal miners end a five-month strike and agree to arbitration with a presidential committee?"

The answer: **1902, President Theodore Roosevelt.**

Sister **Georgeanna Ferry**, of the Treasurer's Office is again the winner of the Puzzler. She takes home some assorted Union merchandise.

For this month Puzzler, we ask:

Q) Who was Sam Gompers?

Prize) Assorted Union merchandise.

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

Send printed answer, by Monday, 31 December; with Name, Local, Worksite, and phone number to :

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

Presidential Endorsements:

SEIU has decided to let each state organization make its own endorsements. By Oct. 15th, SEIU in 7 states had endorsed John Edwards; and 5 have endorsed Barack Obama.

SEIU in PA has not yet endorsed.

Get the Facts !

Visit www.seiu.org ;

www.seiu1199P.org ;

www.seiu668.org ;

& www.seiu668ch4.org

Pennsylvania Labor History

1935 The Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act) established the first national labor policy of protecting the right of workers to organize and to elect their representatives for collective bargaining. The Guffey Act was passed to stabilize the coal industry and to improve labor conditions. It was later declared unconstitutional (1936). The Social Security Act was approved. Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO) formed within the American Federation of Labor to foster industrial unionism.

1936 The Anti-Strikebreaker Act (Byrnes Act) declared it unlawful to transport or aid strikebreakers in interstate or foreign trade. The Public Contracts Act (Walsh-Healey Act) established labor standards, including minimum wages, overtime pay, child and convict labor provisions, and safety standards on all federal contracts.

1941 The United States entered World War II on December 8. The AFL and the CIO announced a no-strike pledge for the duration of the war.

1942 The United Steelworkers of America was created to replace the Steel Workers Organizing Committee first established in 1936 by the CIO. President Roosevelt established the National War Labor Board to determine procedures for settling labor disputes. The National War Labor Board established a procedure for wartime wage adjustments.

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United Hollywood.com

As the Writers Guild of America entered the 4th week of its strike against the media conglomerates of the AMPTP, SEIU members in Los Angeles Nov. 27th launched a month-long billboard campaign in support of the writers and the belief that all workers must share in the success of their labors.

Following the recent "labor solidarity" rally and march down Hollywood Boulevard, SEIU members assembled with the striking writers in front of CBS Television City in support. Hundreds more SEIU members joined in a march in New York City's Washington Square Park Nov. 27th.

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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seiuwc@zoominternet.net, or mail to:

SEIUNews,

c/o Bud Santmyer, editor,
608 S. Broadway St., Scottdale, PA.
15683.

