



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

Volume 13/2

Wednesday,
14 Feb.,
2007

SEIU News

UPDATE

Court-Related & Court Appointed:

The separately bargaining Court-Related / Court Appointed Units have not settled on a new contract and have opted to proceed to Interest Arbitration in March. We had all hoped that things would have moved along a little faster than that. They have been working under the terms of an expired contract since 1 January, 2006.

The Team members on this Committee are listed on page 2.

Grievances:

Several members did not receive the \$250 bonus because they were not in pay status on October 1, 2006 when the contract became effective. The Unions and the County were able to resolve this issue and anyone in this situation will receive the \$250 bonus upon return to work. If this affects you and you have not received the bonus you should contact your steward immediately. We wish to thank the Commissioners for their good faith effort to resolve this issue.

Some Grievances involved workers on the Manor 12-hour program. They lost their 12-hour bids due to missing as few as 4 days of work. These cases may be proceeding to arbitration.

Welcome back to work Lori & Patricia who settled their cases on the 26th of January.

Reclassification & Insurance Committees:

Part of the Joint Contract calls for member committees to oversee reclassification & insurances.

If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, please contact your Steward or Delegate ASAP and ask to be considered.

Local 668 [non-Manor] Worksite Elections :

SEIU Local 668 had worksite elections for Stewards starting in January. Names of the new Stewards will be posted in each shop/dept./office, as well as the lobby bulletin board.

New Face :

There were some personnel changes at District 1199 Presently, and the Manor Chapter has a new Administrative Organizer. Please welcome **Brooke Brissel** to the facility.

Walking the Walk :

To encourage the 2008 presidential candidates to experience working Americans' lives firsthand, and to help them better understand workers' daily struggles, SEIU members are urging every presidential candidate to "Walk a Day in My Shoes" by accompanying them on the job and visiting with them and their families in their homes.

SEIU President **Andy Stern** set the pace by "walking in the shoes" of an Iowa City school employee. He spent time in Concord, New Hampshire—on the job and in the home of SEIU member Peg Smith, assistant highway patrol foreman.

Visit WalkADayInMyShoes2008.com to learn more about the effort.

(continued next column)

Quote of the Month

"It's simple. Most people who can't afford health insurance, also are too poor to owe taxes; but; if you give them a deduction from the taxes they don't owe, they can use the money they're not getting back from what they haven't given, to buy the Health Care they can't afford."

- Stephen Colbert
The Colbert Report

In response to President Bush's tax break for health care proposal in his 23 Jan., 2007 State of the Union Address

(UPDATE cont.) . . .

Manor Meetings :

The 1199P delegate meetings are now scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday each month, and the 1199P Manor Meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 8 AM, 2PM, & 4:30 PM.

Tentative State Contract :

A Tentative Agreement was reached between Pennsylvania and 3 Unions, including SEIU Local 668. The affected members have voted and it has been approved by the Rank & File, and Supervisors. For review of the contract changes and a breakdown of the vote, visit www.seiu668.org.

Municipal Service Tax Bill :

County employees working in Greensburg have been paying an extra \$42 over employees based in some other parts of the County.

On 5 February, a state Senate Appropriations Committee approved legislation designed to ease the burden on workers, caused by a \$52 Municipal service tax.

Under the bill, the employer would deduct \$1 a week from each paycheck, and then would forward a payment of \$13 per quarter to the municipality where they work. By the end of a year, the municipality would still receive the same payment of \$52, but spreading it out this way would make it easier on workers.

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Local 668 (PSSU) Leadership

Kathy Jellison, President
Roni Hamiel, Secretary Treasurer
John Terpko, Chapter 4 Chair
Natalie Keys, Vice Chair
Vacant, Secretary
Tim O'Donnell, Treasurer
Linda Andrews, Retired Affairs
Kim Steadman, Chair Steward Council
Bea Abril, Co-Chair Steward Council
Jim Boyd— Business Agent

SEIU 668**Court-Related /Court-Appointed
Negotiation Team Members**

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.

Discounts at www.unionplus.org

Winter's chill is now being felt in many areas of the country. What better way to warm up your winter than with a union-staffed cruise to the Hawaiian Islands? Union members save 5-30% on NCL cruises – all while supporting fellow union members.

Pennsylvania Labor History

With a story rich in human drama and tragedy, progress and hope; the United States has the bloodiest history of labor of any industrialized nation.

Many, if not most, of the early colonists arrived America under some version of bound labor, either as a slave or an indentured servant. Indenture was the only way many persons could pay for their passage. Upon arrival they were sold to an artisan, gentleman or farmer according to his or her abilities.

They then worked for 5-7 years to repay their passage costs. Slaves obviously had little chance to earn their freedom, though some did.. ###

> Our 2007 UNION HOLIDAYS are : New Year's Day (1/1); Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/15); President's Day (2/19); Good Friday (4/6); Memorial Day (5/28); Flag Day (6/14); Independence Day (7/4); Labor Day (9/3); Columbus Day (10/8); Veterans Day (11/12); Thanksgiving Day (11/22) & day after (11/23); Christmas Day (12/25); and your Personal Days.

Other Days to Remember

Chinese new Year—2/18
 Shrove Tuesday—2/20
 Ash Wednesday—2/21
 Washington's B'Day—2/22
 Purim—3/4
 DST begins—3/11

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
Jack Matlock, Chief Delegate /Ancillary

Get the Facts !

Visit www.seiu.org ;
www.seiu1199P.org;
www.seiu668.org ; &
www.seiu668ch4.org

PUZZLER

The January Puzzler question was: "When was the last time the United States declared war?" Hint: Not December, 1941.

The site www.historychannel.com provided the answer that the United States hasn't declared war on another country since WWII. Three declarations of war were made on **5 June, 1942** on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania (now Romania); countries that had already officially declared war on the U.S. in December, 1941.

When Pres. Truman sent our troops to Korea in 1950, it was called a "United Nations Police Action." The 1964 *Tonkin Gulf Resolution* does not mention either war or Vietnam. Our most recent military actions were preceded by the Congressional vote to "Authorize Use of Military Force."

Nice tries, everybody.

Since no entry had the correct answer, I will offer the same \$10 prize to the supplier of one of the correct entries to the February *Puzzler* below.

Puzzler: Which seven-letter word contains the letters "YZ" next to each other and in that order?

Hint: *You don't have to be Billy or Bob to work out this, or that.*

Just correctly answer this month's *Puzzler*, mail it to "PUZZLER" SEIU NEWS c/o the address below right, and have it be the one drawn on 1 March..

In order to claim your prize, please include your name, Department or Office, and phone number with your answer.

Open to SEIU members and their families.

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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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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.