

PLEASE POST

"Strength through Solidarity"

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

Volume 13/6

Wednesday,
13 June,
2007



SEIU News

UPDATE

Court-Related & Court Appointed:

The separately bargaining Court-Related / Court Appointed Units have not settled on a new contract. The first Interest Arbitration Hearings were held 22 & 23 May. Further hearings have been scheduled for 2, 3, & 5 July.

The CR/CA Negotiation Team members championing the cause are listed on page 2.

"Walk A Day In My Shoes":

SEIU members announced May 24th that they have talked one-on-one with every Democratic presidential candidate, putting workers front and center in the presidential debate.

Workers in America are working longer and harder today, but they have less to show for it. If the presidential candidates understand workers' daily struggles, they'll be better able to offer the 21st century solutions this country needs.

SEIU members are walking and talking with the Democratic candidates—telling them about their jobs, families, and day-to-day lives and questioning them about the issues they care about most.

If you would like to see the Republican presidential candidates walk in the shoes of workers, and if you are a Republican, please log onto www.seiu.org and send them a letter urging them to see firsthand what it's like to be a worker today.

Mandatory O.T. Bill passed:

On Monday, 21 May, by a vote of 166 to 31, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a bill prohibiting mandatory overtime for nurses and other caregivers. H.B. 834 bans employers from forcing nurses and other direct patient caregivers from working overtime except in a real emergency.

Too much O.T. can cause fatigue and recent studies reveal that excessive fatigue can impair a nurses abilities as much as can alcohol. Mandated O.T. takes it toll on our patients, on our families, and on our profession. Eleven other states; including our neighbors, New Jersey and West Virginia; have already passed laws banning Mandatory Overtime.

Presidential Candidates invited to Online Chat with Women Workers: (4 June, 2007 www.seiu.org)

SEIU members have invited all presidential candidates to participate in online discussions this summer about what it means to be a working woman today and how to create a new American Dream for all workers and their families.

"As mothers, breadwinners, and caregivers, women workers have an important stake in electing a president who will create a country where we all have health care, a paycheck that supports a family, and a shot at the American Dream," said SEIU Secretary-Treasurer Anna Burger.

(Continued next column)

Quote of the Month

"Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor and, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."

- Abraham Lincoln, speech (1861)

UPDATE (continued)

Burger, America's highest-ranking female labor leader, will moderate the chats that will be open to all women workers, over the course of this summer, prior to a September conference for SEIU's most politically active members, at which all candidates have been invited to speak.

Political Action Account:

Tired of begging politicians to support your issues? Me too! What if you could have them knocking on your door.

SEIU relies on voluntary donations from our members to help further our goals and support our issues. Three dollars per pay from 40% of our members would make SEIU one of the most powerful political entities in the Commonwealth and would send elected officials at all levels of government scrambling to see what they could do for us. Please sign up today to give your donation.

Save These Dates !:

- **June 19** — Lobby Day in Harrisburg.
- **June 30** — Local 668 (PSSU) SWEB meeting in Harrisburg.
- **Sept. 11** — Nurse Alliance C.E. Day AND
- **Sept 13 & 14** — District 1199P Leadership Assembly 2007—at Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, PA. Log onto www.seiu1199p.org to register before the 1 August, 2007 deadline.
- **Sept. 14 & 16** - Local 668 Leadership Training AND
- **Sept. 16** - Local 668 SWEB Meeting, both at Hershey, PA.
- **Dec. 8** - Local 668 SWEB Meeting in Harrisburg. ###

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
Jim Boyd, Business Agent

Deadline for Presidential Candidates to issue Health Care Plans :

25 April, 2007 www.seiu.org -

On the eve of the first presidential debate of the 2008 campaign, members of SEIU called on all presidential candidates to release detailed health care plans by August 1 of this year. SEIU will evaluate the plans based on how many people they cover, the cost, and whether they meet basic principles such as ensuring a choice of doctors and providing for preventive care.

"Working people across this country deserve answers from the candidates on how they're going to ensure health care coverage for everyone," said Anna Burger, Secretary-Treasurer of SEIU. "We've had too much rhetoric and not nearly enough specifics from the candidates. There's too much at stake in this election for voters to have to wait any longer."

"Whether you're a Republican or Democrat, the health care crisis affects everyone in this country," said Burger. "Voters want to know where all of the candidates for president stand on this issue. We need to have details." ###

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

Job Bias Ruling

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbids certain discrimination against employees, but the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision on **Ledbetter v. Goodyear** on 29 May, said that any violating act must occur within 180 days of filing suit. File the grievance & complaint quickly. ###

> 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

Father's Day—6/17
 Summer begins—6/21

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.

FLSA

Although most people like their jobs to be fun and fulfilling, what they most want is to be paid, fairly and on time, so that they can enjoy the other aspects of their lives.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 guarantees the workers right to be paid fairly, and is the single law most violated by employers.

Other labor relations laws may also be violated when an employer asks an employee to work "off the clock"; or knows that the employee is working and not being paid for the work.

If your supervisor or boss encourages or asks for you to do this; or knows you are not being paid for your work and doesn't correct the "oversight"; call your Steward or Delegate immediately. ###

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
Brooke Brissel, Organizer

Pennsylvania Labor History

1848, Child labor law in Pennsylvania made twelve the minimum age for workers in commercial occupations. Pennsylvania passed a ten hour day law. When employers violated it, women mill workers rioted and attacked the factory gates with axes.

The Compromise of 1850 perpetuated slavery and the sectional debates between North and South.

1859, Iron Molders Union formed in Philadelphia.

1864, Legality of importing immigrants by holding a portion of their wages or property is upheld in the Contract Labor Law. These immigrants were often used as strikebreakers. Though this law was repealed in 1868, the practice was not outlawed until the passage of the Foran Act in 1885. ###

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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