



# SEIU News

## UPDATE

### First Potential Republican Presidential Candidates to Meet with SEIU : [ from www.seiu.org April 30, 2007 press release]

Washington, DC — Potential presidential candidates Speaker **Newt Gingrich** and Senator **Chuck Hagel** met with members of the SEIU Executive Committee today to begin a conversation about how they would create a new American Dream. The meeting included members of SEIU's National Republican Advisory Committee, composed of 11 Republicans from across the country and representing more than 300,000 Republican members of SEIU.

"We hope that today's conversations were the first of many that we will be having with Republican presidential candidates before the election," said Roger Roeder, RN, of SEIU local 199 in Iowa and a member of SEIU's Republican Advisory Committee. "Working people need to know where all of the presidential candidates stand on health care, jobs, and retirement with dignity."

All of the Democratic candidates for president attended a similar meeting in January. All of the Republican presidential candidates were invited to attend today's meeting. They've also been asked to participate in the "Walk A Day In My Shoes" program, to spend a day on the job and with the family of an SEIU member. To date, no formally announced Republican candidate for president has responded to the invitation to participate. Members of SEIU's National Republican Advisory Committee will be reaching out to them again and expect that Republican candidates will "Walk A Day" in an SEIU member's shoes.

With 1.8 million members, SEIU is the fastest-growing union in North America. Focused on uniting workers in three sectors to improve their lives and the services they provide, SEIU is the largest health care union, including hospitals, nursing homes, and home care; the largest property services union, including building cleaning and security; and the second largest public employee union.

### Legislative Update :

House Bill 282, one of hundreds of tracked bills, has passed the House and is now in the Senate Education Committee. HB282 is a loan forgiveness bill for MH/MR Direct Care Workers and Drug and Alcohol Counselors. A similar bill of legislation passed last session only to be vetoed by the Governor.

Please call or write your State Senator and ask that they support this bill and to override any veto by the Governor.

### Court-Related & Court Appointed:

The separately bargaining Court-Related / Court Appointed Units have not settled on a new contract and were to proceed to Interest Arbitration in March; but the Hearing was rescheduled at the arbitrator's request for 22 May.

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

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## The Governor's Health Plan

Governor Rendell has introduced an ambitious health care campaign for Pennsylvania. While SEIU 668 PSSU agrees with the plan "in concept," we have not yet endorsed the plan until we have assurances that it will not take away jobs that our members do (assessments, etc.) in both the county and state levels; and give those jobs to private industries.

As you know, health care continues to be the biggest issue in contract negotiations and will continue to be unless some universal health care comes into being.

The Union does not expect a budget will be passed in PA. by July 1 and we continue to fight for the dollars needed to provide the vital public services that we so proudly do.

*Kathy Jellison*

President, SEIU 668 PSSU

## Quote of the Month

*"When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property."*

- Thomas Jefferson, attributed

## UPDATE cont.

### COPE – The Committee on Political Action is our Voluntary Political Action Account :

COPE is critically important to our mission of building a strong, powerful union that can win for our members. Tired of begging politicians to support your issues? Me too! What if you could have them knocking on your door.

Three dollars per pay from 40% of our members would make SEIU 668 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. Yep! \$3.00 per pay.

Please give to COPE and build a Union second to none!!

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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*  
*Jim Boyd, Business Agent*

> 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**

Mother's Day—5/13  
 Armed Forces Day—5/19

**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*

**UPDATE (CONT.)****Human Services Campaign :**

SEIU 668 has launched a statewide campaign aimed at making sure that Legislators, Administrators, and the public support the public services that our members provide. This has already begun with legislative activity out in the Chapters and will culminate with a Statewide Lobby Day at the Capitol on June 19, 2007.

Some of the many elements will include radio ads, news conferences, direct mail, newsletters, and other member updates. We believe without a strong and sustained effort by members of this union, vital human services will continue to be under-funded.

The current Commonwealth budget negotiations are underway. We have to make sure that the services we provide are a top priority for both the Executive and Legislative branches in Harrisburg.

We are expecting well over 300 of our members to journey to Harrisburg to make their voices heard. Registration forms are available online at [seiu668.org](http://seiu668.org) or you can call 1-800-932-0368 to have one mailed to you. The deadline to register is May 21, 2007.

**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. ###

**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.

**Pennsylvania Labor History**

1837, President Jackson declares ten hour day in Philadelphia Navy Yard to quell discontent caused by Panic of 1837.

1838, One-third of the nation's workers were unemployed due to the economic hard times.

1840, Ten hour day without reduction in pay proclaimed by President Van Buren for all federal employees on public works.

1845, Female workers in five cotton mills in Allegheny, Pennsylvania strike for the ten hour day. They were supported by workers in Lowell, Mass. and Manchester, New Hampshire.

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**Union Benefits**

The Union Plus Credit Card has competitive purchase rates, everyday savings on everything from travel to Goodyear tires, special low balance transfer rates and superior customer service. At [www.UnionPlusCard.org](http://www.UnionPlusCard.org), find out all about the special safety net features, scholarship program, dedicated Member Advocacy from Union Privilege and more.

The Union Plus Flower Discount can save you even more! Just in time for spring (and mother's Day), you and your family can now enjoy a 20% union member discount on every order of beautiful flowers, plants, baskets, balloons and more.

Learn about all of your Union Plus discounts at [UnionPlus.org/Discounts](http://UnionPlus.org/Discounts).

**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. ###

**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](mailto:seiuwc@zoominternet.net), or

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