



SEIU News

UPDATE

Court-Related & Court Appointed:

Bro. & B.A. Jim Boyd (668) writes:

"Following a long, arduous and frustrating negotiation, Arbitrator Grosinger is issuing an award for the Court Appointed/Court Related Unit. The award covers the period January 1, 2007 thru December 31, 2009 and results in significant wage increases of 60 cents per hour effective January 1, 2007, 65 cents per hour January 1, 2008 and 65 cents per hour January 1, 2009. In lieu of retroactivity from January 1, 2006 members will receive bonuses of \$500 effective July 1, 2007, \$400 July 1, 2008, and \$300 July 1, 2009.

Members will be required to contribute to health care costs at the rate of \$10 per pay for employees only and \$20 per pay for employee plus dependents. Health care will also include a new deductible of \$100 per person to a maximum of \$200 for families. Physician co-pays will increase to \$25 effective January 1, 2009. Emergency room charge will increase from \$25 to \$50. Prescription co-pays remain at \$10 for generics and \$20 for brand name drugs.

The award maintains current sick leave earnings for all current employees as of November 1, 2007 with reduced earnings for new hires. There is a new provision for buy back of up to 5 days of sick leave annually at 50%, a new provision of a \$100 bonus if no sick leave is used in a calendar year and buy out of sick leave upon retirement or death increases to 50%."

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

Where's my contract ? :

Bro. Kevin Hefty (Healthcare) writes:

"Here is what is happening with the [Commissioners Residual Units and Independent Boards] contract. We have been reviewing copies of the contract to ensure that they are correct. Several times when copies were exchanged we found mistakes and finally those appear to all be corrected..

Now that the main contract is done, [Mr. Dominick] has raised questions about the side letters [Memoranda Of Agreement] that we agreed would be printed in the contract. These side letters addressed issues where the contract was vague or both sides agreed it needed to be clarified. Since they have the force of an addendum of the contract, we agreed they should be printed so employees would have a copy of them.

After reviewing the list of side letters in the tentative agreement we agreed to print, we mutually agreed that some are no longer relevant...

There were other side letters that settled grievances from 15 years ago but also contained some ... (continued next column)

Quote of the Month

"All for one, one for all, that is our devise."

-Alexandre Dumas, Pere,
 "The Three Musketeers"

UPDATE (continued) ... parts that were still relevant. [These] have [been] re-written . . . to take out the references to specific named employees from 15 years ago and address the current concern. Once re-written, then it is subject to review.

We have some side letters that are now incorporated in public works and 911 memorandums and don't need to be printed twice. There also appear to be two side letters that [Mr. Dominick] objects to printing.

Everyone agrees that this has been a frustratingly slow process but in part it has been slow so that we are thorough and make sure that nothing is missed.

We also all agreed last October that we wanted the side letters printed in the Agreement which [Mr. Dominick] did not want to do and in the current haste to get the contracts printed, I think we don't want to lose sight of the goal of making sure that we get printed everything we bargained to include." ###

Save These Dates ! :

- Nov. 19—Westmoreland Labor Council.
- Dec. 8 - Local 668 SWEB Meeting in Harrisburg.
- Dec. 17 - Westmoreland Labor Council.

> 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

Advent begins—12/2

Hanukkah—12/5

Pearl Harbor Day—12/6

Winter Solstice—12/22

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

Puzzler

Last month's Puzzler was: "*In what year and what case was the firing of employees for belonging to a union declared unconstitutional?*"

The answer is: *US v. Adair in 1908*, Section 10 of the Erdman Act which dealt with "yellow dog" contracts and forbade a person being fired for belonging to a union was declared unconstitutional.

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

For this month Puzzler, we ask:

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

Hint) Part of the question was previously answered in 2007 SEIU News issues "Pennsylvania Labor History." Prize) Assorted Union merchandise.

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

Send printed answer, by Thurs., 1 Nov.; with Name, Local, Worksite, and phone number to "Puzzler" at the address at bottom right of page 2. ###

Get the Facts !

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

Over 3000 Years Ago

www.reference.aol.com

In ancient Egypt, the workers weren't always slaves. In most cases, they were paid, and the amount varied with the success of the empire. During his reign in the 12th century BCE, Pharaoh Ramses III nearly ruined Egypt, as the government was rife with corruption.

New construction was being performed in and around Thebes, and the grain being used to compensate the workers was in short supply.

While the employees were busy erecting a pyramid near the old necropolis (cemetery) there, the pay began to run late. When the men had a scribe deliver a formal complaint on their behalf, grain was given to them.

But this was a short-lived solution, and the delays in payment continued.

At mid-year in 1170 BCE, the workers organized what was quite obviously the equivalent on a modern-day, sit-in type of strike. The laborers marched together into the necropolis, where they retired at a temple, refusing to work.

Complaining of a lack of food and drink, clothing and medicine, their message finally reached the Pharaoh, who arranged payment for the men.

This stunt was repeated later during the reign of Ramses III and even later Pharaohs. These workers were perhaps the first to realize the power they held over their own situation.

Pennsylvania Labor History

1933, Francis Perkins became the Secretary of Labor and the first woman named to a Cabinet position. The Wagner-Peyser Act created the United States Employment Service within the Dept. of Labor.

1935, the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO) formed within the AFL to foster Industrial unionism.

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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

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.

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 , or mail to:

SEIUNEWS,
 c/o Bud Santimyer, editor,
 608 S. Broadway St., Scottsdale, PA.
 15683.

