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"Strength through Solidarity"

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

Volume 13/10

Wednesday,
10 Oct.,
2007

SEIU News

UPDATE

Walk a Day In My Shoes : (from www.walkadayinmyshoes2008.com)

Close to 2,000 SEIU members exhibited more of their energy and commitment to making sure presidential candidates understand the struggles working people face today. They talked with and heard from five presidential candidates: Senator Dodd; Senator Obama; Governor Richardson; Senator Clinton; and Senator Edwards.

Each of these candidates took time out of his/her campaign schedule to "walk a day in the shoes" of *one* SEIU member, and was introduced by that member.

Check out www.WalkADayInMyShoes2008.com for photos and more . You can also link to a YouTube video at www.seiu.org .

Local 668 Free Email :

Have you logged in to get your free email account from Chapter 4? Just go to www.seiu668ch4.org to find the links to get it activated and to see the union email addresses of other members.

Court-Related & Court Appointed:

The formal Interest Arbitration Hearings for the separately bargaining Court-Related / Court-Appointed Units have ended. The last hearing was held on Wednesday, 25 July and all the testimony and exhibits must now be considered

Though we might hope to get it sooner, please don't expect the arbitrator's written decision and award till the end of October.

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

SEIU Healthcare :

At the September Leadership Assembly, District President **Tom DeBruin** announced that **SEIU District 1199P** will now be known as **SEIU Healthcare (Pennsylvania)**.

International President **Andy Stern** was on hand for the full Rally at the Hershey Medical Center, the Assembly and dinner with the combined leadership (Local 668 and former District 1199P).

Leadership Training :

Local 668 had Leadership Training for Stewards/members on 14 & 15 Sept. in Hershey, PA. During this 2-day education and action event we rallied for SCHIP, worked in classes and workshops, and met with our counterparts in 1199P.

The SWEB met the following day and the SWEB Summaries are already posted.

President's Shame : (www.unionvoice.org)

After the U.S. House and Senate passed a Bill expanding SCHIP to more children; President Bush vetoed the Bill, ignoring the roughly 4 million uninsured children that were set to get the benefit.

Log on to www.workingfamilies.com to end an e-letter to Congress to over-ride the veto. ###

Quote of the Month

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

-**Alexandre Dumas, Pere,**
"The Three Musketeers"

Puzzler

Q) *In what year and what case was the firing of employees for belonging to a union declared unconstitutional?*

Hint) See the August, 2007 issue of SEIU News.
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 the address at bottom right of page 2. ###

Save These Dates ! :

- **Oct. 15**—Westmoreland Labor Council.
- **Oct. 23**—Local 668 Chapter 4 member meeting at Cedarbrook G.C.
- **Oct. 19**—Westmoreland Labor Council.
- **Dec. 8** - Local 668 SWEB Meeting in Harrisburg.
- **Dec. 17** - Westmoreland Labor Council.

21st Century Labor Laws ?

Out of 173 countries, only 5 provide no government leave with income for women in conjunction with childbirth. Those countries are Lesotho, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Switzerland, and the United States. Fine company we keep.

There is mandated paid annual leave in 137 countries; and of those, 121 countries guarantee 2 weeks or more each year. The U.S. does not require employers to provide any paid annual leave. Any paid time off is yours only by contract, not law.

There are laws that fix the maximum length of the workweek in 134 countries. The U.S. does not have a maximum length of the work week or a limit on mandatory overtime per week.

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

Yom Kippur—10/21
 Halloween—10/31
 DST ends—11/4
 Election Day—11/6

Pennsylvania Labor History

1929 The Hayes-Cooper Act regulating the shipment of prison labor goods in interstate commerce was approved. The stock market crash in October began the longest economic period in American history.

1930 The Supreme Court upheld the Railway Labor Act's prohibition of employer interference or coercion in the choice of bargaining representative (Texas & N.O.R. Co. v. Brotherhood of Railway Clerks).

1931 In the Davis-Bacon Act, Congress provided for the payment of the prevailing wages to employees of contractors and subcontractors on public construction.

1932 The Anti-Injunction Act prohibited Federal injunctions in most labor disputes. ###

Get the Facts !

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

SCHIP Rally

By Marissa Keys

As we walked along the side of a four lane highway next to the Hershey Lodge and Hershey Medical Center, everything felt like a whirlwind. Everywhere we turned, people were chanting and singing. As we gathered, the people around us created a sea of purple. My family and I were at a Union rally with 1,000 other people. The people all dressed in purple were representing the members of Service Employees International Union.

On September 15, SEIU Local 668 and the Pennsylvania Healthcare Union (Local 1199P) marched from the Hershey Lodge to the Hershey Medical Center for a rally for SCHIP. That evening, the two unions combined for a collective dinner for the first time in history. The speakers at the rally included everyone from Kristen Kebler, an RN at the Medical Center, to Senator Robert Casey Jr.

Senator Casey gave information about the bill and President George Bush's threats to veto it. For approximately 60 billion dollars, the bill would put health insurance in effect for kids for five years. In comparison, the war in Iraq costs 108 billion dollars a year. Clearly, money is not the issue here. "At the end of the day we're going to win this battle no matter what the president says," said Casey.

Despite all the "big shots" and well-known people, the most effective speaker at the rally was a boy who was six years old. This boy, Noah Williams Morrill, managed to make 1,000 people tear up with his words. "My mom and dad can take me to the hospital whenever they want because they're part of the union and I wish all kids could have that care too."

This rally was the first move toward working closer with our brothers and sisters from other SEIU locals because together we are stronger.

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. ###

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