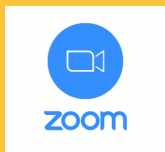




**CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HOSPITAL
AND
WASHINGTON HOSPITAL CENTER**



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Membership meetings will be held from 2pm - 4pm the third (3rd) Saturday of every month. Due to the COVID - 19 Pandemic we will attempt to set up a ZOOM video conference. Please see the bulletin boards for the computer link as well as call - in options.

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The bottom line

May 2021
Issue # 133

Daniel Fields Jr (President)
Debra Davis (Vice President)
Marshall Jackson (Editor)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT **BY: DANIEL FIELDS JR.**

Currently we are in contract negotiations with the MedStar Washington Hospital Center. As we have done in the past, you can follow negotiations on our website SEIU.ORG. We post the proposals that we have given to the Hospital and we also post the proposals that the Hospital presents to us. Many of you do not understand as we ask for changes in the contract, the Hospital also asks for additions or subtractions to the contract. Usually it is a little give and take from both sides. Occasionally, you get to the point where you cannot get or give any more and that is when you, the member, becomes very important.

You become important because you have the last say so on what we accept as a contract. When the Hospital gives the Union's Negotiation Committee what it believes is their last best offer, then the Negotiation Committee must bring that offer to you to vote on. This is called a ratification vote, or non ratification vote, depending on the outcome. The vote is done by secret ballot and we do what the majority of the voters decide. That is why it will be incumbent on you to vote and to keep up to date on what is happening.

You also become important because it is through you how we let the Hospitals know that we are together. If we call an action, such as Brown Bag Day, or wearing a specific color, then we will expect one hundred percent (100%) cooperation. There should not be any hesitation or trepidation. If you are asked by the Hospitals if you will participate in any action called by the Union, your answer should be a resounding YES.

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The Maryland / DC Chapter of AFRAM wish to invite you to join us the (2nd) second Saturday of every month 10 am - noon. We meet at the office of SEIU Local 400PG located at 9700 Pennsylvania Ave Upper Marlboro Maryland 20772. Contact Marshall Jackson (202) 940 - 5864 to get the link for our virtual meetings.

The National African American Caucus of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is committed to enhancing opportunities for education, training mentor-ship, leadership development and networking for SEIU members and staff of African descent.

We further engage to promote social, economic and political justice within our workplace, our communities, our nation and within our union.

We shall further encourage our members to actively engage in efforts to organize the unorganized and to fully participate in the development and implementation of labor's political agenda and programs.

Thank you to all current members and welcome back. Each of us should bring at least one new member to the next meeting.

Hope to see new faces join our caucus. There's always "Good trouble" for us to focus on.

AFRAM NEEDS YOU



The word "infrastructure" tends to evoke images of bridges and roads, but President Biden's proposed \$2 trillion infrastructure plan is seeking to broaden that concept to include caregivers. That's right healthcare providers who have been left out far too long.

The economy's foundation has expanded well beyond roads, trains, asphalt, steel beams, bridges and buildings. That's right, home healthcare and childcare workers are part of the nation's infrastructure and deserve taxpayer investment just like rebuilding roads and bridges, restoring the electrical grid, dealing with the expansion of solar and wind.

COVID has shined a light on essential work that's done in the economy by workers who were invisible before, and became visible, because as some were ordered to stay at home, a whole part of our country kept going to work in order to make things move.

Vital services programs for seniors and children, or those with disabilities did not slow down due to the pandemic. Homecare workers continued going into homes and caring for our seniors and people with disabilities, cooking meals, helping them get around their homes, and helping them be able to live more independently." Covid shined a light on these essential services that most of society has taken for granted.

Many of those jobs are performed by women, mostly women of color, sometimes undocumented women, and are frequently low-paying jobs. And there's always been shortages of applicants for these jobs. President Biden's Infrastructure Bill is the "first jobs program that is focused on an industry that is primarily women of color". For too long, caregivers (who are disproportionately women), and women of color, and immigrants, have been unseen, underpaid and undervalued. One-in-seven jobs nationwide are in "health care and social assistance," and It's insulting to be called "essential" and then be paid poverty wages and not get the [personal protective equipment] you need, and all these kinds of outrages we saw early on in the pandemic. We have always been "Essential", so Respect Us, Protect Us, and Pay Us



Many of you may not hear us talk about it, but we have not forgotten about the work of "Essential Workers".

Local 722 has a Committee On Political Education (C.O.P. E.) and we are connected with other local unions in the area continuing the fight for pay, benefits, and protections for workers.

We don't just engage with your employers to assist you, we also engage the politicians to pass legislation to help workers.

We continue to fight for a safe workplace and safety equipment, hazard pay, paid leave to quarantine or attend a family funeral.

The fight continues even as many in society think that we have the pandemic under control.



It's never too late. Many of our members have been taking advantage of this free online education benefit. You too can earn an associate degree or certificate? for free! Pay nothing for tuition, fees, or e-books Open to eligible SEIU members and their families (Spouse, Domestic Partner, Children) . Choose from several online programs offered by Eastern Gateway Community College EGCC welcomes anyone with a high school diploma or GED regardless of past academic performance. Your college degree is within reach. Federal, state, and employer grants don?t always cover the full cost of earning a degree online. SEIU is proud to partner with Eastern Gateway Community College to help eligible students fill the financial gap and earn a degree or certificate in: Accounting, Business Management (with a focus on Advertising, Cyber Security, Data Science, Digital and Social Media, Entrepreneurship, Finance, General Management, Healthcare Management, Hospitality, Human Resources, Information Systems, Labor Studies, or Programming and Development) also: Criminal Justice, Teacher Education, Individualized Study, Paralegal, Patient Home Navigator

Read our Frequently Asked Questions at www.seiumb.com or call 1-855-469-SEIU (7348) toll free to talk to an adviser. To enroll in Eastern Gateway Community College and receive your SEIU Free College Benefit:

1. Register or sign in to your SEIU Member account and click Get Started.
2. Complete the online EGCC application.
3. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit any required verification. Any grant award must be applied to tuition, fees and e-book charges. EGCC?s school code is 007275.
4. Verify that you have received a high school diploma or equivalent by having official transcripts sent to EGCC.

That is it ! SEIU Free College Benefit covers the difference between any federal, state, or employer education grants you receive and the cost of tuition, fees, and e-books. Eligible SEIU members and family members may also enroll in other online programs at EGCC such as Medical Coding, Health Information Management, IT, Fire Science and more, but students may be required to pay for the strict industry-recognized content for some courses. The Free College scholarship will apply to tuition and fees, saving students thousands of dollars. Take the next step toward your future & apply now!

ONE YEAR OF COVID



In March 2020, COVID 19 made its debut and changed the nation and the entire world. The past year has been a very trying time for everyone and among those significantly impacted by the pandemic are you our Essential Workers. When reflecting on how COVID-19 has impacted our members of SEIU Local 722, it may be an understatement to say you have been resilient, but so true. You all have faced many challenges over the past year. You've managed new workplace PPE requirements as well as face mask out in society; travel restrictions to include non-visitation with family members; new cleaning procedures in and out of your homes while facing low levels of cleaning supplies in the stores; as well as "Mandated Time Off" from work due to losses of revenue by the employer. But you all adjusted.

Many of you feared being exposed to the virus and some of you were exposed with anywhere from mild to major symptoms; we even lost a few members this past year. On a weekly basis, our members were reporting that they had lost spouses, siblings, parents, other family members and friends to COVID-19. Morale hit a low point across the union. Despite these incredible challenges, you continued to show up for work day in and day out in support of the institutions you work for, the community at large and for each other. And we honor you for solidarity in staying the course.

We have all quarantined and watched "normal" fly out the window as the whole world grappled with this pandemic and plague called Covid-19.

Society is headed in the right direction but we can't drop our guard now, we are not out of the woods. This pandemic is not over. Vaccines are here and many of you have been vaccinated, but many have chosen not to or not yet (and that's a personal decision). If you are struggling with the decision to get the vaccine, we refer you to resources at work such as Chaplain Services, Occupational Health and Infection Control for both emotional and logistical support; your places of worship, your primary care provider and the CDC for non-workplace resources. We just want to make sure you are equipped with the opportunity to fight back against COVID-19.

We look forward to the world opening up and getting to what will be our new normal. Stay safe, take care of yourselves and each other and we will beat this pandemic together.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

My Mother kept a garden,
a garden of the heart,
She planted all the good things
that gave my life it's start.
She turned me to the sunshine
and encouraged me to dream,
Fostering and nurturing
the seeds of self-esteem...
And when the winds and rain came,
she protected me enough-
But not too much because she knew
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.
Her constant good example
always taught me right from wrong-
Markers for my pathway
that will last a lifetime long.
I am my Mother's garden.
I am her legacy-
And I hope today she feels the love
reflected back from me



Many of you have been asking are we still having our annual cookout for the membership and their families. As of now the city has not allowed us to hold large gatherings at this time. They have also told us that we can't utilize our DJ or the moon-bounce. So with these restrictions we have unfortunately decided to cancel the cookout for this year.

If the city loosen the rules later in the summer and we have time to get all the permits necessary, we will see if we have time to adjust and have our summer cookout. We will let you know as soon as we know.

If you are planning a private small gathering or function of your own for Memorial Day, enjoy yourselves and remember to stay safe !!



SEIU LOCAL 722

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT **CONTINUE.....**

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Again, we will be posting all the proposals and counter-proposals from both sides so you can follow what is happening, and you can stay informed. Whether you work at the Hospital Center or at Children's Hospital we want you to follow these negotiations. WHY? Because we are a family, and as a family there may come a time that we have to show our two employers that we are together and that we have support for each other. We will be asking the same solidarity from the Hospital Center members when the Children's contract expires next year.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES



If you have articles that you would like posted in the newsletter please send them to our editor at:

news4local722@msn.com

All articles for consideration must be submitted by the 15th of every month.