



Private Sector Human Service Workers “ON THE JOB”

April 2010

From the Chapter President:

This is our first issue of the Newsletter for this year. With the turnover in the office of the Local, I have volunteered to write and edit the Private Sector Newsletter to help keep the costs down at the office.

Many folks ask: What is the Chapter? What is the Chapter Board? I always like to explain for new folks who have just come on board. The Private Sector Chapter is made up of over 30 agencies that are not state employees but state funded. Our Chapter is the largest chapter in Local 509 and growing. We are in negotiations at the Brein Center and have held the vote and welcome Delta Projects (92 votes was 75% of the voting members).

The Chapter Board is the “business end” of the Chapter. There are seats for every agency, and sometimes (depending on the number of employees, more than one seat). We have representatives from the Private Sector that also hold seats on the Joint Executive Board, they are the “business end” of the entire Local. At this writing, there are over 50 seats on our Board. From now on you will see the abbreviation PSCB when we talk of the Private Sector Chapter Board.

How do you get on the PSCB? It is very easy. Go to SEIU509.org to find out all the vacancies in your agency or chapter wide. If you don't have internet access the current vacancies are always listed in the most recent edition of the 509 News.

We meet every other month in several locations via teleconference. Want to visit and see what it is all about? Anyone is welcome. It is always the third Thursday, every other month. May 20th is our next meeting.

Our yearly schedule is : May 20th, July 15th, Sept. 16th and Nov. 18th. Come and see what we are all about.

Teleconference Locations:

The office in Watertown, the office in Amherst, and at the home of Donna Vabulas 53 Upton Street in Grafton. We are looking for another location in the Springfield area and possibly on the Cape as well.

See you there, Kathy Whitman, president PSCB.



On March 23, Union Activist and SEIU 509 Joint Executive Board Member, Scott Bezzini speaks at press conference about the negative impact Community Based Flexible Support (CBFS) is having on the mental health community



**Reports from
your Field
Reps:**

David DiMaria:

Walnut Street: wage reopener in September

HSG: wage reopener in July

MVES: wage reopener in June

BSHC: wage reopener in April

SCES: full contract in Sept.

David will be working with the bargaining team at SEIU 509's newest members at the Delta Projects to establish their first contract.

Rick Page:

Tapestry: Termination rescinded retro full pay. Contract negotiations ongoing. Major Layoffs

ServiceNet: Ongoing discussions re productivity

Brien: First Contract negotiations hopefully completed May 1st. WELCOME BRIEN!

Nelcwit: Campaign re salary reserve, state to audit.

Highland Valley: Notice to renegotiate issued

Elder Berkshires: Victory in arbitration re short staffing

Maple Valley: Even though closed we got \$20K in settlement of old grievances.

Maurice Penn:

BCL- member termination rescinded and restored. New member orientation, worker participation meeting every month.

Coastline: March on the Boss, membership Meeting.

CMHS: Class action grievance and Unfair Labor Practice re changing hours without negs.

CHS: Distribute Contracts

SShore: membership meeting

Old Colony: Jackie O'Neill sworn on to the PSCB

Jon Grossman:

Eliot: negotiations over changes in clinics, changes to payroll system, step raises for CSA, closings of programs, and wage reopener on Homeless Services.

Community Servings: two terminations settled

Latham: Meal Breaks Pay increase funded by the state settled

Ruth Moskowitz:

N Suffolk: Mgt. agreed to impact bargaining, cell phone policy to be reviewed annually

Brian Wilder:

CSO: stopped Fee for service working on call stopped mgt practice re treatment and medications on same day.

CHL: Grievance won re seniority schedule. Termination rescinded retro full pay

MSPCC (West): Won salary reserve not paid out Won time off credits for fee for service Employee reinstated re qualifications Won salary and bonuses for BA staff Growing problem of changing adult clients for children which get paid higher rate.

MSPCC (Boston): Won position which had been unfairly denied to a member. Won time off credits, retro pay for fee for service members. Also, we have learned that non-union wages have been frozen since 1/1/09, while union members continue to get annual raises! Great News!

The SEIU 509 office has moved to:

100 Talcott Ave Bldg 313 2nd Floor
Watertown, MA 02472
617.924.8509 or 800-632-8079 (reception)
617-924-8248 (fax)
Seiu509.org

Come by for a visit!

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Kathy Whitman, Pres.PSCB	X 269

Member Strength

by Tonya Ellison

At the last SEIU convention, there was an overwhelming vote to increase membership involvement in Locals. Two goals we set: 1) to get 50% of members engaged with their local; and 2) to develop 10% of our members as active leaders in their local union. For us that means approximately 5500 members engaged and 1100 active leaders. **FIRST STEP:** In order to develop a baseline assessment of membership engagement all of the Field Staff will be collecting data on membership engagement from all their Agencies. We will be looking back at the year 2009, to get a snap shot of activity. **FOR EXAMPLE:**

Who attended a union meeting

Which steward actually files and processes grievances?

Who testifies at grievances, ULPS and state house hearings

Which steward manages the union bulletin boards

Who solicits for COPE

Who attended lobby day

Who attended union training

Bargaining



On March 9, 2010, Delta Projects Workers celebrated winning a union at their workplace. The Private Sector welcomes their newest members.

Want to help other human services workers have a voice on the job, contact Dennis MacDonald at 617.924.8509 about the SEIU 509 Organizing Committee.

**Visit SEIU509.org for
updates, leadership vacancies and news.**