

MAY 2025



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seiu1199.org/mrc



STATE OF OHIO NEWSLETTER

Insurance Premium Rates Increased

The open enrollment period for health plans is Thursday May 8 through Wednesday, May 21, 2025. This is the time to review your current health care coverage and decide which plan option meets your needs for the upcoming benefit year from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Watch for the My Benefits enrollment guide which will be mailed to members prior to open enrollment. Noted change in benefits this year will see an increase in premiums for members. The increase this year are due to increased health care costs over the past years.

Premiums will increase 28% resulting in:

Ohio Med PPO: employee share of premiums of biweekly pay to single plan \$74.65, family minus spouse \$204.60, family plus spouse \$213.83.

Ohio Med Select (formerly the Ohio Med Narrow Network): employee share of premiums of biweekly pay to single plan \$49.19 family minus spouse \$134.69, family plus spouse \$143.92.

Ohio Med HDHP: employee share of premiums of biweekly pay to single plan \$50.00 family minus spouse \$87.34, family plus spouse \$149.55, single plus spouse 112.22.

We are surprised by this increase as well, and again it is largely based on increases in usage and the cost of medications and covered procedures and the like that has driven this increase. The Union has filed an Unfair Labor Practice with SERB and is coordinating with other state Unions to establish our fight back campaign against these unilateral changes.

We will continue to share any new information and developments as they become available.

Update on Getting Physical Copies of Your New Contract

The final hard copy version of the State of Ohio Contract has been proofed and is currently pending printing and will be shared with you soon. This contract runs until April 2027, with wage increases retroactive to July 1, 2024. This is one of the best contracts the Union has been able to secure in years. To learn more about the new contract, please visit the link here: <https://www.seiu1199.org/seiu-secures-contract-with-state-of-ohio/>

Governor DeWine's Return to Work Mandate

Many of you have been impacted by Governor DeWine's shortsighted Executive Order forcing members back to the office. We previously shared with you President Williams' letter to Governor DeWine opposing this directive, but have yet to receive a response. As a result, many of you have had your telework agreements revoked or negatively modified, leading to grievances and exploring every possible option to fight back. Meanwhile, the Ohio House has released its version of the state budget, which includes a provision that would restrict work-from-home as well as restrict Unions to negotiate over WFH in our contracts. Now is the time to take action! Find and call your State Representative and tell them how this issue impacts you!

To read President Williams' letter, visit the link below:

<https://www.seiu1199.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/President-Williams-Letter-to-Governor-DeWine-RE-Elimination-of-Remote-Work-Option.pdf>



Tuition Reimbursement Update

According to Article 23, members are entitled to tuition reimbursement for classes, seminars, workshops, and conferences.

The state maintains a fund of \$750,000 per fiscal year, and each employee is eligible for up to \$4,000 annually. The new fiscal year began on July 1st, and as of March 22, 2025, approximately 60.98% of the budget has been used, with \$292,633.33 remaining in the SEIU/1199 Employee Development Fund. Members interested in using the fund should visit das.ohio.gov and click on "Resources for Employees." From there, select "Talent Management," then "Learning and Talent Development." On the right side of the page, click the red square to access the FAQ for the Employee Development Fund.



Employee Development Fund

The link below provides a step-by-step guide for members on how to submit a reimbursement request through the Employee Development Fund (EDF) system. It includes instructions on logging into MyOhio, navigating the reimbursement request form, entering course details, adding attachments, and submitting the request. Each section of the form is explained in detail.

For more information, view the full guide:

https://www.seiu1199.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/EDF_Job_Aid-1.pdf

Organizing Unions for All

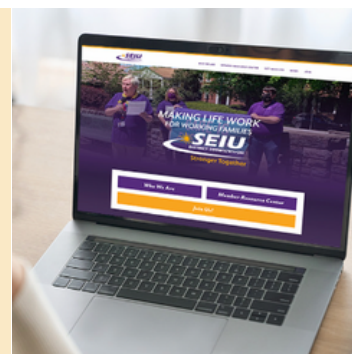
Do you want to help build power for working people in facilities who don't have a union?

If you have friends or family that work in the hospital, nursing home or other service industries who are interested in joining the Union, SEIU is continually growing and working to organize workers in our fight for worker and social justice. We have an organizing department ready to support workers who want to stand up for the treatment they deserve. If you have organizing leads, send them to Samara Knight at sknight@seiu1199.org or call the MRC at 877-419-7348.

Check Your Membership Benefits

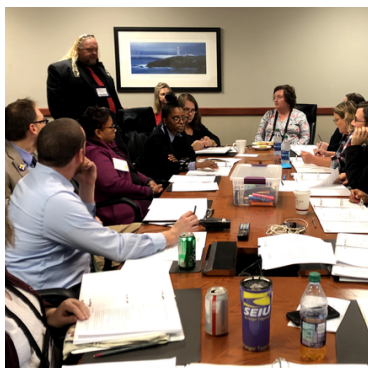
Did you know you can access exclusive benefits as a part of our Union? SEIU 1199 would like to invite you to take advantage of all three of your member benefit programs: your membership card, the SEIU Member Benefits Program, and savings with Union Plus.

Contact the Member Resource Center or visit our website: <https://www.seiu1199.org/> to learn more.



Understanding your Contract – Article 23 – Continuing Education

In most recent rounds of negotiations, the Union secured reimbursements for members for continuing education. According to the new language, members can be reimbursed for their professional licenses and professional certifications, or the fees to renew them. Subject to the limitations to the fund, each employee shall be eligible up to \$4,000 per year for education reimbursements. This is a benefit many members identified in the bargaining survey as something that would be beneficial to them. We are elated to have been able to secure this benefit and language for members.



Get Involved

The Union is always looking for members to become more involved as active leaders in their chapter. Luckily, if you are interested in becoming a leader in the union, there are plenty of roles you can fill! If you are interested in becoming a delegate, member strength coordinator, or any leadership role within your chapter, please reach out the Member Resource Center so you can get the training you need to start being an active leader.

Save The Date

Mark your calendar for some of our upcoming events.

Upcoming APC Dates

DRC - May 13th

MHAS - May 21st

DYS - May 20th

OOD - June 5th

BWC - June 9

JFS and DCY - June 10th