

JULY 2024



1.877.419.7348



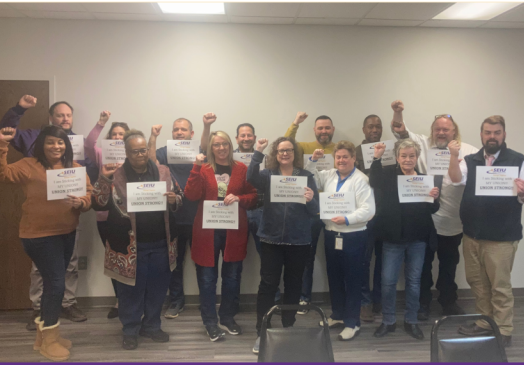
mrc@seiu1199.org



seiu1199.org/mrc



STATE OF OHIO NEWSLETTER



**STAY STRONG
STAY SAFE
STAY UNION!!!!**

Bargaining Update

Your negotiation committee is working hard to bargain the best contract possible. We are already making progress toward eliminating fines, improving the grievance process, and fighting to secure more improvements. We're focusing negotiations around the issues that matter most to you, while protecting against attacks, take-a-ways and out-of-touch proposals from the State. Fact Finder Tom Nowel wasn't persuaded by the State's financial arguments in OCSEA's FF hearing and issued a report providing for the largest wage increases in almost four decades: 5%, 4.5% and 3%. This paves the way for your committee to continue our fight for outcomes that address real workplace issues and protect your existing rights and benefits. As we move forward, we will work diligently toward this goal at main table, as well as in agency-specific negotiations. Our upcoming bargaining sessions will involve Mediator Jack Buettner at the end of August and, if necessary, fact finding with Tom Nowel in September. For further updates, please join us for a Tele-townhall membership meeting on August 2 at 5 p.m. - There is no need to register for this event - all Members will receive a call at that time from the TTHM host line.

Your Negotiating Committee

Nancy Cooper (OMHAS)
Karen Dale (OMHAS)
Chris Eichhorn (OMHAS)
Teresa Stephens (BWC)
Ernest Abercrombie (ODM)
Jeanine Martell (ODJFS)
Heather Searfoss-Allaire (ODH)

Leslie Gates (DYS)
Athena Diven (DRC)
Lisa Ragland (DRC)
Angie Foltz (APA)
Amy Jenkins (APA)
Dwayne Henson (DVS)
Renee Huff (DODD)

Susan Halter (DCY)
Ronna Woods (OOD)
Claudia Major (OMHAS)
Stacey Adams (Recovery Services)
Ray Gordon (APA)
Matthew Lemaster (DRC)

Steps to Securing the Best Contract

Your participation is pivotal in making the changes we'll be fighting for during negotiations. There are many ways you can be involved in securing the best contract possible. You can attend events and tele-town hall membership meetings. You can make your voice heard in your workplace. Finally, along with signing the pledges in the link below, you can also submit a photo of yourself, showing the state you support our union by sending it to your organizer or going to <https://seiu1199.org/union-strong>.

**2021 - 2024
CONTRACT**

BETWEEN
SEIU DISTRICT 1199

THE HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE UNION
CHANGE TO WIN, CLC
DISTRICT 1199WV/KY/OH



AND
THE STATE OF OHIO



Tuition Reimbursement Update

According to Article 23, members are entitled to tuition reimbursement for classes, seminars, workshops and conferences. There is \$750,000 per fiscal year in a fund that the state maintains. Each employee is eligible for up to \$3,500 per year. The new fiscal year began on July 1st, with a new balance for this fund. Members who are interested in utilizing the fund should go to das.ohio.gov and click on "Resources for Employees". Next, you will click on "Talent Management," then "Learning and Talent Development." There is a red square to the right, click there and you can check FAQ Employee Development Fund.



House Bill 441 Update

On May 14th, HB 441 had its first hearing in the House Criminal Justice Committee. We are now awaiting additional hearings. The legislature has met for the final time until November after the election. We believe there will be additional hearings held then. Please reach out to House Criminal Justice Chair Cindy Abrams at Rep29@ohiohouse.gov and (614) 466-9091 to demand a hearing on HB 441. Direct action is how to get more hearings on this bill.

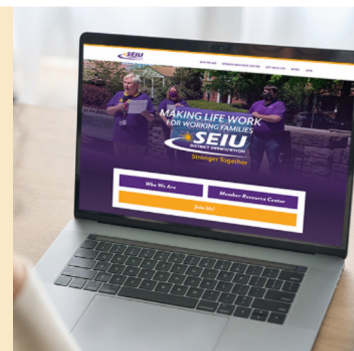
Organizing Unions for All

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 13.04 – Sick Leave

We have received many questions since the last newsletter regarding sick leave supplementation. All sick leave utilized is eligible to be supplemented at a rate of 100%. This language is identified on page 39 of the CBA and reads as follows: “Sick leave may be supplemented at the employees request to 100% of pay with available sick leave balances. The employee must indicate the desire to supplement sick leave balances on the leave request.”

This means, if you are sick, you are eligible to be paid . For further clarification, please see Article 13 in its entirety and contact your HR department/payroll.



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 Bargaining Dates

July 22nd
July 23rd
July 30th

July 31st
August 1st
August 5th

August 6th
August 15th
August 16th

August 26th
August 27th
August 28th

August 29th
Fact Finding (If Necessary)
September 16-19th