Exercising Your Right to Vote for Your Contract

Congratulations! You, the SEA Executive Branch members, have just agreed to move your contract to ratification. The next two weeks for you are really very important. You and your fellow members will be entrusted with the responsibility and the opportunity to exercise the most fundamental of union rights, the right to vote, and have a voice regarding this tentative agreement.

We ask that you not underestimate the importance of your role — you are an essential part of the democratic process. Taking part in the ratification process shows our employer, the State of New Hampshire, that our union members are willing to stand up for and have a voice regarding their contracts. Being a part of this union means you have the power to improve your work environments. A vote to accept the offer enables us to continue organizing, building collective power, and fighting for more equity with a contract rather than without one. Voicing your opinion, either way is a democratic solution to create change.

You will hear this many times over the next two weeks, but a strong contract vote sends a positive message, no matter how you vote, to our SEA-elected leaders and our employer, the State of New Hampshire. A strong vote will signify that we are a unified workforce committed to providing quality public services to those we serve in New Hampshire.
MESSAGE TO OUR STEWARDS

Last week, Governor Sununu announced at a press conference that the statewide mask mandate is no longer in effect as of April 16. Just for clarity, the SEA is not changing its policy about masks at this time. It is our priority to stay the course in the hopes of keeping our members, our families, and our communities safe.

We will continue this practice until further notice. The decision on whether or not to follow in the Governor’s footsteps will be the sole responsibility of each state agency.

We have also been made aware that beginning May 7, 2021, all state facilities will be open to receive the public, and all remote workers will be required to return to their office environments. That being said, we would like to hear your thoughts and concerns regarding these new directives and want to know how we can assist you and your chapter members. Please also remember that you can and should contact your designated organizer or grievance representative to assist you in any safety concerns raised within your worksite.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over. As more New Hampshire residents are vaccinated, data will continue to drive decision-making, and we will do our best to keep you informed of any changes.

We know that masks are a simple way to prevent our respiratory particles from reaching the people around us. When combined with other safety measures, they help prevent the spread of illness and ultimately slow the spread of COVID-19 in our workplaces.

We look forward to your responses and learning more about how we can help you through these decisions and hope that you and your members and employees remain safe and healthy.

Please feel free to share this with your membership, and thank you for your leadership.

Leadership Training - Newly Elected Officers

The SEA is pleased to announce a new leadership training session for newly elected officers. A Zoom meeting will be held on May 11, 2021 and will run for two hours.

When: May 11, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtf-qrpzstGdSiOBykkDEaiwUFGbL-I1BJ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
On Tuesday, March 6, 2021, the SEA Master Bargaining Team reached an agreement with the Governor’s Bargaining Team on a new State Employee contract for 2021-2023. This week we begin the ratification process with both an email vote and a traditional mail vote for all those who do not have email access.

Also, starting this week will be member-only contract information sessions. The SEA will be hosting several virtual informational sessions to provide members with an overview of what is in the new agreement. These sessions will also allow for questions with the Master Bargaining Team should you have any.

These sessions, however, are MEMBER ONLY events. Again, space at each event is limited, so please register as soon as possible. There are three more scheduled sessions for this week. The dates, times, and registration links are listed below:

**Wednesday 4/21/21 5 pm:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81122237288](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81122237288)

**Thursday 4/22/21: 12 pm:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83632551009](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83632551009)

**Thursday, 4/22/21, at Cannon Mountain from 4:30-5:30 pm**, the SEA will host an In-Person event to discuss the Temporary Agreement for your new contract. Register today by clicking here [https://secure.everyaction.com/ygO1TD2jr0mMWfbknYsPDA2](https://secure.everyaction.com/ygO1TD2jr0mMWfbknYsPDA2).

**Thursday 4/22/21 6 pm:** Location: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89491552045](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89491552045)

In accordance with the Collective Bargaining Policy, each member will have fourteen (14) days from the date of mailing to return the ballot to SEA/SEIU Local 1984. All ballot responses are confidential. Completed ballots sent by mail must be sealed in the ballot envelope and then put into the self-addressed envelope for return.

If you need clarification on the contract ratification process or the new contract language, please contact: Randy Hunneyman at rhunneyman@seiu1984.org or call 892-5319 or Leah McKenna at lmckenna@seiu1984.org.

**Voting on your contract is one of the ultimate benefits of union membership. Please take this opportunity to have your voice heard by casting your vote. A strong contract vote sends a positive message to our SEA-elected leaders and our employer, the State of New Hampshire. A strong vote will signify that we are a unified workforce committed to providing quality public services to those we serve in New Hampshire.**

**Progress in DOT Supreme Court Appeal**

The State has filed its opening legal brief arguing that the decision by the PELRB, regarding CDL Medical cards being a mandatory subject of bargaining, should be overturned. The SEA must now file its brief, currently scheduled to be due on May 4, 2021. If neither party files reply briefs, the Supreme Court will likely schedule oral arguments. Expect further updates as the matter proceeds.

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**Chapter Reminder**

Chapters receive rebates for providing the SEA quarterly Chapter meeting minutes. Please label your Annual Meeting minutes, where you seat new officers, to avoid any confusion. Also, Chapter Audits are due April 30th each year, which is fast approaching. Please reach out to chapters@seiu1984.org.
At my request, the Department of Health & Human Services presented at the April 7th Council meeting on New Hampshire's mental health and emergency room boarding crisis. Our state has long struggled with a shortage of inpatient and community-based treatment options for people needing mental health care. For people experiencing mental health crises, New Hampshire has a shortage of inpatient and community-based treatment options. Prior to the pandemic, legislators' efforts to fund mobile crisis teams, designate beds for patients in mental health crisis, and support housing were addressing this long-term problem. But as beds became more scarce in response to COVID-19, the number of adults and children spending days or weeks in emergency departments across the state has again risen to levels comparable to the height of this crisis in 2017.

There is much work to do by state leaders to ensure everyone gets the mental health care they need. I am committed to building bridges between DHHS, health care providers, and the private sector to provide Granite Staters with support on the continuum of care so that they do not have to reach a crisis point in our emergency rooms.
POLITICAL INSIGHTS & UPDATES

LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE

Our brothers and sisters at the NEA are looking for folks age 40's/50's (ish) or '60s and preferably a Republican (although not necessary), who could deliver a 15-second video message for digital ads they are doing against the private and religious school voucher initiative in the legislature and how they are concerned that the legislation will raise their property taxes.

They are looking for individuals from specific Senate Districts. These are the districts that are looking for volunteers:

**District 9**: Bedford, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Greenfield, Hancock, Jaffrey, Lyndeborough, Mont Vernon, New Boston, Peterborough, Richmond, Sharon, Temple, and Troy

**District 11**: Amherst, Merrimack, Milford, and Wilton

**District 12**: Nashua (Wards 1, 2, and 5), Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Mason, New Ipswich, and Rindge

**District 23**: Brentwood, Chester, Danville, East Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Fremont, Kingston, and Sandown

They will be filming low production, meaning that someone could meet the volunteer and film with iPhone, socially distanced and could be at their house or work for convenience. We are happy to make it as easy as possible for anyone willing to volunteer.

We ask you to see if you or your organization/network can think of any individuals who would be willing to volunteer to help out in this effort. If you think that you know someone that would be willing to assist, please contact Brian Hawkins by emailing him at bhawkins@nhnea.org or Mason Petit at mpetit@seiu1984.org.

They are in a pinch, so any assistance or leads you can provide us with would be greatly appreciated. The voucher bills (or budget sections) that are still alive in the legislature are a top priority. These digital ads can be extremely effective at getting a message out to the public (and providing legislator pressure).

Thank you for your time, and hope that we can help out!

SEA CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS

SEA Conservatives Are in an Excellent Position to be a Powerful Influence

New Hampshire voters selected Republican candidates to lead the legislature. With a clear majority in the New Hampshire House and Senate, Republicans will take over leadership in both chambers. The takeover means that it is less likely Governor Sununu will veto as many legislative efforts and may allow SEA conservatives an opportunity to move on some of the SEA legislative priorities, not to mention our ability to secure a contract.

Here's How You Can Help.
1. Join our next Conservative Members Committee meeting on Zoom on 4/13/21 at 5:00 PM.
2. Connect with legislators in your district. If you don't know who they are, you can find them here.
3. Donate to SEAPAC, our Political Action Fund. As little as $1.00 a month helps. The link is here.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Mason Petit, mpetit@seiu1984.org.
It’s been a challenging year for health and well-being but let’s get back into a healthy groove with some friendly physical activity competition! We’re excited to announce that Mobile health Consumer (Mobile health), our digital health and wellbeing partner, will be facilitating an activity challenge where State employees can compete in teams of up to ten players.

Challenge participants and teams will compete virtually in Mobile Health and travel through some of the most beautiful National Parks in the country. Teams created in Mobile health will be from all agencies competing against one another. There are a few ideas and some references attached:

- Get agency or division leadership to create teams and compete against employee teams.
- Have divisions create teams with leadership as team captains to compete against each other.
- Attached you’ll find two flyer versions to share and a Challenge Frequently Asked Question guide.
- Most of all….have fun and be creative with your team names!

Email support@mobilehealthconsumer.com for Challenge and Mobile Health account technical assistance.
**WELLNESS WEBINAR SERIES AND COVID-19 PROTECTION & VACCINATIONS**

*Improve your knowledge and wellness or learn more about COVID-19 Protection Strategies*

The two webinar series are all offered at noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. They will include brief education on the monthly topic, and assist in goal setting to improve your overall wellness.

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**April Webinar, A Healthier You:**

What are 3 lifestyle changes that make the biggest health impact?

How to get started on making a lifestyle change.

Join on your computer or mobile app.

Click here to join the meeting.

How to set wellness goals for success.

Learn about your benefits and resources related to telehealth and support for your overall health and wellness.

**Dates: Wednesday, April 21**

Or call in (audio only) +1 567-249-1745, 344028488#

United States, Toledo

Phone Conference ID: 344 028 488#

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**HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS FROM LIBERTY MUTUAL**

Do you know we offer supplemental insurance benefits to all SEA members and employees? Check out some of the offerings below from Liberty Mutual.

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**ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF BEING PART OF A COMMUNITY.**

As a member of the State of NH Employees Association SEIU 1984, you could save up to $782 a year on auto and home insurance, and you'll have access to all the advantages of being a Liberty Mutual Insurance customer.

- **24-Hour Claims Assistance**
  - Online or by phone.

- **Accident Forgiveness**
  - No premium increase due to an initial accident.

- **Better Car Replacement**
  - If your car is totaled, we'll give you the money for a model that is one year newer.

- **24-Hour Roadside Assistance**
  - Real help when you need it.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP), signed into law by President Biden in March, includes several provisions that will benefit New Hampshire insurance consumers. The Department has created two “Frequently Asked Questions” documents to provide guidance to consumers on these benefits. The FAQs include information on increased affordability options in the individual market and full premium coverage benefits for COBRA eligible individuals.

“Thousands of New Hampshire residents stand to benefit from the insurance provisions of the American Rescue Plan,” said Insurance Commissioner Chris Nicolopoulos. “We want to ensure that people are not only aware that they can save on their insurance coverage, but that they understand the process of how to enroll in these important programs.”

The FAQ documents about the individual market and COBRA can be found on the Insurance Department’s website.

“A key priority for the Department is to provide consumers with the most up to date information and regarding changes in the insurance market that could impact them,” said Deputy Commissioner D.J. Bettencourt. “Commissioner Nicolopoulos and I believe that when consumers have the best information at their disposal, they will make the best choices for themselves and their families. The American Rescue Plan is large and complex, but we are here to help you get to the bottom of it.”

Temporary COBRA premium subsidies are included in the ARP for up to 6 months during 2021. These subsidies will cover 100% of the monthly premium cost for people who are eligible. The law requires the employer, plan administrator, or insurer to pay for the premium for those who are eligible, and the government will reimburse the cost. The subsidies can be paid for coverage months no earlier than April 1 and no later than September 30. Consumers should reach out to their COBRA plan administrator for additional information.

Consumers seeking assistance with the individual market enrollment process can find free help from an insurance agent, federal Navigator, or enrollment assister using the Find Local Help tool on Healthcare.gov or by contacting NH Navigator by calling 1-877-211-NAVI or by visiting their website.

The New Hampshire Insurance Department Can Help

The New Hampshire Insurance Department’s mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. Contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your insurance coverage at 1-800- 852-3416 or (603) 271-2261, or by email at consumerservices@ins.nh.gov. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/insurance.
CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC GOOD AUCTION UPDATE

The Campaign for Public Good and the State Employees' Association are happy to announce that they have raised over $1,300 for the NH Food Bank.

The crisis we are all facing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic has stretched the resources of those organizations protecting our states’ most vulnerable. The State Employees’ Association members are those people who make this State, County, and Municipal departments run. The SEA's Campaign for Public good wanted to address this and raise funds to assist the NH Food Bank in continuing its good work.

Our Fundraising event included donations from individual members, family, allies, Chapters, and Committees of the State Employees’ Association. Also, the Campaign for Public Good held an online virtual Auction for two weeks between February 16th and 28th where multiple gift baskets and other items were auctioned to raise the funds to benefit the NH Food Bank.

Special thanks to Chapter 1 Retirees, Chapter 24 Civilian Employees of the Department of Correction, Chapter 44 Department of Educations, Chapter Department Employment Security, and Chapter 45 Department of Health and Human Resources; as well as the many individuals who donated to this fundraiser! In the end, amidst all of the current economic challenges our employees are facing, the organization raised over $1,300 which was donated to the NH food bank.

Thank you to all who were involved and took part in helping to organize this event!
The SEA Book Club meets again on Monday, May 3, to discuss their next read, *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August*. See the excerpt below.

Some stories cannot be told in just one lifetime. Harry August is on his deathbed. Again. No matter what he does or the decisions he makes, when death comes, Harry always returns to where he began, a child with all the knowledge of a life he has already lived a dozen times before. Nothing ever changes. Until now. As Harry nears the end of his eleventh life, a little girl appears at his bedside. "I nearly missed you, Doctor August," she says. "I need to send a message." This is the story of what Harry does next, and what he did before, and how he tries to save a past he cannot change and a future he cannot allow.

**About the Author:**
Claire North is a pseudonym for Catherine Webb, a Carnegie Medal-nominated author whose first book was written when she was just fourteen years old. She went on to write several other novels in various genres, before publishing her first major work as Claire North, *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August*, in 2014. It was a critically acclaimed success, receiving rave reviews and an Audie nomination, and was included in the Washington Post's Best Books of the Year list. Her next novel, *Touch*, was also in the Washington Post's Best Books of the Year, in 2015. Catherine currently works as a theatre lighting designer and is a fan of big cities, urban magic, Thai food and graffiti-spotting. She lives in London.

Again, The book club will meet on Monday, May 3 at 6:00 PM to discuss it and anyone still interested is welcome to join! Contact dholt@seiu1984.org if you'd like to join or have any questions.

**SEIU 1984 ROAD RACE COMMITTEE**
The Road Race Committee has scheduled its next meeting for April 29, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Topic: SEA 5k Planning Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting; https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82985451758?pwd=b3F4cFgyd2syTzNPTWZ5OWxyRm9iUT09

It takes a lot of preparation and many volunteers to make this fun and exciting race such a wonderful fundraising effort for Operation Santa Claus.

The SEA 5K Road Race and Fitness Walk has taken place for over 20 years on April's first Saturday. With the uncertainty of the pandemic, we have moved our race to Saturday, September 18th @ 9:00. This fast, flat, family-friendly 5K loops through the state office park and along Hazen Drive. The SEA 5k is registered online with Millennium Running at RunReg.com. Online Registration Deadline: Thursday, Sep 16, 2021, at 9:00 AM ET. Register for the race here: https://www.RunReg.com/sea-5k

**SEA COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
CFPG meets on the first Tuesday of the Month at 5 pm, next meeting is May 6, 2021.
Social Activities Committee meets on the first Friday of the Month at 5 PM, next meeting May 7, 2021.
The NH Faith and Labor Coalition meet on the third Wednesday of the Month at 12, the next meeting is May 20 2021.
The Clinicians United NH Associate Members Chapter meets at noon on the first Monday of the month, next meeting is May 5, 2021.
Scholarship Opportunities

Apply for a scholarship just for union families
Union Plus Scholarships help union families with the cost of college.

2022 APPLICATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MID-JUNE.

Nearly $5 million in scholarships awarded to union families.
Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than $4.8 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their post-secondary education. More than 3,200 families have benefited from our commitment to higher education.

ELIGIBILITY
Current and retired members of participating unions, their spouses and their dependent children (as defined by IRS regulations). At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, applicant’s spouse or parent (if applicant is a dependent). The one-year membership minimum must be satisfied by May 31 of the scholarship year. See more details on eligibility in the tab below.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
This is a competitive scholarship. Applicants are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended. The required essays can account for up to half your total score. Scholarship applicants are judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators.

APPLICATION TIMELINE
Applications are available starting in mid-June, and a complete application must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Eastern Standard Time on January 31st of the scholarship year. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AMOUNTS
Amounts range from $500 to $4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2021. Students may re-apply each year.
The SEA and SEIU offer many different discount programs. To learn more, please visit the SEIU Member Benefits page at https://www.seiumb.com/home, the SEA's Member Discount page at https://seiu1984.org/membership-discounts/ or the Union PLUS page at https://www.unionplus.org/, for information on finance, home & auto, shopping and discounts as well as information on hardship assistance.