JUNE 2022| ISSUE 11

THE SEA NEWS

Advocating for working people and their families in New Hampshire.

June 15, 2022

FIGHT TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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Health Care Audit Reminder-

Every State employee that has a health insurance plan through the State that includes another person (e.g., child or spouse) should have received a notice that the State is performing an audit to ensure that only those who are entitled to receive the benefit are in fact enrolled in the health insurance and/or dental insurance plan.

Yesterday, additional documents were mailed to you so that you can confirm that the dependents enrolled in your benefits plan are, in fact properly enrolled. You will likely be requested to provide documents to help prove that these dependents are in fact eligible, and such documents might include a marriage certificate, birth certificates of children, and/or proof of residence (such as a bill with you and your spouse's name).

Some members have expressed concerns about being able to locate or produce certain documents, and we have shared these concerns with the State. In return, we have been advised that should you be unable to locate or provide any such documents, there are some options for providing a written attestation of the relationship. It is strongly advised that if you have questions about any documentation you are being asked to provide, you contact Part D Advisors (PDA), the audit company contracted by the State. Their number is 1-833-833-3002, and they are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-8:00 PM.

Please be reminded that responses are due back to PDA no later than July 5, 2022, so make sure you don't forget over the holiday weekend. In addition, the State has stated that failure to respond to the audit could result in loss of insurance coverage for your spouse or child, so be sure to work with PDA to confirm your eligibility.

You may also find the FAQs here.
NEW TRAININGS
Registration is required and space is limited.

Tuesday, August 9th, 1:00-3:30 pm

Steward 101:
This training is for all new stewards or any steward wanting to renew their fundamental training.

Coming in September!
There will be in-person training for ALL stewards.

Further information to follow, so stay tuned!
Overview of the Executive Branch Bargaining Team:

One of the most important and challenging responsibilities of any union member is serving on a contract bargaining team. The role of a bargaining team member is to advocate for the issues and concerns that the general union membership wants to see included in their contract agreement with the employer.

All executive branch members in good standing have the opportunity to run for the master bargaining team. There are no prior experience requirements. All elected bargaining team members receive special training on negotiating techniques and the bargaining process.

Executive Branch Bargaining Team Expectations:

Preparation for collective bargaining begins in September. During the bargaining cycle, members of the master team can expect to attend bargaining and preparation sessions one to two days a week. We anticipate holding most, if not all, of these training and prep sessions remotely. Bargaining team members contractually receive release time from their regular work assignments to participate in these sessions. Bargaining sessions are often conducted during regular daytime work hours, but some limited evening hours will be required to attend bargaining advisory meetings and preparation sessions.

Master Bargaining Team Election Process:

The executive branch bargaining team is made up of fifteen state employee members. Eleven of these positions are filled by election.

State employee members interested in being elected to serve on the master bargaining team must fill out and submit a written nomination form to the SEA/SEIU 1984 offices no later than July 6, 2022. Nomination forms are available online at www.seiu1984.org or by clicking and downloading here or by contacting the SEA office at the number below to have one sent to you.

On Wednesday, July 20, a remote Collective Bargaining Senate meeting will be held where nominees will be individually introduced and will be provided a three-minute opportunity to address the bargaining senate members on why they think they would be a good choice for election to the bargaining team. *Nominees are encouraged to attend the bargaining senate meeting but may submit a video or have an advocate speak on their behalf if they cannot attend.

If you have questions, please contact Randy Hunneyman at 603-894-5319 or e-mail at rhunneyman@seiu1984.org
2022 Legislative Recap June 2022

By the end of the 2022 legislative session, the NHRS was tracking 17 bills. Below is the status of each of the bills at the end of the session.

- Priority Bills We Worked to Pass
  Won: 4  Lost: 2
- Priority Bills We Worked to Defeat
  Won: 1
- Bills We Monitored
  Passed: 6  Killed: 4

Priority Bills We Supported and Passed

HB1497-FN: relative to optional allowances in the retirement system.
- This bill allows members to elect survivorship options upon joining the retirement system. This gets rid of the pre-selection paperwork that current members are required to fill out when they reach age and years of service but who choose to stay in active service
  - HB1557 language was included in this bill and that changes the time period for when a member can elect to receive a survivor benefit optional retirement allowance from 120 days after the effective date of retirement to 120 days from the date of the original notice of retirement provided by the retirement system
  - *Has been signed into law by Governor

HB1535-FN: relative to cost-of-living adjustments for retirees in the state retirement system.
- This bill provides a 1 - $500 payment for all retirees and/or beneficiaries who have been retired at least 60 months on or before July 1, 2022.  • *Awaiting Governor's signature

HB1557: relative to survivor benefit optional allowances under the retirement system.
- This bill was included in the final version of HB1497-FN.

HB1587-FN-A: relative to the determination of average final compensation under the retirement system and making an appropriation therefore.
- This bill changes the methodology in calculating retirement benefits for Group II members who were hired by July 1, 2011, by including the highest 5 years of compensation over base in the calculation of compensation over base for the members' entire career in the calculation of their final AFC.  • *Awaiting Governor's signature

Priority Bills We Supported and Lost

HB1417-FN-L: relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.
- This bill would have returned 7.5% of the state subsidy for retirement costs for municipal police, firefighter, and teachers.  • A year of this cost was included in HB1221-FN.

SB434: relative to the reduction in the calculation of state retirement annuities at age 65.
- This bill would have linked the 10% reduction group I members received at age 65 to social security eligibility age (now 67).
Republican Draft State Senate Map Analysis Toplines

Initial analysis of the Republican-drawn state senate maps shows the Senate Election Law Committee is continuing the trend of limiting the number of tossup districts and increasing the number of districts that lean or are solid Republican.

Using analysis of statewide and federal election results from the last decade, each district was given a rating of likelihood to vote Democrat or Republican, as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Democratic Support</th>
<th>Republican Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid D</td>
<td>55% - 100%</td>
<td>0% - 45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean D</td>
<td>52% - 55%</td>
<td>45% - 46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tossup</td>
<td>48% - 52%</td>
<td>48% - 52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean R</td>
<td>45% - 48%</td>
<td>52% - 55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid R</td>
<td>0% - 45%</td>
<td>55% - 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Republicans gained two seats, Democrats kept the same number of seats, and the number of tossups decreased by two seats compared to the current maps.

Executive Council Map Toplines

The majority in the state Senate passed a new Executive Council map with a floor amendment, without a single public hearing on the proposal. While there are significant changes to the districts, the partisan balance remains similar, and the population deviation becomes smaller.

The apparent goals going into the creation of this map seem to have been to remove the explicitly criticized Executive Council District 2, which largely surrounded Democratic strongholds and stretches from one end of the state to the other, touching the borders of Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts, while maintaining its overwhelming Democratic majority.

While this map does not substantively change the partisan breakdown from the current map, it is important to remember that the current map itself is a partisan gerrymander passed a decade ago.
POLITICAL

Last week, members of the SEA were out in support of Cinde Warmington, who filed for reelection for Executive Council District 2. New Hampshire needs proven leadership on the Council for the tough fights ahead. #NHPolitics

The Resolutions Committee is looking for some new members.

The responsibility of the Resolutions Committee is to study all resolutions presented to the Convention and submit their recommendations. This Committee may hold meetings before the Convention to obtain information on the resolutions to be presented. It shall submit resolutions to the Convention on the first day of the Convention that may be necessary for the good and welfare of the Association.

If you are interested, please reach out to Cullen Tiernan at ctiernan@seiu1984.org.
June is the National Migraine & Headache Awareness Month (MHAM) in the United States. Sponsored by the National Headache Foundation (NHF), the monthly event aims to spread awareness and gain recognition of migraines and headaches as legitimate neurobiological diseases. In addition, it seeks to encourage individuals suffering from migraine and headaches to see a healthcare provider for proper diagnosis and treatment and to let them know about the current treatment modalities available. Migraine and headaches are one of the most prevalent, disabling neurological conditions that occur due to specific changes in the brain and surrounding blood vessels. During a headache, specific nerves of the blood vessels are activated and send pain signals to the brain. The condition produces throbbing or pulsing head pain (more severe than usual headaches) that generally begins on one side of the head. People experiencing migraines may be sensitive to light, sound, physical activity/movement, and even smell. Medications can help prevent some headaches and make them less painful. However, the correct combination of medicines, self-help remedies, and lifestyle changes may help control pain.
The end of June will mark the halfway point for 2022! Time passes by quickly! The fun part of this time of year is that summer is here, vacations are usually planned, and days of fun in the sun are near.

We have discussed work/life balance throughout this year, and this month is no exception. Caring for ourselves is very important, and we sometimes forget about ourselves and our health with busy schedules. Halfway through the year is a great time to take a minute and make sure that everything you need to accomplish health-wise has been completed or scheduled. If you have not yet had your annual physical (preventive care screening), let’s get it scheduled!

Preventive care is critical in keeping all of us healthy. The focus of preventative maintenance is to complete screenings of different systems in the body and see if everything is working correctly. So many things can be detected early and decrease the risk we have of them becoming a chronic condition. Think of preventive screening as a “pulse check” for everything functioning as it should.

Preventive screenings are primarily initiated by your primary care physician (PCP). Having a PCP is crucial in ensuring subtle changes that may occur in our health are detected early because they know you, your lab values, and your habits and assist with your chronic condition management. If you have not picked a PCP yet, please go to Anthem.com and utilize the “Find Care” feature to find the best match.

Monthly Wellness Webinar Series

This month we focus the monthly wellness webinar on Preventive Care: Why preventive screenings are so important in keeping you healthy: the meaning and importance of preventative care, what preventive care you should participate in and why, and how preventive care can detect more significant health issues before them becoming chronic conditions.

Webinars are every Wednesday in June from 12-12:30 pm.

Dates:

Wednesday, June 15
Thursday, June 16
Tuesday, June 21
Wednesday, June 22
COMMITTEE SCHEDULES

- CFPG will meet on the first Tuesday of every quarter at 5:00 PM. The next meeting will be on July 5, 2022.

- Constitution and By-Laws Committee meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM; the next meeting will be held on June 30 at 5:30 PM via Google Meet.

- Social Activities Committee will meet on the first Monday of the month from 5-6 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2022, @ 5:00 PM.

- The Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM, immediately following the Social Activities Meeting. The next meeting will be on July 6, 2022, @ 6:00 PM.

- NH Faith & Labor Coalition meets on the third Wednesday of the Month at 12; the next meeting is on June 15, 2022.

- Clinicians United NH, Associate Members Chapter meets at noon on the first Monday of the month; the next meeting is on July 6, 2022.

- Conservative Members Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM; the next meeting is July 12, 2022, at 5:30 PM.

- The Organizing Committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month; the next meeting is on July 6 @ 5:00 PM.

- Operation Santa Claus meetings are held every third Monday of each month; the next one is on July 11, 2022, at 4:30 PM.

- The Retirement Committee will meet on June 21 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM; the link to join is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81067911659.

- Stewards Committee meets on the third Thursday of every month at 5:30 PM next meeting will be Thursday, June 16, 2022.

- The NEW Veterans exploratory committee will meet on the last Thursday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for June 30 from 5:30 - 6:30 PM.

- The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, July 14, 2022, from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. You may join at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83486021328?pwd=czMxbS9VS3JMSXVPCWorZitUcFM3QT09.

- All Board, Chapter Presidents, and Council Meetings have been scheduled for 2022, and the links are on the website calendar. Chapter Presidents and Council Meetings will each have a recurring link; however, registration is required for these events.
Calling All Veterans!

NEW SEA Veteran's Group

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

In 2022, we are making an impact. If you are interested in participating in this veterans' group, we can explore doing service projects, planning fun events, or just meet to talk about the experiences only vets understand.

INITIATIVES

Veterans today have a lot of interests, resources, and needs. Sometimes they need support, and sometimes it’s providing assistance to others.

Do you want to find opportunities to volunteer? Have you gone back to school, purchased a house, found good healthcare resources? Have you retired, or are you looking to make plans for your care as you age?

All of these items and more are things that this group can discuss, but make it your own - you decide based on where you are in life, and if you like, you can share how you’re navigating through them with other veterans!

CONTACT: JUSTIN JARDINE  jjardine@seiu1984.org
ANGELA BRECK  Angelabreck.org
In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.

Social Activities is looking to generate some interest in upcoming summer events. If you have ideas or would like to participate, please contact Rebecca Ladd (texting is best) at 603-581-5977
The Social Activities Committee wants to create some summer fun for all union members! Camping, Water Fun events, and BBQ gatherings are some of the items they are exploring. If you're interested, check out the dates below and get in touch with Rebecca Ladd at 603-581-5977 (texting is best).

Have a favorite cooling-off spot? Then, share the location with your union brothers and sisters, make a day of it, pack a picnic, play some games, and have some water fun.

July 2, July 17, July 24, July 31, Aug 7, Aug 21.

Camping dates for this year are Aug 12-14 and Aug 26-28. Locations have not been determined yet.
The Campaign For Public Good is now meeting once a quarter. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at 5:00 PM. To join us, please reach out to the Comms Department at comms@seiu1984.org, and we will send you the link.

As we move further through the summer the need is still great for those suffering with food insecurity. Food Banks are also in dire need of donations and supplies in order to help those in need. We are asking all chapters that can, to make a monetary donation to the Campaign for Public Good so the organization can make a donation on behalf of the SEA. Anything you can donate is much appreciated.

This committee is also actively looking for more participants. If you or anyone you know may be interested in joining the Campaign for Public Good, please contact Tam Feener. We are always looking for more help and more ideas!

Thank you!

Summer sales will be right around the corner!

Please keep the CFPG back-to-school backpack drive in mind if you spot a deal!
Get ready for SUMMER with SEA Member Benefits

The SEA is offering Canobie Lake Park tickets again, and this year they are available to purchase online (only).

Opening Day is Saturday, May 28, 2022! And this year, the park is Celebrating 120 years of family fun.

With more than 85 great attractions - family and kids rides, exciting thrill rides, and water rides, including our fantastic new Castaway Island Water Park and games, Canobie delivers the ultimate family fun experience!

Here is the link to our store, please copy it as it is below and add it to your browser or simply click on it.


To log in, Members must use the password: Local1984

Regal Movie Tickets are the perfect recognition, reward, and gift item for your summer break! Tickets are $9.00 each and can be purchased at the SEA office. Tickets are good at the following cinemas: Concord, Hooksett, and Newington, NH. Please check with the cinema for restrictions on particular movies.

Also, please note that the SEA office may run out of tickets on busy days.

We accept all forms of payment, cash, credit card, or check.
Water Country Water Park, located in Portsmouth New Hampshire, is New England's Largest Water Park. Water Country offers 19 attractions that are perfect for all ages, including classics like the Giant Wave Pool and Adventure River. Celebrating over 30 years, Water Country is 26 acres of family-filled, summer fun featuring water rides fit for tiny tots such as Tahiti Treehouse and Pirates Lagoon and thrilling water slides for fit for teens like Dragon's Den and Dr. Von Dark's Tunnel of Terror.

Discounted tickets for the 2022 season at Water Country are now available for $34.99/ea with a $3 processing fee per ticket.

VISIT: https://www.watercountry.com/?keyword
Promo Code: SEIU1984

This ticket is valid for All Day admission on any day during the 2022 Operating Season.
Please check our calendar for scheduled dates and hours of operation; hours and attraction availability are subject to change without notice.
LOAN CANCELLATION BENEFIT

Student loan repayments are scheduled to resume in September 2022 after a two-year pause.

IF YOU WORK IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND OWE FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS - LOAN CANCELLATION MAY BE AVAILABLE!

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program guarantees complete student debt forgiveness to those who dedicate a decade or more to working in public service. On October 6, 2021, the Department of Education announced changes to the PSLF program rules for a limited time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under a new, temporary waiver period ending on October 31, 2022, student loan borrowers may receive additional credit for past periods of loan repayment that would otherwise not qualify for forgiveness. As a result, nearly 50,000 borrowers will become eligible for $4.5 billion in loan forgiveness, and over 500,000 student loan borrowers will receive additional credit to meet PSLF requirements. SEIU members must take action during the temporary waiver period to benefit.

Take action by October 31, 2022!

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness?

- Make 120 monthly student loan payments.
- Be employed by a government organization at any level (federal, state, local or tribal), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, or other non-profit organization that provides a designated public service, including early childhood education and public health
- Work full-time
- Have Direct Loans or consolidate Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL), Federal Perkins Loans or other types of federal student loans into a Direct Consolidation Loan

To learn more, please click here.
The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program provides an incredible opportunity for full-time public service employees, or those working for many non-profit organizations, to have their federal student loans forgiven. While this program historically has had a high rejection rate, the temporary waiver introduced in October 2021 aims to benefit nearly 500,000 Americans by relaxing the eligibility criteria for PSLF:

- **120 Qualifying Payments** - Originally, payments must have been made on an income-driven repayment plan. However, with the current waiver, any past periods of repayment after October 1, 2007, can count towards the necessary 120 payments.

- **Direct Loans** - Previously, only payments on Direct Loans would count towards PSLF. Other loan types would have to be consolidated into a Direct Loan, and you would have to start over from 0 qualifying payments. Under the waiver, you may consolidate previously ineligible loans without losing any past payments.

However, these relaxed criteria will only be available until October 31, 2022. With the extension of the CARES Act forbearance putting a pause on Federal student loans until August 31, 2022, now is the best time to make a plan.

Discover how we can assist you with this time-sensitive matter, and schedule a complimentary consultation with one of our highly trained counselors by clicking the button below.
Earning your degree can be challenging with a busy work/life schedule. So SEIU has partnered with SNHU to reinvent higher education your way – offering quality online college programs that aren’t just affordable but flexible. So now it’s easier than ever to gain the degree of work-relevant skills you need to succeed.

Our partnership with Southern New Hampshire University is a 25% discount on all courses at SNHU. This would bring tuition for undergraduate-level classes from $960.00 to $720.00. For graduate-level courses, this would bring the tuition per course from $1,881.00 down to $1,411.00. You can view all of our information for this partnership by visiting this link: https://www.snhu.edu/lp/workforce-partnerships/seiu.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team. We are more than happy to assist. Our office is open seven (7) days a week until midnight eastern standard time. We can be reached at (877)-455-7648 or at studentfinance@snhu.edu.
SEIU™ FREE COLLEGE BENEFIT

EARN AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE, OR CERTIFICATE, OR COMPLETE YOUR BACHELOR’S DEGREE ONLINE FOR FREE—PAY NOTHING FOR TUITION, FEES, OR E-BOOKS!

Earn an Associate’s degree or certificate—for free!
Complete your Bachelor’s Degree—for free!
Pay nothing for tuition, fees, or e-books – a savings of at least $20,000!
Open to eligible SEIU members and their families

Choose from several online programs offered by Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) and Central State University (CSU)

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 and Central State University to help eligible students fill the financial gap.

https://www.sei umb.com/education/seiu-free-college-benefit