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Independence Day, or July 4—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941. Here, it’s the annual celebration of nationhood, commemorating the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

Congress had voted in favor of independence from Great Britain on July 2 but did not complete the process of revising the Declaration of Independence, originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson in consultation with fellow committee members John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston, until two days later.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the celebration was initially modeled on the king’s birthday, which had been marked annually by bell ringing, bonfires, solemn processions, and oratory. Such festivals had long played a significant role in the Anglo-American political tradition.

We wish everyone a very happy fourth of July. We hope you enjoy your time with family and friends as you start the summer with a BANG! Most importantly, we thank all of you who are working this holiday. Your dedication to public service is commendable.
Recently the NH Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has announced to the SEA a new plan to redesign the existing NH state classification system. The current system used by the NH Department of Personnel has become cumbersome and outdated and is very challenging for employees and state administrators to navigate. The goal of the redesign is to make the NH classification system easier to understand, more transparent, and simpler to use and to add tools to address compensation issues.

Representatives from the SEA met with the DAS planning team to go over some of the details for the new system. The DAS team informed the SEA that the new proposed system would use what is known as Standard Occupational Codes (SOC), which is what the US Federal Government uses. One of the primary reasons for switching to the new system is that it has fewer classification codes which the Federal Government updates on a regular basis. This means that these codes will stay current and accurately reflect US labor market statistics and compensation rates.

This will greatly assist the DAS in keeping NH State employee job classifications more up to date and allow for easier compensation studies that can be done on a regular basis.

The change-over to the new classification system will coincide with the 2023-2025 bargaining cycle and the subsequent implementation of a new contract. This way, any issues (such as wages) that fall under the authority of the SEA/State contract can be properly negotiated between the parties.

We will update you more on this as the process moves forward.
SEA UPDATES

Pictured below are the April 2022 Road Race Chapter winners from Chapter 60. This team won awards for being a top single fundraiser, Chelsey Gorczyca. In addition, chapter 60 won for the overall top Chapter fundraiser.

Keep up the excellent work, Chapter 60!

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!
The first in-person steward training since 2020 will be Thursday, September 15th at the Puritan Back Room in Manchester. This training is for ALL stewards.

Registration is required by August 15th to allow release from work to attend. Please email Beth to register at baborn@seiu1984.org.

Further information to follow, so stay tuned!
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.
SEARCHING FOR ORGANIZING OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for your help. YOU, our members, determine the success or failure of your union.

You are also the eyes and ears within your agencies. Your SEA staff members are currently looking for opportunities to expand and grow your union and we’re looking for your help.

We are currently exploring opportunities in five (5) areas:

1. Outsourced maintenance workers within your worksite locations. The SEIU campaign, Justice for Janitors is an organization with 150,000 union janitors, working together to raise industry standards by fighting for fair pay, healthcare, respect, and the freedom to join a union. If you know or have any insight into these areas and we can help, please let us know.

2. Embedded Non-government Organizations, non-profits generally have employees embedded within your worksites/agencies that may benefit from unionization. Agencies where you may see this include DHHS and Employment Security.

3. Non-government Organizations/contractors who are now working in positions that used to be held by state employees. These areas include county/Community mental health providers, Healthcare providers, legal aid, etc.

4. Manchester and Nashua. These areas are population centers within our state, and there are multiple opportunities to become more ingrained in these communities. Help point us to those you think could benefit from membership with us so that we have a more significant presence in these areas.

5. Medical staff, nurses, LNA's, CNA's, and more! Places like nursing homes and recovery centers, those working in a college or school system. The SEIU Nurse Alliance is protecting patient care and saving lives. Help us find more to add to the strength of our union.

Let us know if you have ideas on agencies or workgroups you think will benefit from membership with the SEA. Help us to grow YOUR union, and in the end, it will serve you more effectively!

Please send all ideas and leads to:
David Holt
Cell: 603-781-8649
Office: (603) 271-3411 x109
dholt@seiu1984.org

Thank You!
Executive branch negotiations are set to begin in the fall and preparations for negotiating a new contract are now underway. On Wednesday, July 20, 2022, the SEA Executive Branch Bargaining Senate will be meeting to elect a new Master Bargaining Team. The deadline for nomination is July 6, 2022, to learn more about that process please visit: https://seiu1984.org/executive-branch-bargaining-2023-2025/

The SEA Master Bargaining Team is made up of 15 executive branch members, 11 of whom are elected, who will be trained in bargaining, and who will also prepare new contract proposals and meet with the Governor’s bargaining team in active negotiations. As a member of the SEA Bargaining Senate, you are part of the important process of electing 11 members of the SEA team. Nominations for the team are currently underway and as a Senate member, you will be sent the team candidate information for review before the meeting. At the Senate meeting, the team candidates will have the opportunity to give a short speech on why they feel they would be a good choice for the bargaining team.

Mark your calendar and make arrangements to attend the Senate meeting! Remember, your fellow members who are elected to the Master Bargaining Team will have the responsibility of going forward and representing your thoughts and interests at the table.

Registration - 6:00 to 6:30 PM
Start Time - 6:30 PM
(This is a remote meeting via Zoom a registration message with a zoom link will be sent soon)

Please plan on attending this very important meeting!!

Forward any questions to:
Randy Hunneyman 271-3411 (ext.129) / rhunneyman@seiu1984.org
Leah McKenna / lmckenna@seiu1984.org

Please note: Separate Bargaining senates will be held for both NHDOT and DOC Supervisors.
Summertime is here! From barbecues and picnics to swimming and fireworks, how we celebrate our country's independence is endless.

You're probably only thinking about planning your holiday festivities. But it's also important to consider your safety and health so you don't get injured. According to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, data shows a spike in accidents tied to many summer activities every July.

Keep these five tips in mind to have a safe, healthy, and, more importantly, fun-filled 4th of July holiday.

**Tips for a safe and healthy 4th of July**

**Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate:** Don't wait until you're thirsty! Drink plenty of fluids regardless of your level of activity. Of course, water is best. It's tempting to drink cold sugary sodas, but avoid liquids that contain large amounts of sugar, caffeine, and alcohol. Instead, try infusing water with fresh mint, cucumbers, and basil.

**Eat healthily:** Hamburgers and hotdogs are a tradition on the 4th of July. And don't forget the potato chips! But consider serving some healthy sides instead of sugary or salty snacks. For example, bring carrot sticks or zucchini chips with a dip, a fresh fruit salad, and watermelon. And to prevent food poisoning, ensure poultry is fully cooked. Keep the cold foods cold and the warm foods warm and eat in moderation.

**Be sun smart:** Wear a coverup or a long-sleeved shirt to protect your skin, and always wear sunscreen. You should wear broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher. Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes, and don't forget your floppy hat. A hat with a brim protects the back of your neck and the top of your head, ears, and face. And remember, UV rays are strongest between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., standard time.

**Stay cool:** Don't get overheated. In hot temperatures, your body may be unable to cool itself down. Instead, find a shady spot under a tree or bring a market umbrella for additional shade. During the hottest time of the day, move activities indoors.

**Fireworks fun:** Setting off fireworks isn't the safest way to celebrate Independence Day. With so many fireworks funded by our cities and towns, you can find a show just about anywhere. Go to your city's webpage or Facebook page to find out where and when the fireworks will occur. And don't forget to watch from a safe distance.
• 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 11, 2022, @ 5:00 PM, due to the holiday on the 4th.

• 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 11, 2022, @ 6:00 PM, due to the holiday on the 4th.

• NH Faith & Labor Coalition meets on the third Wednesday of the Month at 12; the next meeting is on July 20, 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 18, 2022, at 4:30 PM.

• The Retirement Committee will meet on July 19 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM; the link to join is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81067911659.

• The Stewards Committee meeting for July has been canceled. Meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of every month at 5:30 PM. The next meeting will be August 18, 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=czMxbS9VS3JMSXVPCwOzZmZmVlUWQ9.

• 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.
NEW
SEA Veteran's Group

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

In 2022, we are making an impact. If you are interested in participating in this group, contact either Justin or Angela with the contact information below. This group will explore service projects, plan fun events, or host groups just to talk about the experiences that only Veterans 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 home, 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 share your knowledge with other veterans that could use your help!

CONTACT:  
JUSTIN JARDINE  
ANGELA BRECK  
JARDINE@SEIU1984.ORG  
ANGELA@BRECK.ORG
In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal. He 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.

Join them to discuss this latest read on July 11, 2022, @ 6:00 PM,
The Social Activities Committee wants to create 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 contact 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.

Summer Water Fun!

Summer 2022 Camping Trips

JOIN YOUR UNION FAMILY FOR A WEEKEND AWAY!

DATING
August 12-14 & August 26-28

LOCATION
TBD

COST
TBD

CONTACT: Rebecca Ladd
603.581.5977
(TEXTING IS BEST)

SUMMER WATER FUN!

Enjoy the Trip

Have a favorite cooling-off spot?
Share your favorite summer cool-down spot with your union brothers and sisters, then make a day of it!
Pack a picnic, play some games, and have some water fun!

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

If you’re interested in learning more please contact Rebecca Ladd, at 603-581-5977 (texting is best).
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.
SUMMER SEA Member Benefit

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

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 tiny tots such as Tahiti Treehouse and Pirates Lagoon and thrilling water slides fit for teens like Dragon's Den and Dr. Von Dark's Tunnel of Terror.

Virtual Consignment Day Ticket
Discounted Corporate Savings!

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.

WATERCOUNTRY.COM/?keyword

Adventure River
Dragon's Den
Racing Rapids & the Plunge
Dr. Von Dark's Tunnel of Terror
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 a 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.

ABOUT US

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. In addition, under the 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.

TAKE ACTION BY OCTOBER 31, 2022!

Resources:
- Department of Education - PSLF Waiver Resource Page
- Student Borrowers Protection Center - Accessing PSLF videos and tutorials
- Department of Education - Guidance for FFEL and Perkins Loan Program Participants on PSLF Waiver
- Department of Education - PSLF Waiver Fact Sheet
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.
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.seiumb.com/education/seiu-free-college-benefit