

Statewide Executive Board Meeting

December 13, 2014

Approval of Minutes:

The Statewide Executive Board (SWEB) voted to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2014 meeting.

Committee List & Appointments:

SWEB voted to approve the committee appointments per the committee list dated December 2014. For a complete list of committee members, please visit our web site at www.seiu668.org.

Staff Special Retirement Window:

SWEB voted to authorize the officers to provide a special retirement window to all SEIU 668 staff from January 1, 2015 up to and including December 31, 2016.

Important 2015 Dates:

- *Inauguration of Governor Wolf – 1/20/14*
- *Raise the Wage 2015 Kickoff – 1/27/14*
- *Keystone Progress PA Progressive Summit – 2/6/14 to 2/7/14*
- *Governor's Budget Address – 3/3/14*
- *SWEB, 3/14/14 to 3/15/14*
- *PBPC 2015 Budget Summit – 3/25/14*
- *SWEB (Conference Call) – 6/20/14*
- *SWEB – 9/19/14*
- *SWEB – 12/12/14*

Make a Difference – Be a Steward!

By SEIU 668 President Kathy Jellison

When I was first hired at Torrance State Hospital in November of 1973 I was approached by the AFSCME steward to sign up as a member. Being from western Pennsylvania, a strong union area and knowing that my father belonged to a union and my grandfather before him fought to bring a union into the coalmines, it was a no-brainer for me. I have some memory of sitting on my grandfather's knee, only to be sent outside to play when he had one of his "spells". My grandfather would cough up black tar and blood and eventually dies from Black Lung. He died fighting, but not achieving the benefits of belonging to a union. My father worked for

Westinghouse until a long and bitter strike. Things were tight during that time but my dad never complained or said a bad word about the union. Raising 6 children, he needed and appreciated every hard-won benefit the union provided to him and every other worker.

Fast-forward 41 years. Many of our new employees coming through the door do not have any union background or experience. They do not know of the hard-fought battles that got them the pay and benefits they enjoy. Since union density has declined over the years, many of their parents were not union members, even though they benefitted from the union movement and all that it achieved for working families. This is the future of work and the future of our union and we **MUST** assure this generation of workers both knows and understands the history of unions, and what we stand to lose without them.

During the 60's and 70's, corporate wealth was shared among the workers. The economy was booming and healthy. Since that time, corporate wealth has moved to a point where the top 1% control almost everything – and they want to take it all away from the workers who put them there. Make no mistake, unless and until we can build our membership to be ready for the fights ahead, we will lose at the bargaining table and face the real fear of losing unions all together. All that we fought for: wages, pensions, healthcare, paid leave- will be gone or at the whim of the employer.

As a steward and the hardest working link of the union, you must continue to approach new members and to sign them up as full dues-paying members of SEIU 668. Take them to lunch (and submit your expenses to do so) or do a shop orientation and explain the contract to them, explain the benefits, the pay and the pension they will earn because of their union. Explain why it is important to give to COPE and that it can easily be deducted from their pay so we can assure we elect union-friendly and working-family friendly candidates. And explain to them that they are a vital link to build power as we face the battles ahead for unions.

Thank you for your stewardship and for passing the torch to the next generation of leaders.