Human Services Campaign/Justice for Working Families/Fight for a Fair Economy
The Human Services Campaign and state budget battles are long-term battles for both state and non-state workers. We will need to be very active on lobbying the 2014-15 state budget.

Legislators recognize two areas in determining who they listen to – campaign contributions and votes. Rallies, demonstrations and phonecalls/emails/visits can have some effect on them, too. Labor unions don’t always have the money but we do vote and we get out the vote. We all work in jobs that are affected by politics. We all must be proactive in politics for our clients and our jobs. We need to come out for rallies and protests, in purple, and call/write/visit legislators. If that’s all we can do, it will help greatly since that will give 668 leaders much more power in talking and lobbying with legislators. All 668 members should be contributing to the 668 Committee on Political Education (COPE) fund since almost all of us work for the state, counties and municipalities! The highest percentage of members giving in a chapter is 25%. At least 50% of members in every 668 chapter should be contributing to COPE. Politics affect our jobs daily, especially when the governor is intent on privatizing the Pa. Lottery, the state liquor stores, education and possibly even much of the Dept. of Public Welfare as well as totally change the state pensions system! I was told by a State Rep. yesterday that the priority for the legislature in 2014 is state pensions “reform.”

The Human Services Campaign and state budget battles are long-term battles for both state and non-state workers. The governor will present his proposed budget the first week of February.

Statewide Executive Board meetings March 8 and June 21, 2014
A great deal of time at the meeting was again devoted to the union 2013-14 budget. The estimated member and fair sharers were both overestimated and consequently spending exceed income for budget year 2012-13. $600,000 was moved from the strike/emergency fund in September to make up the shortfall in the 2012-13 budget. I had asked for the number of members and fair sharers to be provided to SWEB monthly beginning in January, 2013. This was not done. The shortfall was discovered at the end of August. Monthly income and expenses sheets will be provided to SWEB from now on. The Budget/Finance Committee will meet the Friday afternoons before all SWEB meetings from now on to review the budget status and see if change to it need to be made. The number of members and fair sharers in the 2013-14 budget has been decreased. What apparently happened is that more members and fair sharers retired or took other jobs and they were not replaced. 668 continues to have a shortfall in income so SWEB adopted a number of cost-saving measures recommended by the Budget/Finance Committee at the December SWEB meeting. Further measures may need to be taken at the March SWEB meeting to avoid 668 staff layoffs.

A great deal of discussion at the SWEB meeting in the morning was about the SEIU Discovery Report and Recommendations based upon interviews with about 50 668 officials and activists, as well as the Human Services Campaign.

The Robert Reich film, “Inequality For All,” was shown before the end of the SWEB meeting. I highly recommend you watch it. It is a movie on behalf of the middle class. http://inequalityforall.com/

668 is attempting to put grievance software online to eliminate relying on paper.

668 is conducting an ongoing Membership Drive. Due to changes in fair share fee chargeables, the contribution for fair share members is now 61.7 % of regular dues, meaning the fair share fee is now .86 % of gross compensation.

New 668 store items are available and payment will be able to be made online shortly.

Expenses reimbursements and per diems for members can be expedited by signing up for direct payments of them to your bank account.

Chapter Budget
The chapter budget for 2013-14 was approved by the chapter via email. The original amount was $12540 but it actually is $12552, still nearly $900 less than the 2012-13 chapter budget.

Remember, a Chapter 13 policy is to pay for lunches for four shop meetings a year, preferably via direct billing to 668 HQ if a caterer or restaurant is used.
A new line item to chapter budgets will be inserted in chapter budgets to capture member events and activities.

**Communications**

Send me a request to join the SEIU Local 668 Chapter 13 group on Facebook if you want to be included even if you were already a member of the group.

The 668 website has been upgraded by the new Communications Director, Christopher Hundley. Please check it out if you haven't already. Videos for 668 Grassroots Training Modules and for the History of 668 are now on the website. More and more emails from 668 headquarters on issues should be going out to members who signed up to receive email from 668. Text messages are next. 668 has also started a semi-annual called “The Engagucator” that every member should have received by now.

**Committee Appointments**

I am looking for Chapter 13 members to serve as chapter representatives to the Drug and Alcohol, Mental Health/Mental Retardation, Municipal Services, Office of Inspector General, State Correctional Institutions and State Miscellaneous work committees.

**Thanks**

Thanks for all you do in representing our members, and in negotiating and enforcing contracts. Thank you for serving as chapter 13 officials and as work and standing committee representatives for the chapter. Special thanks must go to Administrative Staffer Deanna Sobetsky and business agents Neil Brown, Bill Major and Michelle Williard.

**MEETINGS, RALLIES, ETC., I and/or Chapter 13 Members were at or will be at**

**Attended:**

1/8/14 – Prep Lehigh Valley Labor Council monthly newsletter for mailing, Allentown
1/14/14 – Winter Cocktail Party for Bethlehem City Democratic Committee, Edge, Bethlehem
1/15/14 – Lehigh Valley Labor Council meeting, Allentown
1/16/14 - Schuykill Central Labor Council meeting,
1/18/14 – United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley TeenWorks Kickoff Dinner, Northampton
1/20/14 – Carbon County Central Labor Chapter meeting, Lansford
1/22/14 – Governor candidates’ visit, Lehigh University, Bethlehem
1/30/14 – 668 SWEB conference phonecall
1/30/14 – Pete Schweyer for State Rep. candidacy announcement
2/6/14 – 668 SWEB conference phonecall
2/11/14 - Monroe Pike Central Labor Council meeting, East Stroudsburg
2/12/14 - Prep LVLC monthly newsletter for mailing, Allentown
2/12/14 – Annual meeting of stockholders of Labor Temple Association of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown
2/17/14 – Mike Schlossberg for State Rep. re-election kickoff, Allentown
2/18/14 – Dan McNeil for State Rep. re-election kickoff,
2/19/14 – Katie McGinty for Governor reception, Bethlehem
2/20/14 – SCLC meeting,
2/20/14 – 668 SWEB conference phonecall
2/21/14 – Walter Felton for State Sen. Kickoff party, Allentown
3/7/14 - 668 Budget/Finance Committee meeting, Harrisburg
3/7/14 – 668 Chapter Chairpersons meeting, Harrisburg
3/8/14 – 668 CAO Rank & File Committee meeting, Harrisburg
3/8/14 – 668 SWEB quarterly meeting, Harrisburg
3/11/14 – MPCLC meeting, East Stroudsburg
3/11/14 - Prep LVLC monthly newsletter for mailing, Allentown
3/18/14 -
6/21/14 – 668 SWEB quarterly meeting by conference phonecall
7/9/14 – 668 Chpt. 13 meeting, Frackville
12/6/13 – 12/7/13 – 668 CAO Rank & File Committee meeting, Harrisburg
12/7/13 – 668 SWEB meeting and holidays luncheon, Harrisburg

**Upcoming:**

Triennial 668 election
9/13/14 – 668 SWEB quarterly meeting, Harrisburg
10/1/14 – 668 Chpt. 13 meeting, Bethlehem
10/
11/4/14 – General Election
12/6/13 – 668 SWEB quarterly meeting and holidays luncheon, Harrisburg
12/2014 – 668 Chpt. 13 meeting, Frackville

Respectfully submitted,
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