Message from the President, by Tom Herman

Thank you to all new and returning Shop Stewards for answering the call. As a Steward, you are the face of SEIU Local 668 for your colleagues and management. You are now an organizer, a problem solver, an educator, a communicator, an advocate, an activist, a new member recruiter, a COPE fundraiser, and above all a worksite leader.

I know firsthand that it is difficult to juggle your work and family responsibilities, alongside the worksite issues your co-workers face daily. Nevertheless, it is rewarding and critical to improving your life and the lives of our members. Thank you for the work that you have done, begun to do, and will continue to do. You are on the frontlines for our members every day. Without you, there is no union.

Your election by your peers is a sign of their confidence in your ability to carry out the responsibilities of a Steward. They believe in your ability to get the job done. But you are not alone. Let us know what you need to be more effective. Reach out to your Chapter Chair and your Business Agent, and we will work to provide you with the tools you need to be successful. Whether you need training, materials, or advice, we will find the resources to make sure that you can advocate for, educate, and mobilize our members.

We must be more vigilant than ever. We have members of the State Legislature threatening to move State Unit members into 401k plans. We have others trying to make Pennsylvania a Right-to-Work state. Corporate special interest groups continue to use the National Right-to-Work Legal Defense Foundation and other similar legal entities to bring union-busting cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. They will not stop until they take away our basic rights to join a union and to bargain a contract. Therefore, we must not stop in our efforts to engage our existing members, sign up agency fee payers, and sign up every new employee that walks through the door.

While we do not have the money of the big corporations, we do have some financial resources afforded to us by our COPE contributors. However, we have other forms of power that make us even stronger. We have the power to negotiate with management for better contracts. We have the power of many voices and many votes at the polls. We have the power to take a stand, to organize our members, our legislators, and our communities, to maintain and improve our rights and protections as workers. We have the power of our union.

Through you, we exercise that power, which is why you are so vitally important. On behalf of SEIU Local 668, I thank you for leading our members in the fight to improve their lives and the lives of Pennsylvania’s working families.

I look forward to working with you all.
March 2015 Summary of Motions

Approval of Minutes: The Statewide Executive Board (SWEB) voted to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2104 meeting.

Committee List & Appointments: SWEB voted to approve the committee appointments per the committee list dated March 2015. For a complete list of committee members, please visit our web site at www.seiu668.org.

SWEB Code of Conduct: SWEB voted to approve the revised Statewide Executive Board Code of Conduct as amended.

SEIU 668 2014-2015 Budget: SWEB voted to approve adjusting the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget to add back the Scranton Administration Staff position and Scranton office rental expense effective April 1, 2015.

Resolution: SWEB voted to adopt a resolution to rename the Edmund Pettus Bridge to the John Lewis Bridge.

Membership Drive Competition: SWEB voted to approve awarding a SEIU 668 fleece jacket to the Board member who submits the most membership cards during the period of time from March 14, 2015 through the June 20, 2015 SWEB meeting.

Task Force on Local’s Future: SWEB voted to authorize President Tom Herman to appoint a Task Force to review the Local’s resources and make recommendations for appropriate allocations.