

## **Email Update\_4.6.2020**

We had some updates from today, and this weekend that we'd like to share with all of our members. Again, if you have additional questions, we ask that you please review the [COVID-19 section](#) of our website (<http://www.seiu668.org/covid19/>) or email additional questions to [Local668@seiu668.org](mailto:Local668@seiu668.org) where we can direct it the appropriate staff member.

### **SEIU 668 Round Table Discussion with PA Legislators**

This Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM, we'll be hosting a discussion with a number of legislators from across Pennsylvania. We'll have members representing different types of shops kick things off with a brief overview of what they've been experiencing these last few weeks. We'll be taking live questions from legislators for members, and we will end by asking pre-submitted member questions to legislators.

At this time, there are approximately 400 open slots for dues-paying members to register for this event on Thursday. If you are interested in viewing this discussion or submitting a question to legislators, we encourage you to register today through the link below—we expect slots to fill quickly, and we will close registration once all slots have been filled. To register, you must complete all of the questions—if we're unable to verify you or your membership, you will not be permitted to enter this event.

If there are questions you'd like to submit for legislators to answer during this event, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/ckR2qh1V6C4k4Hjs6>

Register for Thursday's Roundtable Discussion now:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vJEuf-qqpzMiZLqtoqDVcS\\_mXEsrCMilXA](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vJEuf-qqpzMiZLqtoqDVcS_mXEsrCMilXA)

### **DHS**

Earlier this morning, a number of our shops received the first shipment of masks to be worn at work. We're asking every member who received a mask to please, wear it during work to protect your fellow co-workers from potential exposure.

And a quick note on the masks themselves-- they are union made. The company producing the masks, Majestic, is owned by Fanatics, and they are located in Easton, PA. The PA Joint Board of Workers United / SEIU has approximately 500 members that work in manufacturing and distribution, and they normally manufacture the MLB baseball players' custom uniforms and licensed apparel. They are currently operating with a reduced staff to maintain social distancing guidelines while manufacturing these cloth masks for the general public. So special thanks to these union workers for creating the masks for our very own members to use!

A survey is going out this week to all CAO workers to assess the viability of telework—when you get that email at your office, please make sure you answer it honestly and as quickly as you can. When we get additional information on if/when telework will be implemented, we'll share that immediately.

### **FFCRA Leave**

The Federal Families First Coronavirus Relief Act goes into effect as of today—this will allow essential employees who are not classified as emergency responders to access up to 80 hours of emergency leave. This leave can cover childcare issues, self-quarantine, and sick time all due

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to COVID-19. There is a specific hotline where all employees are encouraged to call to learn how this Act directly impacts their job—we encourage everyone to contact this hotline instead of your local HR since it seems that not every HR rep has updated information.

Pennsylvania FFCRA HR Hotline: 717-346-2720

Learn more about the FFCRA here:

<http://www.seiu668.org/files/2020/04/FFCRA-Poster-WH1422-Non-Federal.pdf>

### **Bucks County**

We received some good news for our members in Bucks County— Commissioner DiGirolamo stated that the County is going to do everything that it can to avoid layoffs or furloughs. He said it is very important to him, and the other Commissioners, that they continue to pay our members during this time. Starting on Wednesday, employees will continue to receive their salary whether they are able to work from home or not. All essential employees who must continue to come into the office and/or interact with the public, including those in the Youth Center, will be getting their base pay plus additional compensation per hour that they're interacting with the public.

### **PA DoH Guidelines on Universal Masking**

As more of our shops are receiving PPE including masks, it's important to take a moment to familiarize yourself with how they work. First, *never* touch the front of the mask—to keep your mask as clean as possible, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing your mask. Second, masks should be removed and put on from *the side or back*, again touching only the elastic and never the front. Third, your mask should be washed *frequently* with soap and scalding hot water, and dried completely before being used again.

Find complete masking guidelines from the PA DoH here:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Homemade%20Mask%20Guidance.pdf>

And additional information from the CDC here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

### **SEIU 668 Member COVID-19 Townhall**

This month, we'll be holding a tele-townhall with statewide officers Steve Catanese and JoAnne Sessa. We will again be utilizing the Zoom platform and requiring members to pre-register for the call. We will be taking question submissions beginning Wednesday for next week's call--we want to ensure that we have detailed answers for questions and can answer as many questions as possible in the allotted timeframe. We will also be limited in the number of questions to ensure that all shops are equally represented, and strongly encourage our Local Units to attend and submit questions.

A separate email for members to submit questions will be released on Wednesday. In the meantime, please register for next week's Member Townhall today.

Register for 668's COVID-19 Townhall now:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Asf-mrrTlrleHuRzNEnQmwu5kdKHIC4Q>

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### **Useful Links:**

[SEIU 668 COVID-19 Website](#)

<http://www.seiu668.org/covid19/>

[Sign Up to Receive SEIU 668 Emails](#)

<http://bit.ly/contactinfo668>

[Join our private Together We Rise! Facebook Group](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SEIU668TogetherWeRise/>

[PA Department of Health](#)

<https://www.health.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

[PA Unemployment Compensation Claims Statistics](#)

<https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/Pages/UC-Claim-Statistics.aspx>