



# BOTTOMLINE

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by: DANIEL FIELDS JR



### SEASON'S GREETING

Well, we are almost to the end of another year, and what a year it has been. We have had some highs and lows throughout this year, but all-in-all I believe the highs out weigh the lows. Politically this has been one of the best years that we have had in a very long time. Through your participation and actions we were able to elect Barack Obama as the new President of the United States of America. Not only was Mr. Obama elected, but also the House and Senate changed as well to a mixture that we believe support the working class such as ourselves. In the District of Columbia, I am proud to say that every person that we supported that ran for a Council seat won.

In D.C. we endorsed Muriel Bowser (Ward 4), Marion Barry (Ward 8), Yvette Alexander (Ward 7) and Michael Brown and Kwame Brown for Council Member at Large. Not only did we endorse these Candidates, but

we had member volunteers door knocking, literature dropping and campaigning at the election polls on election day. Some of you saw us at the Brooklyn Metro Station campaigning for Michael Brown. I can not tell you the thanks that we have received from these candidates and the requests that we are getting from future candidates. The politicians know that if SEIU, Local 722 supports you, we will also work to get you elected.

That brings me to a very important program that we need to get off of the ground. That program is our COPE. COPE stands for Committee on Political Education. I have spoken before in our newsletter about COPE and our desire to get you, the membership, signed up for COPE. It is because of COPE that we were able to get many of the politicians elected. COPE is the Union's arm to raise money for political activities. Union's try to refrain from using the general membership dues to contribute to political candidates. In that light we must raise money through COPE.

In the near future we will be coming to you to ask you to sign up for COPE. **This is strictly voluntary.** We have

already negotiated with Children's Hospital and the Washington Hospital Center for automatic payroll deduction for the members that sign up for COPE. Already each member of SEIU, Local 722's Executive Board donates twenty (\$20) a month to COPE.

Don't worry, we are not asking you to donate that much. But, every little bit helps. If every member signs up for five (\$5) dollars a month, that would be perfect. If not five (\$5) dollars then may be two (\$2) or three (\$3). I know, many of you are going to say, "I already pay union dues, why should I donate to COPE?" That answer is easy. It is easy, because due to COPE deductions throughout the SEIU Family, which is about two million (2,000,000) strong, we were able to knock on 3,390,796 doors, make 16,537,523 phone calls, send 5,125,378 pieces of mail, register 102,206 new voters, help 10,992 voters vote early or by absentee and get the majority of the Candidates, nationwide, that we endorsed elected.

After all of that, the job is really just beginning. Now that Mr. Obama has been elected and we have a more friendly House and

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## From Jena To Denver

A Personal Journey ( part 2) By Marchel Smiley



### JENA



### DENVER



### WHITE HOUSE



**8:00 pm Thursday  
August 28, 2008  
Denver, CO**

Wow, I'm actually here. The place is abuzz with anticipation. The stars are aligned tonight, we've come to witness the dream fulfilled. In little more than an hour, Sen. Obama and family will take stage exactly forty (40) years after Dr. King's Prophetic speech.

It was clearly evident to me after the South Carolina primary on January

26 that history was going to be made in August at the Democratic Convention. Although I was not a delegate and did not have convention credentials, I was going to be in Denver come hell or high water.

**Fast forward to Monday August 25.** I'm here in downtown Denver. Thousands are standing outside the Pepsi Center, purchasing souvenirs or just strolling the downtown streets. Many like me, are without credentials, but felt compelled to be here. There are hundreds of activities where credentials are not required. SEIU is hosting a

Forum on the Employee Free Choice Act at Tambien Restaurant at 10 am. The DNC Black Caucus meets from 10:30 to Noon. Mrs. Michelle Obama is tonight's featured speaker. **Tuesday** SEIU is hosting a Forum on Healthcare Reform at the Performing Arts Center at 9:30 am, the DC Delegation is staging a protect/rally at the US Mint at 11 am, the Denver AFRAM Caucus is hosting a reception in my honor at Boneyards Sports Bar at 6 pm At the reception I'm given

## Jena to Denver Continue

*(Continued from page 2)*

credentials for Thursday night, Sen. Hilary Rodham Clinton is Tuesday's featured speaker. **Wednesday** the DNC is sponsoring community projects beginning at Noon, the DNC Black Caucus meet from 10:30 to noon, SEIU is hosting a Rally for Healthcare Reform at the Sunken Gardens Part at 2:30; Bill Clinton and Joe Biden are Wednesday's featured speakers.

**Thursday August 28:** 9:00 am my cell is buzzing, SEIU is calling to say be at their headquarter hotel before Noon to pick up a credential for tonight. 9:30 my cell is buzzing, John Cuff an AFRAM member and Delegate from Oregon is calling to say meet him at 11:00 he has a credential for me. 10:00 my cell is buzzing Dian Palmer, AFRAM member and President of 1199 Wisconsin is calling to say she has a credential for me, Noon my cell is buzzing, Fred Allen called to say the DC Democratic Party had a credential for me by order of party chairwoman Anita Bonds. To show how blessings overflow, I was walking down the street and ran into Fred Mason, President of the Maryland/DC AFL-CIO, Fred is a former SEIU member and AFRAM Vice President, and he had an extra credential.

In less than 24 hours I have 8 credentials. I realize more than ever one reason I came was to be a blessing to others who did not have credentials. Now it was my turn to call and offer credentials to people I knew did not have any. I also gave two credentials to a mother and daughter I did not know, I happened to over hear them talking on the light rail about their desire to attend. The joy on their faces was worth more than gold.

### 8:30 pm Thursday August 28

The credential I have is not just a regular seat in the open stadium, mine is an executive box seat. We have access to the lounge area with all the restaurants and bars. I've seen Jennifer Hudson, Bernice King, Martin Luther King, III, Will.i.am, John Legend and Stevie Wonder. Emotions are building the atmosphere is like a Super Bowl. A celebrity spotting here, a big time politician waving there. And here I am, the Or-

derly from WHC the Wildcat for Lucy C. I am here to witness history.

Just forty (40) years ago to the date, a chosen of God, shared his vision of an America where a man would be judged, not by the color his skin, but by the content of his character. Now amiss the flashing cameras, flowing tears and grateful hearts, Sen. Barack Obama takes the stage and say, I accept your nomination for Presidency of the United States.

I don't think I heard anything else that night. As I Walk away from the stadium, there are fireworks exploding, people singing and many still crying. Two thoughts are heavy in my thought, God do indeed sit high and reaches low, and all things are possible if you prepare and believe.

**Change  
We Can  
Believe In.**

From Jena To  
Denver To The  
White House !!!

Believe and you  
can achieve

Change Will Come  
But Who Said It  
Would Be Easy

## History Making Election



America has spoken and history has been made. Brothers and Sisters after the stain of slavery and all of it's aftermath we have elected our first African American President.

But as the glow of victory fades, the challenges of governing will now begin.

The process was hard enough, but the challenge to change will be even more enormous. We must have patience to allow the necessary changes to take place. Nothing will happen overnight. America did not get into this mess overnight and it would be foolish to believe



there will be a quick fix.

Wow, people finally get it, Humanity has absolutely nothing to do with the color of one's skin.

I know that for many, emotions are running high, but let's not get caught up in the hype. President Obama will be taking over when the country is at it's worse ever. And please remember that many did not support his rise to the Presidency. Many are not only expecting failure, but are plotting to assure failure.

I urge and encourage each of you to do your part to assist this nation

in healing old wounds, bridging togetherness, fostering camaraderie and everything you can think of that will help elevate our nation to the next level.

Stay prayerful for the Obama family. Our new first family will need all of us to support them and the vision of our nation.

For all of you that participated in the process, you participated in a very historical event. For those of you who did not participate, please remember the words of Dan Fields Jr.

**“If You Don't Participate, Don't Complain”**

### President's report continued.....

*(Continued from page 1)*

Senate, we must now start lobbying for Universal Healthcare and Employee Free Choice Act, and assistance for home foreclosure, etc... As you know this all takes money, and this is where COPE comes in. For more information on COPE feel free to call the Union Office. We need you to become

politically active and we need you to sign up for COPE. Also, I invite all of you to visit our website at [www.seiu722.org](http://www.seiu722.org) to get up to date information on what we are doing politically.

You can also see how some of your co-workers have gotten involved in this political process. .



## SEIU INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

### A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

Being union members enables working families to fulfill their dreams in many different ways, including the pursuit of higher education. To help make those dreams become realities, SEIU offers scholarship opportunities for our members and their children.

The 2009 - 2010 Application period for all SEIU International Scholarship programs have begun. The following information will help you prepare for the application period launch.

#### SEIU LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS

(Access key is "seiu") A total of 48 lottery scholarships are awarded annually. Fifteen \$1000 scholarships renewable for up to for years as well as 33 \$1500 scholarships for one year of study.

#### SEIU MOE FONER SCHOLARSHIP

(Access key is "seimf") One \$5000 nonrenewable scholarship is available to students

who are pursuing a degree or training in the visual or performing arts, and who believe that the arts are a vehicle to advance social change.

#### SEIU JESSE JACKSON SCHOLARSHIP

(Access key is "seijj") One \$5000 scholarship renewable for up to four years is given to a student whose work and aspirations for economic and social justice reflect the values and accomplishments of the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

#### SEIU JOHN GEAGAN SCHOLARSHIP

(Access key is "seijg") One \$5000 scholarship to be expanded over 24 months (\$2500 per year) The annual scholarship is for SEIU members, their children, and local staff who want to pursue a college degree in labor studies. The John Geagan scholarship was created primarily to serve those applicants who are not served by traditional education institutions. Typically adults who

have been in the workforce and have decided to go, or return to college.

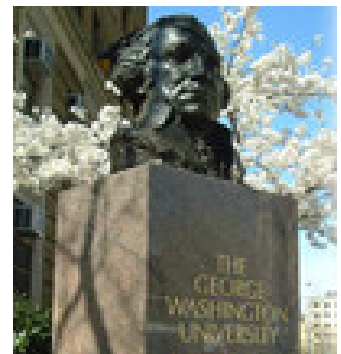
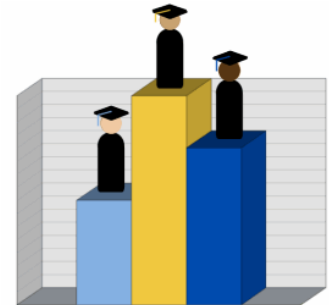
If interested please contact Marshall Jackson in the emergency room at Children's Hospital (202)476-5203 or you can go online to:

[WWW.APPLYISTS.NET](http://WWW.APPLYISTS.NET)

Members should be reminded that only SEIU members of three or more years and their children are eligible to apply.

**Applications should be filed online by midnight March 2, 2009 or postmarked by March 2, 2009 and mailed to SEIU Scholarship Program c/o ISTS, P.O. Box 23737, Nashville, TN 37202-3737.**

Scholarships will be awarded and winners notified in late spring of 2009. All of the awards will be announced on [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org) in the fall of 2009.



## The Role of The Shop Steward

Many of our members have forgotten that the Shop Steward is an employee just like everyone else. The shop steward has an obligation to perform the duties that the employers hired them to do. So please remember that is their first priority. You must respect their work time and schedules just as they must respect yours.

As an SEIU Local 722 Shop Steward, your job involves much more than handling grievances. Although grievances are important, they are not the only focus of the steward. They are just the most visible aspect that the members are aware of.

Stewards are also organizers. It doesn't just mean signing up new members, although it means that too. It means stewards are responsible for organizing the whole workplace to deal with problems as a united group. And organizing committees that benefit the members.

Stewards are also problem solvers. They're the person workers turn to with their problems. It might be a work-site hazard. Maybe some-

one's been fired, or perhaps word on the street is that layoffs are threatened. It might be just a new employee with a question. Perhaps you can solve the problem with a friendly word, or maybe you'll organize a worksite action or file a grievance. Problem solving is the territory of the steward. You do your very best. Nobody is perfect.

Stewards are educators and communicators. The contract, the employer's policies and even the health insurance plan. How can I do this? Why did they do that? It's a complicated world, and members are counting on the steward to help them make sense of it. The steward must be knowledgeable themselves so they can communicate the right information. Equally important, the union officers are counting on you the steward to help them keep in touch with your co-workers. You work with them every day. They don't.

Stewards are the worksite leaders. Stewards are the one who keeps it moving. They're the one who's not afraid to speak up to management. They make unity happen, and they never let anyone forget there's a un-

ion at your worksite. (*Nobody said this job is easy.*) But it must be fair. This is really important.

Labor unions are required by law to represent all workers in the unit fairly and completely. This includes *non-members* as well as your union members. It's legally known as the duty of fair representation or DFR. Of course, you don't need to be told that you must represent all workers fairly regardless of their race, religion, nationality, age, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Stewards may find that they have to represent workers who oppose the union, as well as those who are unpopular, difficult to work with, or who create discord in the union or the workplace. No matter. Fair is fair. This doesn't mean the union can't lose a grievance or make a mistake. It does mean that every action you take as a steward must be free from bias or the appearance of bias.

This is a very challenging responsibility. Do you have the desire to take it on. If so, contact the union office. More Shop Stewards are always needed.



## SHARE THE WORD



God is leaving my house now and headed to yours. Is he welcome at yours? Will you receive him with love, accept his blessings and send him to other houses so he can bless them. He will arrive at your door and knock. If you hear his voice and open the door, he will come in and eat with you at your table. He will bless you abundantly. He knows all about your troubles. He can relieve you of those troubles. All you have to do is believe.

You see, unbelief puts circumstance between us and God. However, faith puts God between us and our circumstances. "Wisdom" knows what to do next. Do you know what to do? Did you know that we don't always see things as they are? We often see things as we are? Praying is your next step. Prayer can be your assistant. Did you know that prayer either changes things for you or changes you for things? Let prayer become a part of your daily life.

So believe in him, pray to him, hear him, allow him to move on your behalf, let him bless you and send

him to someone else's house. Never keep him to yourself. Share him with everyone you know. Allow him to bless them also.

If we are to be like our Lord, we must not give preferential treatment to people because of their social status, their position of authority, their race, their age, or their sex. We must respect all equally and extend equality to all, as the Lord does. Because God is no respecter of persons, what He will do for one, He will do for another, according to their response of faith in His Word

### Share The Word

## SEIU LOCAL 722 WEBSITE

The SEIU Local 722 website is up and running. There are many new features on the site. I'd like to encourage our members to log on and leave your email addresses. Doing so will give us another way of communicating with you.

We'd like to start sending this newsletter via

the internet. There will be opportunities to vote on issues, give feedback or suggestions about the picnic or other events sponsored by the local. Share your issues about your worksite or your community. Read about what other SEIU members are doing.

You have other sugges-

tions, let us know. This is your union, so make sure you participate. Take ownership of it.

Log in at:

[WWW.SEIU722.ORG](http://WWW.SEIU722.ORG)

Let us hear from you on how we are doing to better communicate with you.

### Membership Meeting

Third Saturday of every month

2pm - 5pm

Share the Word



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N.W. SUITE 100  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
20009

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## WHC New Contract

We are very pleased to announce that SEIU Local 722 and the Washington Hospital Center have reached an agreement on a new contract.

Just like with all negotiations, nothing was easy. There is always a give and take from both parties.

The local 722 negotiation team worked hard to bring back the very best contract we could get.

Everything may not have gone our way, however, the

consistent determination of all who participated is to be applauded. The leadership of Local 722 would like to thank the following members for their tireless participation in this process: Yvonne Andrews, Precious Freeman, Johnny Green, Carl Malone, Orne Banks-Hopkins, Shelia Love, Phyllis Turpin, Barbara Taylor, Bernadette Guthrie-Sims, Aaron Anderson, Michael Jeter, Leon Reed Marchel Smiley and Dan Fields.

We are the Service Employees International Union, an organization of 2 million members united by the belief in the dignity and worth of workers and the services they provide and dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families and creating a more just and humane society.