



# BOTTOMLINE

Issue # 40  
JUNE 2008

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT by: DANIEL FIELDS JR



On Saturday, May 10, 2008 we held our annual Retiree's Dinner. As the President of Local 722, I can honestly tell you that it is one of the most enjoy-

able duties of my position. It is enjoyable for me because I get to see a lot of familiar faces and we get to honor some of the members who actually fought to get the Union at the Washington Hospital Center (WHC), Children's Hospital and Fresenius (BMA). It is truly enjoyable to converse with the Retirees and to hear how atrocious the working conditions and salaries were before the Union was in existence at these facilities, and how it was after they received Union representation.

*Out of the same mouth comes praise and cursing. My Brothers & Sisters*

*This should not be !!!*

sacrificed so we can enjoy many of the things that we have today. Just as the Retirees fought in the past to get a lot of the benefits that we enjoy today, we must now fight to keep them. We began forming a Union at WHC in 1973 and at Children's in 1978. Who could have predicted back then what the Union would become. We have lead the way on the job, such as being the first to negotiate short and long term disability at WHC. We have lead the way in the area by being one of the first to have Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a holiday in the private sector in Washington, D.C..

We also have been one of the leaders in getting politicians elected that are for working people like you, and because of that we have been able to help get laws passed, such as the D.C. Family Leave Act, and the Safe Needle Act.

Sometimes we forget what happened in the past. We also forget how people fought and

We have not been able to achieve these things

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Membership Meeting:	June	21	WHC
3rd Saturday of every month	July	19	CNMC
2pm till 5pm	Aug	16	WHC
Monthly rotation between WHC & CNMC Auditorium	Sept	20	CNMC
	Oct	18	WHC
	Nov	15	CNMC
	Dec	20	WHC

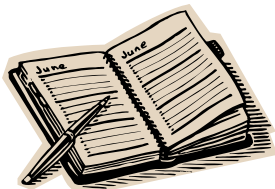


**Back Row - Left to Right - Michael Jeter, Denard Jarmon, Karen Johnson, Aaron Anderson, Marchel Smiley**  
**Front Row - Phyllis Turpin, Barbara Taylor, Daniel Fields Jr, Debra Davis, Gloria Bryant, Leon Reed**  
**Absent - Marshall Jackson, Orne' Banks, Sheila Love, Bernardette Guthrie**

## Greetings from the Executive Board

Don't forget membership meetings the 3rd Saturday of every month

Bring a friend with you !!!



Greetings from the Executive Board of SEIU Local 722.

We would like to Thank you all for the support you have given us throughout our tenure. It was you that elected us to represent you. We do not take this responsibility lightly.

We would like to encourage all of you to get more involved with the many things Local 722 have going on. We have many committees. The activities committee is always looking for assistance planning things that the members would enjoy. The grievance committee

welcomes your assistance in reviewing cases. The Communication committee would love your assistances in writing this newsletter. The education committee can use your assistance in finding scholarships for our members and their children. The C.O.P.E. continually reach out for help with political education. The organizing committee need volunteers to help organize non-union members as well as inform new-hires about the union. So there is always room for growth here at Local 722.

If you can't join a committee, we encourage

you to become familiar with the contract. It will help keep you on tract and free from some unnecessary disciplines. It will also allow you to share the correct information with your co-workers. Knowing the contract not only helps you, it also helps your co-workers. When you know what's right and you do what's right, then you will be leading by example. Do this and then become a Shop Steward. Now that's involvement.

The Washington Hospital Center Contract will expire soon. Have you made plans to participate in the process ?



- New: Free Prescription Savings Card Available
- New: AT&T Wireless Discount now available online
- Save on Union-made products & services
- Help your wallet and the environment

The ever increasing cost of prescription drugs is putting a strain on union families everywhere. If you or any household family members have no prescription drug coverage, now you can cut your costs by signing up for the **NEW FREE Union Plus Health Savings Prescription (Rx) Savings Card**.

With this new card, union families can save an average of 20% on brand name prescription drugs and 55% on generic drugs at over 53,000 pharmacies nationwide. There's also a mail order pharmacy available. Sign up and print your prescription card online. You can even check pharmacy and mail order prescription drug pricing online.

Download your Prescription Savings Card at [Union-plus.org/RxCARD](http://Union-plus.org/RxCARD).

Union members save 10% on wireless service from AT&T, the only wireless company

that proclaims it is "Proud to be Union." Now you can purchase a calling plan online -- with additional savings on phones and services. Members may also request the Union Plus discount by calling 1-800-897-7046 or by visiting a local AT&T store (not authorized dealers or kiosks.) (You may be asked to provide proof of union membership.) Get unionized wireless service at [Union-plus.org/ATT](http://Union-plus.org/ATT) or call 1 (800)897-7046 or 1 (877)833-1745.

Tune up your car to prepare for the spring/summer driving season using **Union Plus Goodyear discounts** good for 5-10% off service and union-made tires. Find more union-made savings at [Unionplus.org/union-made](http://Unionplus.org/union-made).

"Going green" is not only good for the environment but it can also be good for your wallet. By making simple, inexpensive changes you can save money at the gas pump and on your electric bill.

Passenger cars are responsible for 30 to 50% of greenhouse gas emissions and air pol-

## UNION BENEFITS

lution, 33% of toxic water pollution, and over 45% of toxic air emissions. But there are some **basic driving and maintenance habits that you can adjust**, such as making sure that you have clean oil and properly inflated tires which can increase fuel mileage up to 15%.

About 35% of all electricity produced is used to run homes. The EPA estimates that each homeowner could reduce home electricity use by 30% by **using energy more wisely and by purchasing energy efficient products**.



You can also do such things as unplugging seldom-used appliances and electronics, which could save you \$10 or more on your monthly electric bill.

Union Plus is not the answer to all of your needs, but there is help for some of your needs. Take advantage of the things Union Plus can do for you. Pass this information on to other Union members who may not be aware.

## Gap Between America's Rich and Poor Worsened in Past Two Decades



The gap between the wealthiest and the rest of us grew significantly during the past two decades, leaving lower- and middle-class families at more risk during the current economic downturn/recession confronting the nation.

Lower- and middle-income families are much more vulnerable to rough economic times and **income loss** because they have higher debt loads and are seeing the value of their homes plummet while wealthier families are likely to have savings and other assets to ride out the storm. In nearly every state in the nation, the rich continue to get richer, the middle class barely treads water and the poor get poorer.

The analysis, *Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends*, measured and compared income trends among the highest- middle- and lowest- income families from the late 1980s, the late 1990s and the mid 2000s. It found **income inequality** now at record levels began growing more quickly in the 1980s, slowed somewhat in

the 1990s and accelerated after 2001, the beginning of the first Bush recession.

The report notes that despite recent years of economic prosperity, lower- and middle-income families have reaped few of the gains.

The current disparity is greater today than during the 1980s, when income for the wealthiest was slightly more than twice that of middle-class families and six times that of the lowest- income families.

Growing income inequality is due to both economic trends and government policies, the report says.

Wages and salaries grew faster for those at the top of the income scale. Various factors explain growing wage inequality including long periods of higher-than-average unemployment, globalization, the shift from manufacturing jobs to low-wage service jobs, immigration, the weakening of unions, and the declining value of the minimum wage.

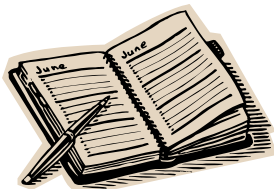
Those in the highest reaches of the income scale also reaped the benefits of the growth in the stock market through income from interest, dividends, and the sale of assets such as stocks.

States with the biggest increases in income disparities since the late 1980s are Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Alabama, New York, Kentucky, Maryland, Kansas, New Jersey and Washington State.

I'm quite sure you are feeling the pain of this economic crisis. I'm sure you can see many around you feeling the pain also.

I encourage you to make your voice heard by registering to vote and then participating in the process. Without participating you have no voice. I caution you to pay attention to all the issues that effect you and your loved ones. If You Don't Participate, Don't Complain.

Just behind the clouds is a sunbeam waiting to shine on you !!! Hang in there



### SEIU Members Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity New Orleans

Many of you may not realize it, but, there are areas that are still heavily damaged as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These hurricanes forced many musicians to flee New Orleans and many of them would love to return.

In March, some CNMC employees (Local 722 members) and some non-Local 722 members and their family members volunteered in New Orleans for a Habitat for Humanity Project. The Respiratory Therapy Group as they were called included workers from Respiratory Care Services, Emergency Department and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

They were assigned to work in the Musicians' Village in the Upper 9th Ward. The Musicians' Village was formed by Harry Connick, Jr. and Brandon Marsalis; and it is a project that will build approximately 70 single family, Habitat-

constructed homes primarily for displaced New Orleans musicians.

The group reported that they had the opportunity to work with some of the homeowners. "Some of the musicians that we worked with were Red Morgan and Windell Ricard." "They are required to give a minimum of 350 services hours to the project, and only 100 hours can be on their own home".

Carolyn Williams (R.T.) reports, "we were assigned various duties when we arrived every morning. Our work included, but was not limited to painting- inside and outside, measuring and installing baseboards and window sills, installing doors, working on the roof of the house and any other project as requested.

After work was completed, we were able to get a first hand look at the areas that were heav-

ily damaged. Sali Reeves (E.R. Tech) reports "I was very impressed by the youth from all over the country who gave up their spring break to volunteer".

There were a lot of areas, that still almost 3 years later have not been redeveloped.

This project had sentimental value for this group. They left feeling refreshed and with a sense of pride in their adventure for the week. Most of them had never attempted to do any of the project work performed on this trip.

They can honestly say they felt very good about their efforts in helping restore the city and make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you Executive Board Members of SEIU Local 722 for your support in this very important mission for us.



## America's Health Insurance Crisis



It's not really the lack of coverage that has the middle class losing sleep. It's an insurance system that covers too little, costs too much and leaves people afraid of falling through the cracks.

If you think health care problems are only for the uninsured, you are sadly mistaken.

A state employee in New Jersey pays very little for her health insurance. Trouble is, the coverage she has doesn't go far enough and, specifically, it doesn't cover her daughters' pediatrician, picked when she had a different job and coverage. She doesn't want to change doctors, and she says she can't afford to pay for their care out of her own pocket.

This is a trend that is happening all across America. So as you pay attention to the politicians running for office, don't let these type questions go unanswered. Whoever changes health-care to cover the un-

insured should also be reminded that the coverage of the insured has been dwindling away also.

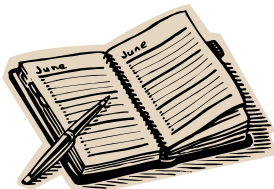
Higher health insurance premiums, higher deductibles and incompatibility between policies and family physicians are among the health care problems hurting millions of American families as employers look to transfer a portion of their skyrocketing costs to employees or opt for cheaper plans that offer less. The cost of health insurance in the U.S. rose 6.1% in 2007, outpacing both the 3.7% average increase in workers' wages and the 2.6% inflation rate, according to a September 2007 Kaiser Family Foundation report. Workers now pay an average of \$3,281 a year to cover their share of a family policy, the nonprofit research firm said.

To find lower prices, employers often shuffle from one plan to another. But for

employees, each change brings a different set of complicated choices. Some of the problems reach well beyond the headaches of paperwork. Often, trusted family doctors won't work with a new insurance plan. That can be painful when the doctor in question is a pediatrician who knows every nuance of a child's medical history. The same applies to adults. Think about the diabetic, the cancer patient, or any other life long illness that you or a family member may have. Your doctor of many years may have to drop you because of the type of insurance you have.

This is just a reminder that things aren't always the way they appear. Pay attention, stay informed and inform others. We all can use as much help as possible during these economic times and we need to keep our politicians mindful of us as they pass legislation that affects us.

You want to know what's happening with the WHC contract? Watch the bulletin board for meeting notices



## Washington Hospital Center Death Benefit

Article 12.3 calls for employees to receive a death benefit. The Washington Hospital Center shall provide a benefit of \$4,000 upon the death of retired bargaining unit employees who, upon retirement from the hospital, had at least twenty-five (25) years service with the hospital. Employees who have accumulated twenty (20) years service prior to October 26, 1993 shall be eligible for the death benefit without having

to accumulate further years of service with the hospital. The benefit shall be payable to the beneficiary designated by the eligible retiree.

Many of our retirees' have not designated their beneficiary, therefore the hospital has no idea who to make payment to. For all members / retirees' who are eligible for this benefit, please send a letter to the following:

Washington Hospital Center

Attn: Employee Relations

110 Irving Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20010

Your letter should include your name, date of hire, yrs of service, date of retirement, and name of your beneficiary.

Presidents Report continue .....

*(Continued from page 1)*

overnight. We have been able to accomplish a lot of these things due to our longevity, relationships that we have built with the politicians and community activist, other Unions, and the facilities that we represent. SEIU, Local 722 is well known in the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area. A lot of this is due to the people that we honored on May 10, 2008, but to keep it going we need you to get more active.

I remember when I was

first hired by Local 722, in September of 1985. It was my plan to work here for no more than five (5) years. It is now 2008 and I wonder where all the time has gone. I know many of us thought the same way when we were first hired. Recently I attended the WHC Employee's Award Dinner. At the dinner a statement was made that WHC has over 900 employees with twenty (20) or more years of service, and I bet that about two thirds (2/3) are in Local 722 represented positions. We

are the foundation of these facilities.

As I stood at the podium addressing the Retirees and looking into their proud faces I wished that many of you could have shared in the event. But, more importantly, I began to think about our future. I began to think about how we need to band together like our predecessors to obtain what we rightfully deserve, fair benefits and wages for a fair day's work. Our Retirees have already done the hard part all we need to do is to extend their legacies.

WHC  
retiree's  
please  
remember  
to identify  
your  
beneficiary

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## Prayer Changes Things



God is the joy and the strength of my life. Once I thought I didn't have time for him. A few of our members have concerns that this is really inappropriate for our newsletter. But many of you have spoken up to share your view on the matter. And I Thank You !!!

I realized that this kind of thinking is exactly what has caused a lot of the problems in our world today. We try to

keep God in church on Sunday morning, maybe, Sunday night, and, the unlikely event of a mid-week service.

We do like to have Him around during sickness, and, of course, at funerals; however, we don't have time, or room, for Him during work or play. Because that's the part of our lives we think we can, and should, handle on our own.

May God forgive me for ever thinking that way. There is no time or place where HE is not to be FIRST in my life. We

should always have time to remember all HE has done for us. That is if you aren't ashamed. Jesus said, 'If you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you before my Father.'

Yes, I do Love God.

HE is my source of existence and Savior. He keeps me functioning each and every day. Without Him, I will be nothing. But, with Christ, HE strengthens me. (Phil 4:13)

