

Town of Amherst SEIU888 Lunch Time News by Tina Swift

Okay, okay, so it's 6:30 a.m. Right about now, as I sip some coffee, I'm thinking, "What WAS I thinking??" But being your Chapter Chair is an important job. Here are a few tidbits of what's new.

Problems, Problems, Problems

If you have a problem at work and you need someone to talk to, SEIU888 can help. Email me, Tina, at tswifty7@hotmail.com. We'll talk. IF the situation goes as far as a grievance, I'll help you fill out the paperwork. Then either I or an elected steward will help you. I'm told (and I fully agree) that SEIU888 tries to resolve issues before a formal grievance proceeding is necessary. Some times facilitating clear communication can resolve what was seemingly a monumental stumbling block.

But you have to be patient. I and the other stewards must do this work when we are not working for the Town. AND, we're all new at this – we need to check with Boston frequently to get the correct information and advice. (The SEIU office is really in Charlestown, but it's easier to say Boston.)

Town of Amherst Parking Permits Are Available

Thank you to the Town for lowering the parking permit fee for employees. Now you have to do your part: Copy your license and registration. Fill out the form. Write a check for \$20 payable to the Town of Amherst. Put all in an envelope. Hopefully, someone in your department is bringing these documents in batches to the Central Services counter in Town Hall.

Big E Ticket Giveaway

Free tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis. You should be getting a flyer in the mail. To register, send an email with Big E in the subject line to: lkallishilbert@seiu888.org.

Put this in the message body:

Town of Amherst Chapter

Your Name

Your Address

Your Phone number

I want one or two [pick one] tickets to the Big E.

(After 8-25-08, you will be able to register online at www.seiu888.org.)

Let's Be Do Gooders

I think it's really important for 'the world at large' to see us not only as Town employees, but as committed, engaged members of the local community. Those of us who participated in the build for Habitat (with John Imbimbo as your Chapter Chair) had a very satisfying work experience. We also got to meet members of the community who had a new appreciation for our willingness to volunteer our valuable time. Consequently, we have taken on a project, listed below:

Painters Needed

The Community Resources for People with Autism needs their conference room painted. It's about 20' by 27' big and we need at least a crew of 4 people. If we can get 8 people, that would be fantastic. I'd like to be able to schedule people in shifts of two hours. All materials will be provided. You must sign up with me in advance. Email me at tswifty7@hotmail.com OR call me at 413-253-3013.

Where? East Works Building, Easthampton, Mass.

When? Saturday, September 27, 2008-08

Time? 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (work at least 2 hours, more if possible)

What Else? Lunch provided (you must sign up)

Sign Up call Tina 413-253-3013

[This activity is not limited to SEIU members; bring your loved ones – over age 12 – or your non-union coworkers.]

Behind the Scenes at SEIU888

Boston is recommending steward training. If you know of any SEIU888 members in the surrounding towns, let me know. If we have at least six people wanting the training we could have it here in Amherst.

Don't forget to check out the SEIU888 web site: www.seiu888.org.