

SEIU888 Town of Amherst Employees Lunchtime News January 2009

First of all, Happy New Year! This will be our best year yet! I know it, I can just feel it in my bones. And, as the new year brings us health, happiness, and joy, I want to remind everyone to look forward. We're not going to look back at our successes or losses, because this is the year to look forward only and create new successes.

Many of us are already struggling with the current economic downturn. While there have been no bargaining unit layoffs so far, the cutting of hours from positions and the elimination of part time help has greatly increased the work load for many of our members. But, as Tina Hardy (our area SEIU888 representative) reminded me today: SEIU888 stands for 8 hours of work, 8 hours of play, and 8 hours of rest. So we all owe it not only to ourselves, but to the Town to fully integrate and balance our lives so that we can give 100% when we are at work.

Personally, I am not a fan of new year's resolutions – they are too easy to break. Instead, I would like to suggest that we all work toward better communication and team work. If I can help you out, even though it's 'not my job,' I should do that. If you can ask me to help, rather than get angry when I don't notice that you need help, that seems like the better communication would be an asset to the work day.

Best Wishes,

Tina Swift

SEIU888

Town of Amherst

Chapter Chair/President

Free Dinner!

If you sign up for ...

SEIU888 Winter Workshop

January 12, 2009

5:30 p.m.

Springfield Central High School Cafeteria

1840 Roosevelt Avenue

Learn about Family Medical Leave Act and the Small Necessities Leave Act from author Robert Schwartz.

Sign up online at www.seiu888.org or call 617-241-330.

Hockey Can Be Free ...

The January 24 Springfield Falcons hockey game is a fundraiser to benefit the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System bookmobile program. The home game starts at 7 p.m. on Saturday, January 24 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, where the Falcons will play the Providence Bruins.

An added benefit is that members of the public who bring a new or lightly used hardcover children's book to the game will receive a coupon that they can use to purchase a ticket for the game on February 20 or 21, *and get a second ticket for free*. We will add the donated books to our bookmobile collection.

Below is a copy of your Weingarten Rights card. If you are called into a discussion with your supervisors, you may wish to bring a copy of this with you.

I REQUEST UNION REPRESENTATION

If my responses to your questions could lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or if they could adversely affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that you summon my union representative. Until my representative arrives, I choose not to answer any questions. **www.seiu888.org**

I'd like to extend a big hearty "Thank you!!" to Larry Shaffer, our Town Manager. We really appreciate the release time. We love our "Larry Days!"

Thank you to the people who contributed holiday toys to the Amherst Family Center Giving Tree. You know who you are and be assured that you made some children very happy!