



# News

September-October 2010

From the State Employees' Association of New Hampshire SEIU Local 1984

## 70th Convention in North Country

Soon over 200 members will convene for our 70th Annual Convention. What will our next 70 years hold? A glimpse at what prior conventions did might help us imagine the next 70 years:

In 1940 we began as a social organization, formed of approximately 80 state employees who wanted to discuss common concerns. SEA's first President, Harry Jackson, was the Deputy Secretary of State. In less than one year, the SEA had grown five times its original size because state employees realized their common issues needed collective attention – and dues were only \$1 a year!

By the 1960s, SEA represented more than 70% of state employees and was on its way to becoming a union by fighting for the right to collectively bargain. That right was finally won in



1973!

By the 1980s, the SEA began seeing a decline in unions across America. To ensure a strong future for members, the SEA decided to affiliate with the national union that was growing by leaps and bounds: Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

In 2,000 to emphasize the SEA was a member-driven union and to

create a stronger connection with members, daily oversight of the SEA was turned over to our first full-time paid President, Timothy Decker.

The next 70 years begins at our Convention and if you are a delegate, now is your chance to make history! Join us on October 30th and 31st at Attitash Grand Summit Resort, where we will set the stage for our future!

## Operation Santa Claus turns 50!

For the past 50 years, Operation Santa Claus volunteers have gone the extra mile to make life a little better for New Hampshire's neediest children.

Each holiday season, the SEA-run charity matches children in need with sponsors who purchase presents for them. The program started five decades ago when SEA members spontaneously decided to give presents to about two dozen children. During the past five decades, it has grown to serve more than 3,000 children each year.

The children are selected by District Office caseworkers from the Department of Health and Human Services. Their histories are heartbreaking – abandoned toddlers and abused teenagers; sons and

daughters whose parents died from accidents, illness or war; children from families who lost their homes after the parents lost their jobs. Operation Santa Claus makes sure each of these boys and girls has gifts to open on Christmas morning.

Every September, DHHS caseworkers compile "case sheets" for each child, including information about the child's circumstances and suggestions for appropriate gifts. The gift ideas are often things that most of us would consider necessities – boots



and coats, bed sheets and pillows, toiletries and school supplies. Children often ask for gifts for their family, not themselves – such as "a big tub of the peanut butter my mother likes", gift cards to grocery stores and presents for their siblings.

One 10-year-old asked for a gas card, so his dad could take his mom to chemotherapy treatments. Another child only wanted one thing: he wanted to be adopted.

Operation Santa Claus volunteers do what they can to help these children, each and every year.

Continued on page 3

# Keeping our eyes on the prize

Election season is upon us. In the midst of all of the campaigning, debates and



promises we need to keep our eyes on the big picture: making life better for our members and for the middle class.

The past two years of the Great Recession have devastated entire regions, left millions jobless, and shattered many of the dreams we hold onto:

- owning our own home
- putting our kids through college
- having enough to get by and putting something

away for the future

- retiring with dignity by having health care and enough of a pension to live comfortably

But there are those running for office that would take what little we have fought for and held onto away from us. Greedy bankers, Wall Street hedge fund speculators, overpaid corporate CEOs and the kowtowing politicians who indulge them all want to make the rich even richer at our expense.

The disparity between the super rich and the rest of us is greater now than at any time since before the Great Depression. The growth of the Middle Class after World War II is about to be wiped out and our unions have less influence than at any time since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

So what are we going to do

about it?

We need to keep our eyes on the prize.

We need to preserve the strong, confident middle class that makes this country run. And we need to fight corporate greed to do it.

We need to speak up and out for the people who have less and who are falling off the edge – too many of whom are our own members.

We need to stand together, united, and oppose those who would take everything from us.

It's not an easy thing to do. There are plenty of distractions along the way including our tendency to getting in our own way.

But that doesn't mean we should stop trying. If we stop, then who is left to fight for us?

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## State Employees' Association of New Hampshire, Inc. SEIU Local 1984 207 North Main St., Concord, NH 03301 603-271-3411 www.seiu1984.org

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Ralph Tilton, Treasurer  
Jessica Paul, Secretary

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(Vacant) Director (Private Sector)

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Beth Aborn, Paralegal .....	125
Brad Asbury, Organizing Administrator.....	123
Mike Barwell, Communications Administrator .....	105
Susan Boisvert, Technical Support Specialist/Secretary II/ .....	121
Jean Chellis, Senior Field Representative .....	118
Kathy Desjardin, Business Administrator .....	103
Marianne Estey, Secretary II .....	100
Jason Faria, Field Activity Coordinator.....	128
Linda Fraser, Account Technician .....	101
Brian Hawkins, Government Relations Coordinator .....	120
Liz Iacobucci, Public Information Officer .....	109
Dennis Kinnan, Contract & Field Operations Administrator.....	106
Chris Long, Field Representative II.....	117
Michelle McCord, Field Representative II.....	112
Steve McCormack, Senior Field Representative .....	119
Nick McGinty, Grievance Representative II .....	114
Tina McKnight, Accountant.....	122
Joe Meagher, Field Representative II .....	115
Jackie Morrill, Membership Coordinator .....	102
Mike Reynolds, General Counsel .....	125
Gary Smith, President .....	104
Jay Ward, SEIU Political Director .....	110
Anna-Marie Welch, Field Representative II.....	116
Terri Wright, Education and Training Coordinator.....	108

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## Operation Santa Claus turns 50!

Continued from page 1

It has become a huge operation, involving hundreds of public employees as well as schools, businesses, and private individuals from across New Hampshire. There are fundraising drives and raffles, and the annual SEA Road Race to raise money for the program. Volunteers recruit people to be sponsors. Coworkers pitch in and sign up to be sponsors together, sponsoring one child or many. Working together, Department of Transportation employees sponsored 184 children last year.

On Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, the Operation Santa Claus Committee kicked off their 50<sup>th</sup> season of giving at the Mall of New Hampshire with displays, a birthday cake and a coloring table where children were able to design their own Christmas ornaments. Program volunteers handed out fliers and discussed the program with shoppers at the Mall's Back to School event.

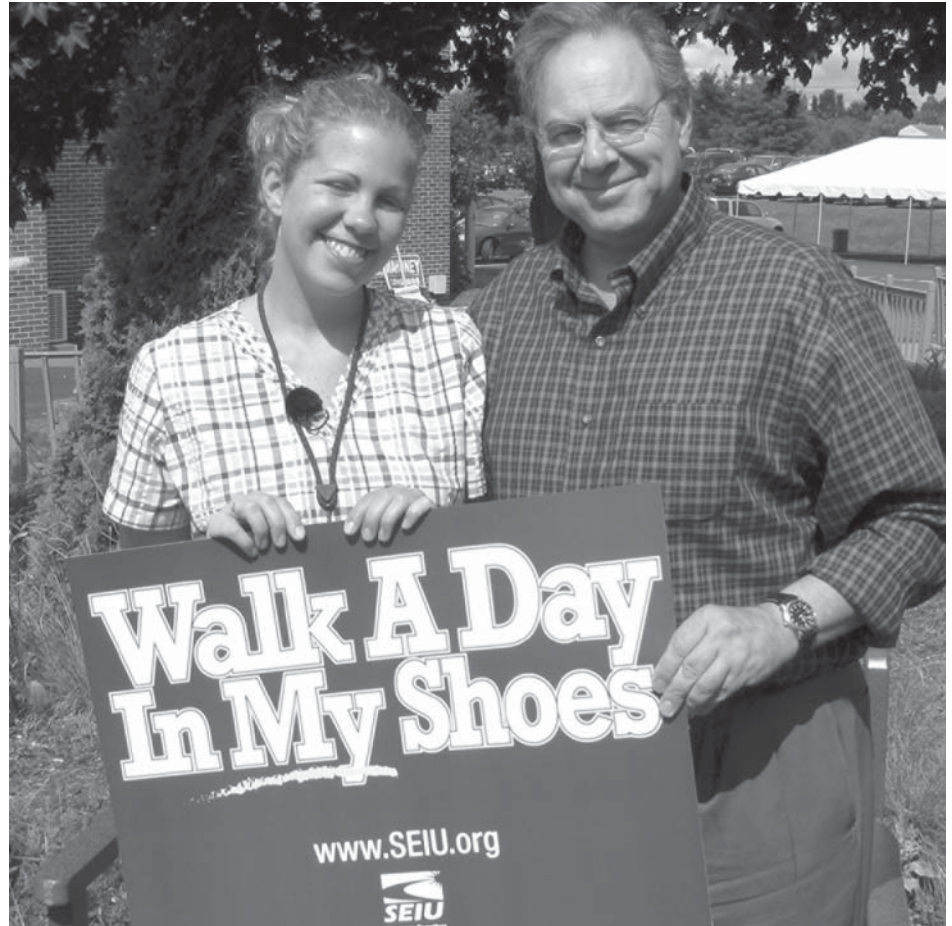
Committee members also recorded a Concord Community TV program "Around Town" with Dick Patten, which will air soon – and they were invited to return for another appearance in November. Do you have contacts in your community television programs? Contact Terri Wright or Mike Barwell at 271-3411 to arrange a community TV interview.

This year the Program is sponsoring a Christmas float for the Concord Holiday Parade in November. Please let Terri know if you are interested in being part of the parade.

The Committee also is looking for good stories to tell about Operation Santa Claus. Do you know someone who received gifts from Operation Santa Claus years ago? If so, please contact Terri or Mike to tell us the story. We are especially interested in stories from the 1960's, when the State Police delivered the gifts.

Please consider sponsoring one or more children this holiday season. The sponsor form is available on-line on the SEA website, [www.seiu1984.org](http://www.seiu1984.org).

## Walk A Day in My Shoes



Nicole Thomas and Paul Hodes pose after a day of being on-the-job at the Riverside Rest Home in Strafford County. Nicole is a member of Chapter 65.

### U.S. Senate Candidate Paul Hodes walks with Strafford County's Nicole Thomas

Dover, N.H. - New Hampshire's general election began at 6:45 a.m. on Wednesday when U.S. Senate candidate Representative Paul Hodes "walked a day in the shoes" of nursing home caregiver Nicole Thomas in Strafford County.

Hodes spent the morning taking care of residents at the Riverside Rest Home in Dover, including feeding them breakfast, housekeeping, and participating in a disaster training exercise with staff and Dover firefighters to ensure patients can be transported to safety in any emergency.

Nicole Thomas, a licensed nursing assistant, is a single mother of two young boys who also is attending classes at night to obtain her nursing degree. "It's tough," she says about her schedule. "I work here all day -

where I love all of these patients - then I take care of my own boys, study, go to school three nights a week, do my own homework and get ready for another day."

"Across our state, there are mothers and fathers like Nicole who work hard for every dollar they earn and care deeply for the people they serve, their families and improving our communities," said Hodes when asked what he would take back to Washington from his experience on the job. "She's a great worker and I was proud to be part of her staff today."

A video of the Hodes Walk A Day is available on our website at [www.seiu1984.org](http://www.seiu1984.org).

# 70th Annual SEA Convention

October 30-31, 2010

Attitash Resort, Bartlett, NH

## Nominees for Elections

### President

#### Peter Brunette

I support the goals of the SEA Unity Campaign: Cooperation, Reconciliation and Justice. As Union leaders, we must join together, putting aside personal differences for the good of the Union, placing principles before personalities. We should all pledge our support for the members' agenda, striving to raise standards of ethics, accountability and justice through the democratic process, and work cooperatively with others for the common good.



### First Vice President

#### Brian Pike

I am seeking this position because I believe in this Union and I have the knowledge and experience to make the best out of it for the members of this Union. One of my goals, is to get the membership to speak with one voice, our survival depends on it. How do we do that? As 1st VP I will make it my mission to help engage members so they are empowered to set the direction of their Union. I believe that I can help mentor members to do just that.



#### Ed Hager

Only together will we have the strength to meet future challenges and succeed.



#### Ken Roos

Current 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Chair of the Organization Committee

Served on Board of Directors since 2007

Chair of the Political Education Committee since 2004 and SEA members since 1999.

YES WE KEN!



#### Diana Lacey

I've been working hard for you in statewide leadership roles for years. Faced with complex issues, I engaged members, developed solutions and made real progress. Serving you is a great honor, my passion and my priority. As President, my extensive experience and unwavering commitment to work with members will advance our goals. Our future, our time, is now. Member-Councilor-Chapter VP-Committee Chairs-Bargaining Chair- Director-1st VP.



### Second Vice President

#### Laurie Aucoin

As we reflect our successes, achievements, disappointments and the direction we wish to pursue in going forward, I ask for your vote in order to continue to be a voice on behalf of the membership. Our union can and will be one that continues to be based on Honesty, Integrity, Transparency and Truly Caring about our Brothers and Sisters. We can and will make the hard decisions that will enable us to grow and remain steadfast in our Solidarity.



## Tammy Clark

I have been active for several years; during that time I have played a key role in many organizing initiatives to help move our union forward. I am energetic and passionate. I worked diligently with NH for Health Care in the role of Organizer during the 2007 Presidential primaries. The 2nd Vice President is constitutionally charged as Chair of the Organization Committee. It would be my honor to serve as your 2nd Vice President.



## Treasurer

### Ralph Tilton

Treasurer for 8 years

Member of the Constitution & Bylaws, Resolutions, and Ethics Committees

Member of Dept. of Ed. LMC

Former Dept. of Ed. Steward

SEA/CUE LMC and Negotiating Committees

Member of the Retiree Health Trust

Our Union faces many challenges and I believe the members will benefit from my knowledge and experience. I remain committed to our Union and to the need for growth, political influence and stability within our infrastructure.



## Secretary

### Jessica Paul

Our Union it seems has helped me realize my dream to fight for my sisters and brothers. This movement shows what we already know: we can't give up on each other. Three years have passed since I asked for this last, but your support is all I need to keep up the fight for our future, our rights and I promise I'll help us succeed.



### Brenda Thomas

I am currently on the Board of Directors and I am running for Board Secretary. I want to continue my service on the Board and to the members of the State Employees Association. Becoming an officer on the Board will allow me to more strongly advocate for our commitment to increasing and improving the quality of members' lives at work and at home. I am dedicated to keeping SEA strong and fighting for the membership in the battles ahead.



## Director

### Sean B. Bolton

I have fought for the rights and interests of our union sisters and brothers for three years as not only a Steward, but also as Chapter 41 Vice President & Councilor, and as a representative for DFA on the DHHS/SEA Labor Management Committee. I now submit my name for candidacy for the Board of Directors so that I may continue to fight for the rights and interests of our members.



### Doug Campbell

Have been a past director and have served on several committees.

Out of Executive Branch for 5 years, then out of state service for 2-1/2 years. Back in state service for over 2 years.



## Director

### Shelley Elmes

Vice President of Chapter 4

Councilor

Steward



### Sheila Heath

Economic conditions have resulted in resentment of public sector workers, which has been driven by politicians and media. We need strong leadership with vision. As a former Director and Chapter leader, I believe I am up to this challenge and would appreciate your support.



### Ana Herrero

At this critical time we need leaders who know when to push back, when to hold firm and when to compromise. We need leaders who have the best interests of the members at heart and can forge alliances with those in state government who will work cooperatively with us. But the members are the real strength of our union. We must empower them to find solutions to the difficult issues that face us and we must build tomorrow's leaders from their ranks.



### Melissa Laferriere

I am currently a steward, councilor, member of the Judicial Branch bargaining team and labor management committee. I have recently attended Worksite Leadership Academy and Summer Labor Studies. Court employees are new to the SEA and I look forward to the opportunity to represent them on the Board of Directors.



### Bruce Vanlandingham

Current B.O.D. , Chapter 22 president, Naval Reserve Seabee and Iraq War veteran.



## Director – Retired

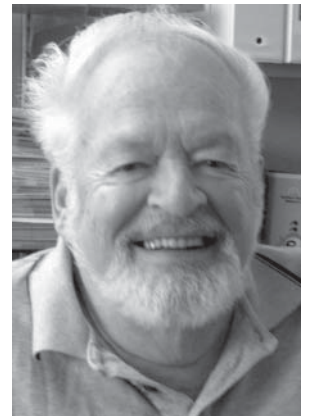
### John Amrol

I am running for the position of Director (Retiree) because I feel, with my past experience – President for 9 years, member of many past and present committees, and having worked with the Legislature on many issues for both active and retired employees – I can contribute much as a Board member with our upcoming challenges.



### Bill Fillion

President, vice president, steward at large handling all three prisons' grievances for Chapter 24.



### Gerald Haney

Retired from NHDOC for five years.

Offices held: Ch. 24 President, Ch. 24 V.P., Councilor and Steward. Past Director (BOD). Currently Ch.1 Councilor.

Goal as Retiree Director to protect current retirees and future retirees' rights.





## Steward Recognition Picnic fun for all

About 50 SEA members and their families gathered at Ellacoya State Park on September 11 to enjoy good food, fun games and great music at the first Annual Steward Recognition picnic.

Folk singers Red & Lorraine Gallagher performed old favorites and special songs written just for public workers. Lorraine is a Steward at NH Employment Security and a member of SEA Chapter 19.

During the event, the Stewards

Committee recognized the following Stewards for their contribution to our organization and service to the members they represent: Julie Carter, Employment Security; Melissa Laferriere, Courts; Tom Wainwright, Safety; Mary Fields, Health and Human Services; Lorraine Gallagher, Employment Security; Kearston Crutchfield, Courts; Eric Leitner, HHS Juvenile Justice; Ed Hager, Corrections; Mitchell LaChapelle, Transportation;

Jeanne Hibbard-Bickford, Safety; Florence Davis, Veterans home; and Paul Cascio, Corrections.

"Picture perfect day - couldn't have asked for better weather. Good food, good people, great event to recognize our hard working stewards. I hope the word gets out so that more people will attend next time," another reported

Mark your calendars now - the Second Annual Steward Recognition Picnic will be held September 10, 2011.

## State Unit elects new Master Bargaining Team

The Collective Bargaining Senate has elected 11 members of the next Executive Branch Master Bargaining Team.

The Senate elected a diverse group of workers from several state agencies, including Family Assistance (HHS), Information Technology, Insurance, Corrections, Employment Security, Public Health (HHS), Environmental Services and Glenclyff Home (HHS). The composition includes seven prior and four new members.

Additionally, the team will be headed by a new Collective Bargaining Advisory Committee (CBAC) Chair. The current chair, Diana Lacey, is stepping down as Chair on October 31st. Per SEA Board Policy, the CBAC Chair is also the Chair of the Executive Branch Master Bargaining Team, and is appointed by the President, subject to Board approval.

Three additional members



The team, from left: Sean Bolton, John Morin, Neil Smith, Diana Richard, David Rys, Jim Nall, Linda Huard, Pam Callioras and Cheryl Frey. Missing from the picture are Karen Irwin and Dick deSeve.

of the team may be appointed by the new Chair; these appointments are intended to fill any knowledge or representational gap that may exist on a team after election of the first eleven seats.

Each team member gave a

candidate speech – nearly all spoke of the need to preserve benefits and obtain a fair contract for our workers.

The team will undergo negotiation training in the coming weeks and after the statewide elections, begin negotiations with the State this winter.

**The State Employees' Association  
of New Hampshire, Inc.  
SEIU Local 1984, CTW, CLC  
207 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301**

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**NOMINATION and ELECTION NOTICE  
STATE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF NH, SEIU LOCAL 1984  
70<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Saturday, October 30, 2010 and Sunday, October 31, 2010  
Attitash Grand Summit Hotel  
Bartlett, New Hampshire  
Registration 8:00 AM**

Call to Order 9:30 AM, Saturday, October 30, 2010

Nominations will begin on Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 2 PM

The polls will be open on Sunday, October 31, 2010 from 8 AM to 9:30 AM

**ELECTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED:**

- ✓ President (One position, two-year term)
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (One position, two-year term)
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (One position, two-year term)
- ✓ Secretary (One position, two-year term)
- ✓ Treasurer (One position, two-year term)
- ✓ Director (State, four positions, three-year term)
- ✓ Director (Retiree, one position, three-year term)
- ✓ Director (Private Sector, one position, term will fill the remainder of the unexpired term of two years)

NOTE: \*Article VIII, Section 5(a) - Eligibility:

"No member shall be eligible to be an Officer or a Director in the Association unless he/she has been a member in good standing of the Association for at least one (1) year immediately preceding his/her election.

\*Article VIII, Section 5b - Election of Officers:

"The name of any member seeking election at the Annual Convention shall not appear on the printed ballot unless a declaration of candidacy has been filed with the Membership Clerk of the Association no later than 30 days before said convention is to convene."