

SEIU Local 26

Minnesota's Property Services Union

Welcome!

This is the first monthly edition of the Security Newsletter. Each newsletter will give you information on your contract, benefits and workplace rights. We will supply you with links to forms or handouts with extra information. Print out copies of this newsletter for your co-workers! There will be other opportunities to get stuff from YOUR Union. Yes, this is your Union. If you would like to have an issue addressed in a future newsletter contact Dan Scoggins, Security Steward via email at dan.scoggins@yahoo.com. Solidarity!

SEIU Union Leadership Elections – Ballots in the mail

SEIU Local 26 board and officer elections will occur on December 5th, 2020. In the month of November, you will receive your special mail in ballot. The instructions will be very specific and involve writing your selections on the ballot and sealing the ballot in two envelopes. The ballot envelopes will be opened on December 5th and counted.

The voting ballots will be sent to each members' last known address by mail this year. If you haven't received union mailings in the last 3 months, or have moved recently, please update you address immediately at [SEIU Member Update Info](#).

All of the Union Offices and Board delegate positions are up for election. The term of each office will run for three years beginning immediately as of January 4th, 2021. Here is the list of who is running for each role. The number of positions is listed after the role.

Officers - Candidates

- President (1) - Iris Altamirano, Harrison Bullard, Greg Nammacher
- Secretary-Treasurer (1)- Romisha Jones, Brahim Kone
- Vice President (2) - Kay Brown, Eva Lopez, Elia Starkweather

Delegates to E-Board - Candidates

- Commercial Cleaning (4) Kadra Ali, Katra Arale, Alma Bonilla, George Mullins, Odemaris Mercado, Edith Patino, Maria Perez, Lourdes Tapia
- Security Division Delegates (4) - Emory Hall, Abdi Haybe, Todd O'Connor, Dan Scoggins, Joann Whitmore

- Airport Division (2) - Abdi Ali, Misrak Anbesse (Uncontested)
- In-House (1) - Frank McCrary (Uncontested)
- Window Cleaning (1) - Eric Crone (Uncontested)
- Retail Cleaning (1) - Rosalio Vences (Uncontested).

Links to 1st and 2nd announcement of the election - taken from SEIU26.org

[1st Election Announcement](#)

[2nd Election Announcement](#)

Health Care Open Enrollment – only available once per year!

This year the health insurance enrollment period will be 10/20/20-11/20/20. The companies will be delivering informational packets or allow you to enroll through an SEIU Health and Welfare Fund website. The Union coverage is better than most insurance today, with several free doctor visits and 80% of in hospital costs covered. It costs \$40 per month for a single person and \$150 for parent and child, a \$50 savings over the last contract.

The Open Enrollment period is the only time you can sign up for the Union Health Insurance, Vision Plan, Dental Coverage and Prescription coverage (outside of a life changing event). Ask your Manager and watch for the packets. We know some Security Companies have produced the packets in the last week of the enrollment period in past years. If you don't receive a packet – call your Steward or the Member Resource Center at 855-265 6225 so we can support you. If you already have insurance, there is no need to complete any forms.

Health insurance for unemployed members extended till December 31st.

Because we control our own union healthcare fund, we are able to respond when workers have a crisis. When this pandemic and economic recession hit our membership, many people were laid off. Our healthcare fund has extended full coverage to those members who were laid off, if they previously had our health insurance, for no cost. That is a value of close to \$600 per month for those members. This benefit initially was from March to June, but was extended through December 31st, 2020.

SEIU Local 26 - Solidarity Fund

Most of the security companies have refused to pay their officers for missed work while in quarantine, waiting for COVID tests or while sick with COVID. No one has the 10 days of sick time to cover these quarantines! This is unacceptable. In June the stewards at the Local 26 leadership assembly voted to create a fund to reimburse Officers in quarantine due to Covid. There have been approximately 400 Security Officers, Janitors, and other members paid

\$300 in one-time reimbursement for lost wages. If you have lost wages due to illness from corona virus or due to a covid quarantine decision by your employer or client you can qualify for the \$300. Send an email to Bianca Pineda with the MRC - bpineda@seiu26.org.

SEIU Security Stewards meet with Governor's Staff to talk about Hazard Pay, Quarantine Pay

On October 27th, Security Stewards met with Governor Walz's staff to discuss our efforts to get Hazard Pay, Quarantine Pay and an Essential Worker Council to represent us in the development of laws that impact essential workers. A new Essential Worker Table is starting in November as part of the Department of Labor and Industry. Local 26 will be there. There may be a seat at the table specifically for Security as a sector of Essential Workers. There is also legal research being done on what Executive Orders can accomplish towards Hazard Pay or Quarantine pay. Legislation in the next Minnesota State Senate and house may be needed to get our needs met. We have been invited back for a follow up meeting in a few months. Thank you to the Stewards in the Security Sector and their efforts to support all of us!

Join the Stewards of Local 26!

The Security Sector is recruiting Stewards. A Steward is the union representative in the workplace and is empowered to work out issues with the Managers. A Steward enforces the contract, with the full support of the union staff. A Steward can join biweekly conference calls and influence Union activities. Each month there is a different training session to prepare you to be a Steward until you have had all three. If you care about your coworkers and want a voice in your workplace, contact Organizer Dan Moore, dmoore@seiu26.org or Steward Dan Scoggins, dan.scoggins@yahoo.com for more information.



MSP Airport Workers with our Union, win a \$15 Minimum wage.

MSP Airport workers celebrated the passage of a \$15 minimum wage by the Metropolitan Airports Commission. The Commissioners voted unanimously to pass the policy, which will see a first increase on January 1st, 2021 with workers reaching \$15 on July 1st, 2022, the same time as the Minneapolis minimum wage. Members of our Union have been pushing for a wage increase for years and thousands of workers, mostly immigrants and people of color, will see their wages increase dramatically over the next 2 years. Many currently make just \$11 per hour, the current airport minimum wage.

Read the entire article at <http://seiumn.org/2020/10/19/workers-celebrate-as-msp-airport-passes-15-minimum-wage/>

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*SEIU Local 26
826 18th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
United States*

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