

1199SEIU Benefit and Pension Funds  
330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10036-6977

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## 2013 Brings New Classes in Queens, Staten Island and White Plains

In Queens, we will add classes in Men's Exercise; Chess, Checkers and Dominoes; and Beginners' Knitting and Crocheting, while retirees on Staten Island can explore Computers and Men's Exercise. In the meantime, our new Yoga classes in White Plains and Staten Island have already started. Please check future RMD issues for details.

### Chi Gong Classes

Learn this Chinese healing art that aims to increase the body's healthy energy. Participants perform simple movements, while both sitting and standing, that are believed to benefit the immune, circulatory and nervous systems. Classes are held in Brooklyn on Mondays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am and in the Bronx on Wednesdays from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Check the calendar for exact dates.

**To learn about trip and vacation offers,  
call (800) 552-6262, ext. 112, and (800) 431-1130, ext. 5537.**

## IMPORTANT NEWS

*about chapter  
meetings and classes!*

**1199SEIU**  
Retired Members  
Division

February 2013

(646) 473-8666 • [www.1199SEIUBenefits.org](http://www.1199SEIUBenefits.org)



# Anne Shore Banquet Is a Celebration to Remember

More than 1,000 retired 1199ers rang in the holidays at the annual Anne Shore Banquet in New York City on December 17. As these photos show, all our retirees enjoyed the party – whether they were catching up with old friends, making new connections or just kicking up their heels!



## El Banquete Anne Shore es una Celebración para Recordar

Más de 1,000 jubilados de 1199 celebraron las fiestas en el banquete anual Anne Shore llevado a cabo el 17 de diciembre en la ciudad de Nueva York. Tal como lo muestran estas fotos, ¡todos nuestros jubilados disfrutaron de la fiesta, ya sea que se estuvieran poniendo al día con viejos amigos, estableciendo nuevos vínculos o simplemente bailando sin parar!



## President's Message

## Mensaje Del Presidente

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In this, my first president's message of 2013, I want to begin by saying I hope you and your families had a happy and healthy holiday season. With each new year, we have a wonderful chance to review our progress and redouble our efforts toward fulfilling our pledge as 1199SEIU retirees to remain "Retired but Active"!

The strength we possess when we stay active was on display last fall as our retired sisters and brothers joined with Union members to help get out our vote. I want to personally thank everyone who took part in our "Weekend Warrior" project in several states, including Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolinas, and, of course, in New York. The effort was a great example of what we are capable of when we work together.

That energy and passion was expressed in a festive spirit at December's annual Anne Shore Banquet in New York City. I was thrilled to see more than 1,000 retirees fill the banquet hall again this year, catching up with old friends and dancing through the afternoon. Of course, as retired members of 1199SEIU, we have reason to celebrate. We are fortunate to have benefits that few of today's retirees enjoy. On top of quality health coverage, we have a host of classes offered at Fund Headquarters and at our chapters in Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island and Long Island. There's drama, photography, sewing, quilting, arts and crafts and other activities that are both fun and social – and yoga, dance, Tai Chi and Chi Gong to help get you moving and keep you healthy.

I encourage all of my sisters and brothers to try out a class or two, just as I ask you to attend your chapter meetings. Monthly chapter meetings are a good way to stay informed about your benefits, your community and your Union's activities. Please also be mindful that some of our fellow retired members have a health problem or disability that makes getting out difficult, and we need your help to reach them. You can learn how to assist a retired member near you at your next chapter meeting.

In closing, I applaud the many of you who have stayed current with your dues and ask those who may have fallen behind to re-start your contributions. Paying your dues helps keep our Union strong so our leaders can fight to preserve our retiree health benefits.

In solidarity,  
**Lena Hayes**

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

En este mi primer mensaje como presidenta de 2013, deseo comenzar diciendo que espero que ustedes y sus familias hayan tenido una temporada de fiestas feliz y saludable. ¡Con cada año nuevo, tenemos una magnífica oportunidad de revisar nuestro avance y redoblar nuestros esfuerzos hacia el cumplimiento de nuestro compromiso como jubilados de 1199SEIU de mantenernos "Jubilados pero activos"!

La fortaleza que poseemos cuando nos mantenemos activos se demostró el pasado otoño cuando nuestros hermanos y hermanas jubilados se unieron a los miembros del Sindicato para ayudar a conseguir nuestros votos. Quiero agradecer personalmente a todos los que participaron en nuestro proyecto "Guerrero de Fin de Semana" (Weekend Warrior) en varios estados, incluidos la Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Carolinas del Norte y del Sur, y por supuesto, en Nueva York. Este esfuerzo fue un magnífico ejemplo de lo que podemos lograr cuando trabajamos juntos.

Esa energía y pasión se mostró en un espíritu festivo en el banquete anual Anne Shore de diciembre en la ciudad de Nueva York. Estuve encantada de ver a más de 1,000 jubilados llenar el salón de banquetes nuevamente este año, conversando con viejos amigos y bailando toda la tarde. Por supuesto que como miembros jubilados de 1199SEIU tenemos motivos para celebrar. Somos afortunados de contar con beneficios que pocos jubilados de hoy en día disfrutan. Además de una cobertura de salud de calidad, tenemos una diversidad de clases que se ofrecen en la sede del Fondo y en nuestras agrupaciones locales en Brooklyn, Queens, el Bronx, Staten Island y Long Island. Se ofrecen clases de teatro, fotografía, costura, elaboración de colchas, artes y manualidades y otras actividades que son divertidas y sociales, y clases de yoga, baile, Tai Chi y Chi Gong para ayudarle a estar activo y mantenerse saludable.

Aliento a todos mis hermanos y hermanas a probar una clase o dos, al igual que les pido que asistan a sus reuniones de agrupaciones. Las reuniones mensuales de las agrupaciones representan una muy buena forma de mantenerse informados sobre sus beneficios, su comunidad y las actividades de su Sindicato. También deben tener en cuenta que algunos de nuestros compañeros miembros jubilados tienen un problema de salud o discapacidad que les hace difícil salir, y necesitamos su ayuda para llegar a ellos. Pueden aprender cómo ayudar a un miembro jubilado que viva cerca de usted en la próxima reunión de su agrupación.

Para terminar, felicito a muchos de ustedes que se han mantenido al día con el pago de sus cuotas y les pido a aquellos que se han retrasado que reinicien sus contribuciones. El pago de sus cuotas ayuda a que nuestro Sindicato se mantenga fuerte, de modo que nuestros líderes puedan luchar por conservar nuestros beneficios de salud para jubilados.

En solidaridad,  
**Lena Hayes**





## A Message from the Executive Director

### Un Mensaje de la Directora Ejecutiva

Dear Retired Members,

Each year, our Benefit and Pension Funds' annual retiree banquets serve as a compelling reminder of the vitality and involvement of our 1199SEIU retirees. At this past December's Anne Shore Banquet in New York, I met and talked with so many of our dynamic retirees who embody the "Retired but Active" spirit to the fullest. The banquet proved to be another great success, and we look forward to Florida's celebration on March 11.

Here at the Funds, we welcomed more than 5,500 retirees in 2012, bringing the number of pensioners to almost 80,000 – an all-time high. In light of this robust growth, I want to assure you that the Benefit and Pension Funds will continue to help provide you with benefits and security in your retirement. In such a turbulent economy, with more and more workers seeing their pensions cut and their health coverage weakened, your benefit package is unique.

Of course, our Retired Members Department provides you with other resources to help you take full advantage your retirement – from drama and fitness classes to regular chapter meetings and other get-togethers. Whatever your interests, we are sure you will find an activity that helps you stay involved and connect with your fellow retirees.

Most important, I want to remind you that your Benefit and Pension Funds are always here to help you. If you have any questions about your health or pension benefits, please don't hesitate to call our Retiree Services representatives at (646) 473-8666 or (800) 892-2557.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Estimados Miembros Jubilados,

Cada año, los banquetes anuales de jubilados de nuestros Fondos de Beneficios y Pensiones sirven como un recordatorio convincente de la vitalidad y participación de nuestros jubilados de 1199SEIU. En el banquete Anne Shore del pasado diciembre en Nueva York, conocí y hablé con muchos de nuestros dinámicos jubilados que personifican el espíritu de "Jubilados pero Activos" en toda su plenitud. El banquete resultó ser otro gran éxito y tenemos muchas expectativas para la celebración del 11 de marzo en la Florida.

Aquí en los Fondos, dimos la bienvenida a más de 5,500 jubilados en 2012, con lo cual se incrementó el número de pensionistas a cerca de 80,000, el número más alto jamás alcanzado. En vista de este fuerte crecimiento, quiero garantizarle que los Fondos de Beneficios y Pensiones le continuarán ayudando con beneficios y seguridad en su jubilación. En esta economía tan turbulenta, cuando más y más trabajadores sufren recortes a sus pensiones y reducciones a su cobertura de salud, su paquete de beneficios es realmente singular.

Además nuestro Departamento de Miembros Jubilados le brinda otros recursos para ayudarle a aprovechar al máximo su jubilación, desde clases de teatro y acondicionamiento físico hasta las reuniones de agrupaciones y otras reuniones. Cualesquiera que sean sus intereses, estamos convencidos de que encontrará una actividad que le ayude a mantenerse involucrado y conectarse con sus compañeros jubilados.

Pero lo más importante es que deseo recordarles que sus Fondos de Beneficios y Pensiones están siempre a su entera disposición para ayudarles. Si tienen alguna pregunta sobre sus beneficios de salud o de pensión, no duden en llamar a nuestros representantes de Servicios a Jubilados al (646) 473-8666 o al (800) 892-2557.

¡Mis mejores deseos para un Año Nuevo feliz y saludable!

Atentamente,

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				<b>1</b> 10-11 Yoga* (Brooklyn) 10-11 Yoga* (Staten Island) 10-12 Quilting 1-2 Dance 2-3 Yoga*
<b>4</b> 10-11 Chi Gong (Brooklyn) 10:30-11:30 Opera Appreciation 12-1 Art History 1:30-3:30 Executive Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:30-12 Photography 10-11 Yoga* (Queens) 10:30-12 Drama 12-2 Sewing (Brooklyn) 12-3 Art 12:30-1:30 Shakespeare 1:30-3 Discussion Group	<b>6</b> 10-11 Yoga* (Hicksville) 10-12 Choral Group 10-12 Knitting & Crocheting (Beg) 11-12 Dance (Hicksville) 11:30-12:30 Yoga* (White Plains) 12-1 Yoga* (Bronx) 12:30-4:30 Knitting & Crocheting (Inter/Adv) 1-4 Knitting & Crocheting (Brooklyn) 1:30-2:30 Chi Gong (Bronx)	<b>7</b> 10-11 Tai Chi 11-12 Yoga* 12-1 Lunch Club 12-2 Quilting (Brooklyn) 1-2 General Membership Meeting 3-5 Arts & Crafts 3-5 Sewing	<b>8</b> 10-11 Yoga* (Brooklyn) 10-11 Yoga* (Staten Island) 10-12 Quilting 1-2 Dance 2-3 Yoga*
<b>11</b> 10-11 Chi Gong (Brooklyn) 10:30-11:30 Opera Appreciation 12-1 Art History	<b>12</b> 9:30-12 Photography 10-11 Yoga* (Queens) 10:30-12 Drama 12-2 Sewing (Brooklyn) 12-3 Art 12:30-1:30 Shakespeare 1:30-3 Discussion Group	<b>13</b> 10-11 Yoga* (Hicksville) 10-12 Choral Group 10-12 Knitting & Crocheting (Beg) 11-12 Dance (Hicksville) 11:30-12:30 Yoga* (White Plains) 12-1 Yoga* (Bronx) 12:30-4:30 Knitting & Crocheting (Inter/Adv) 1-4 Knitting & Crocheting (Brooklyn) 1:30-2:30 Chi Gong (Bronx)	<b>14</b> 10-11 Tai Chi 11-12 Yoga* 12-1 Lunch Club 12-2 Quilting (Brooklyn) 3-5 Arts & Crafts 3-5 Sewing	<b>15</b> 10-11 Yoga* (Brooklyn) 10-11 Yoga* (Staten Island) 10-12 Quilting 10-12 Vision Screening 1-2 Dance 2-3 Yoga*
<b>18</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30-12 Photography 10-11 Yoga* (Queens) 10:30-12 Drama 12-2 Sewing (Brooklyn) 12-3 Art 12:30-1:30 Shakespeare 1-2 Yoga (LIJ) 1:30-3 Discussion Group	<b>20</b> 10-11 Yoga* (Hicksville) 10-12 Knitting & Crocheting (Beg) 10-12 Bingo (White Plains) 11:30-12:30 Yoga* (White Plains) 12-1 Yoga* (Bronx) 12:30-4:30 Knitting & Crocheting (Inter/Adv) 1-4 Knitting & Crocheting (Brooklyn) 1:30-2:30 Chi Gong (Bronx)	<b>21</b> 10-11 Tai Chi 11-12 Yoga* 12-1 Lunch Club 12-2 Quilting (Brooklyn) 1-3 Birthday Party 3-5 Arts & Crafts 3-5 Sewing	<b>22</b> 10-11 Yoga* (Brooklyn) 10-11 Yoga* (Staten Island) 10-12 Quilting 1-2 Dance 2-3 Yoga*
<b>25</b> 10-11 Chi Gong (Brooklyn) 10:30-11:30 Opera Appreciation 12-1 Art History	<b>26</b> 9:30-12 Photography 10-11 Yoga* (Queens) 10:30-12 Drama 12-2 Sewing (Brooklyn) 12-3 Art 12:30-1:30 Shakespeare 1:30-3 Discussion Group	<b>27</b> 10:00 Movie (White Plains) 10-11 Yoga* (Hicksville) 10-12 Choral Group 10-12 Knitting & Crocheting (Beg) 11-12 Dance (Hicksville) 11:30-12:30 Yoga* (White Plains) 12-1 Yoga* (Bronx) 12:30-4:30 Knitting & Crocheting (Inter/Adv) 1-4 Knitting & Crocheting (Brooklyn) 1:30-2:30 Chi Gong (Bronx)	<b>28</b> 10-11 Tai Chi 11-12 Yoga* 12-1 Lunch Club 12-2 Quilting (Brooklyn) 3-5 Arts & Crafts 3-5 Sewing	<b>All classes are held at our Manhattan Headquarters unless otherwise indicated.</b>

\*Sponsored by HealthCare Partners, IPA

**BRONX - JOSEPH JAMES CHAPTER**

**NEW MEETING TIME**

Friday, Feb. 8 • 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

1199SEIU Healthcare & Education Center  
2501 Grand Concourse, Room 301

**BROOKLYN - MARSHALL DUBIN CHAPTER**

Wednesday, Feb. 27 • 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Brooklyn College, Student Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
East 27<sup>th</sup> Street & Campus Road

**BROOKLYN - MATTIE SMALL CHAPTER**

Friday, Feb. 15 • 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

1199SEIU Brooklyn Office  
25 Elm Place (off Fulton Street)

**EAST HARLEM - LEON DAVIS CHAPTER**

Friday, Feb. 22 • 10:30 am – noon

Jefferson Senior Center  
2205 First Avenue

**HICKSVILLE - MILTON KONOWE CHAPTER**

Wednesday, Feb. 20 • 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

1199SEIU Hicksville Office  
100 Duffy Avenue

**NEW HYDE PARK - ELEANOR TILSON CHAPTER**

Tuesday, Feb. 19 • 2:05 pm – 3:30 pm

NS-LIJ Cohen Children's Medical Center  
Teaching Center – Conference Room  
269-01 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**NORTH BRONX - BERNARD MINTER CHAPTER**

Tuesday, Feb. 12 • 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Holy Rosary Church  
1510 Adee Avenue (enter at parking lot)

**QUEENS - ST. ALBANS CHAPTER**

Tuesday, Feb. 26 • 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Guy Brewer Democratic Club  
197-01 Linden Blvd.

**STATEN ISLAND CHAPTER**

Monday, Feb. 11 • 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

1199SEIU Training and Employment  
Funds Office  
790 Port Richmond Ave., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (off Forest Ave.)

**WESTCHESTER - HUDSON VALLEY REGION CHAPTER**

Wednesday, Feb. 6 • 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East  
99 Church Street, White Plains

**Vision Screening\***

Friday, February 15, 10:00 am to noon  
First come, first served

1199SEIU RMD  
330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

\*No hearing screening this month

## Explore an Age-Friendly College Website

Age-Friendly NYC College Link is a new, online database that connects older adults with educational and cultural opportunities at more than 40 New York City-area colleges and universities. Age-Friendly NYC is a joint initiative of the Mayor's Office, the City Council and the New York Academy of Medicine that is dedicated to making New York a great place in which to grow old.

On the website – [www.agefriendlycollege.org](http://www.agefriendlycollege.org) – you can learn about programs for the liberal and creative arts, computers and technology, business, job skills, personal growth and more. Performances, lectures and physical fitness activities are also offered. We encourage you to check out this resource that will allow you to explore new horizons and meet new friends. Log on today and see what you can learn next!

## Shakespeare Class

The class is currently reading *The Tempest*, the Bard's last play. Come and ponder whether it is a comedy or a tale of madness.

**Tuesdays, 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm**

1199SEIU RMD, 330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor



## Get Free Tax Preparation Help

The AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide is available free to taxpayers with low and moderate income, especially for those who are 60 and older. Go to [AARP.org](http://AARP.org), enter "Tax-Aide" in the search square and then choose the selection that shows a tax prep site near you.

## Meeting Topics\*

**February** – Heart Health

**March** – Preparing for the Future: Wills, Healthcare Proxies, Powers of Attorney

\* Sponsored by HealthCare Partners, IPA

## Act Now! Come to the Drama Class

The Drama class reads plays and screenplays aloud (no experience or memorization required) and discusses how their themes relate to daily life. Films of some works, including Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, will also be shown. Tuesdays from 10:30 am to noon.

## Sewing and Quilting Classes in Brooklyn

**Sewing:** Tuesdays, noon to 2:00 pm

**Quilting:** Thursdays, noon to 2:00 pm

Both are held in Rooms 4 & 5. Please check the calendar.

QUESTIONS? CALL: (646) 473-8666 • OUTSIDE NYC: (800) 892-2557

## Yoga Classes Now in White Plains and Staten Island, Too

Classes are held four times each month, except where noted – please check the calendar for exact dates.\* The new classes in White Plains meet on Wednesdays from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, and the new Staten Island classes are held on Fridays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

### BRONX

**Wednesdays, noon – 1:00 pm**

1199SEIU Healthcare & Education Center  
2501 Grand Concourse, Room 301

### BROOKLYN

**Fridays, 10:00 am – 11:00 am**

25 Elm Place (at Fulton), Rooms 4 & 5

### HICKSVILLE – NEW TIME

**Wednesdays, 10:00 am – 11:00 am**

100 Duffy Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

### MANHATTAN HEADQUARTERS

**Thursdays, 11:00 am – noon**

Fridays, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

### NEW HYDE PARK\*

**Tuesday, February 19, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

*\*(one class per month)*

North Shore-LIJ Cohen Children's Medical Center  
Teaching Center – Conference Room  
269-01 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue

### QUEENS

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am – 11:00 am**

Devore Dance Center  
205-05 Hollis Avenue, Main Floor

### STATEN ISLAND – NEW CLASS

**Fridays, 10:00 am – 11:00 am**

1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds Office  
790 Port Richmond Avenue (off Forest Avenue)

### WHITE PLAINS – NEW CLASS

**Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm**

1199SEIU Benefit and Pension Fund  
White Plains Office  
99 Church Street

## Florida Chapters

### **Broward – Leon Davis Chapter – NEW LOCATION AND TIME**

**Tuesday, February 12 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**  
Tamarac Community Center – Coconut Palm Room  
8601 West Commercial Blvd. • Tamarac, FL 33351

### **Casselberry – Doris Turner Chapter**

**Thursday, February 21 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
Casselberry Public Library  
215 North Oxford Road • Casselberry, FL 32707

### **Fort Myers Chapter**

**Monday, February 25 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
The Riverside Community Center  
3601 East Riverside Drive • Fort Myers, FL 33902

### **Miami-Dade – Ossie Davis Chapter**

**Friday, February 1 – 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
18441 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Lincoln Building – North Wing, Suite 502 (Penthouse)  
Miami Gardens, FL 33169

### **North Port Chapter**

**Tuesday, February 26 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
Morgan Family Community Center  
6207 West Price Blvd. • North Port, FL 34288

### **Orlando Chapter**

**Wednesday, February 20 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
UAW Local #788  
1825 West Oak Ridge Road • Orlando, FL 32809

### **Palm Bay/Melbourne Chapter**

**Tuesday, February 26 – 1:30 am to 3:30 pm**  
Palm Bay United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall  
2100 Port Malabar Blvd., NE • Palm Bay, FL 32905

### **Port St. Lucie Chapter – NEW TIME – THIS MONTH ONLY**

**Wednesday, February 27 – 10:00 am to noon**  
Port St. Lucie Community Center  
2195 SE Airoso Blvd. • Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

### **South Palm Beach Chapter**

**Thursday, February 14 – 10:00 am to noon**  
Temple Emeth  
5780 West Atlantic Avenue • Delray Beach, FL 33446

### **Tampa Chapter**

**Wednesday, February 27 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
1199SEIU UHWE Office  
500 N. West Shore Blvd. • Tampa, FL 33609

### **West Palm Beach Chapter**

**Wednesday, February 6 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall  
1063 North Haverhill Road • West Palm Beach, FL 33414

For information, contact Marilyn Silverberg:

Toll-free (877) 369-8340  
Palm Beach County (561) 369-8340; fax (561) 369-8342  
8775 Via Tuscany Drive • Boynton Beach, FL 33472

## Annual Florida Retiree Banquet Monday, March 11, 2013

**Palm Beach County Convention Center  
650 Okeechobee Boulevard  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401**

We hope to see all of our Florida retirees at the Annual Florida Retiree Banquet on March 11!

**Program** Registration begins at 9:00 am. Then enjoy a continental breakfast until the town hall meeting at 10:30 am. A banquet luncheon will be served at 11:45 am, followed by entertainment and dancing until 3:00 pm.

**Reservations Are Required** Tickets are \$10 per member and \$20 per guest (make checks payable to 1199SEIU). You can buy tickets at the February chapter meetings; please note that there are no March chapter meetings.

If you cannot attend a chapter meeting, or live outside the chapter areas, please call Marilyn Silverberg, Florida Retiree Coordinator, at (877) 369-8340 (toll-free) or (561) 369-8340 (Palm Beach County), to request a reservation form.

**Reservation Deadline Is February 28, 2013** You must mail the reservation form to the Florida address listed on the form. (Do not send the form to the 1199SEIU Benefit Funds office in New York.) Please call the telephone number on the form to confirm that your payment was received. You can pick up your ticket and meal card when you register at the convention center, or on the retiree chapter bus. **Tickets and meal cards will not be mailed.**

**Bus Transportation** Buses will be available only in chapter areas, and you must reserve your seat. Be sure that you arrive at the bus location early, as the buses will leave on schedule. At the February chapter meetings, please confirm the location for parking your car. (If you need directions to the convention center, please call Marilyn Silverberg.)

**Hotel** To reserve a room at the West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel (650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach), call (800) 376-2292 and ask for the special "1199SEIU Retirees" rate of \$179. (This rate is available only until February 18, 2013.) If you need to check in before 3:00 pm, please ask when you reserve your room. The Marriott also provides shuttle service to the Convention Center – make arrangements when you check in.

We look forward to seeing you – and don't forget to wear your dancing shoes!

## North & South Carolinas Chapter

### **Black History Celebration**

**Friday, February 15 – 9:30 am to noon**  
Birnie Hope Center • 210 South Purdy Street • Sumter, SC 29150

For information, call Nonnie B. Perry at (803) 481-0475.





## A Message from / Un Mensaje de **GEORGE GRESHAM**

PRESIDENT / PRESIDENTE, 1199SEIU UNITED HEALTHCARE WORKERS EAST

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

What is it about our elected officials that they won't do anything to help our environment and warming planet (even after Superstorm Sandy) and won't do anything to control private ownership of automatic weapons (even after an epidemic of massacres of children, moviegoers, shoppers and college students)? And yet any number of politicians are ready to destroy — in the name of reform — Social Security and Medicare, perhaps the two most successful government programs of the past century.

Clearly, the power and the influence of the oil and fossil fuel industries have prevented any vigorous action to control global warming. The arms and munitions industry, acting through the National Rifle Association, has similarly prevented legislation to reduce the 30,000-plus gun deaths per year.

Just as clearly, Wall Street (in the case of Social Security) and the pharmaceutical and insurance industries (with Medicare) see multi-billion-dollar opportunities in privatizing or otherwise "reforming" these absolutely vital programs.

I know I need not explain the value and importance of Social Security and Medicare to our retired members. Hundreds of millions of American seniors have come to depend on them, a mere portion of what the country owes retirees for many years of hard work. Social Security and Medicare, quite apart from their obvious value, have also been the most successful anti-poverty programs our government has ever developed.

It is worth noting that both Social Security in the 1930s and Medicare in the 1950s were largely the result of demands and mobilizations on the part of organized labor. With the weakening of the labor movement in the intervening decades, Wall Street and the insurance lobby hope to cash in big-time by destroying the most important social safety net for seniors.

"They say that freedom is a constant struggle": So goes the old spiritual. We know that preserving our retirement security is certainly a constant struggle. But we know 1199 veterans are ready to fight because we've been doing it our whole lives. That fight is going to be upon us again this year. Get ready.

In solidarity,

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

¿Qué pasa con nuestros representantes elegidos que no hacen nada para ayudar al medio ambiente y a un planeta en calentamiento (incluso después de la Súper tormenta Sandy) y no quieren hacer nada para controlar la propiedad privada de armas automáticas (incluso después de una epidemia de masacres de niños, asistentes a cines, compradores y estudiantes universitarios)? Pero sí existe un buen número de políticos que están listos para destruir, en el nombre de la reforma, la Seguridad Social y Medicare, quizás los dos programas gubernamentales más exitosos del último siglo.

Resulta muy claro que el poder y la influencia de las industrias petroleras y de combustibles fósiles han impedido toda acción vigorosa para controlar el calentamiento global. La industria de armas y municiones, actuando a través de la Asociación Nacional del Rifle, ha impedido en forma similar toda legislación para reducir las más de 30,000 muertes por armas de fuego que ocurren cada año.

Resulta igualmente claro que Wall Street (en el caso del Seguro Social) y las industrias farmacéutica y de seguros (en el caso de Medicare) ven oportunidades de muchos miles de millones de dólares al privatizar o "reformular" de otra manera estos programas que son absolutamente vitales.

Sé que no necesito explicar el valor y la importancia del Seguro Social y Medicare a nuestros miembros jubilados. Cientos de millones de ancianos norteamericanos dependen de ello, tan solo una parte de lo que el país les debe a los jubilados por muchos años de esfuerzo. El Seguro Social y Medicare, aparte de su obvio valor, también han sido los programas más exitosos contra la pobreza que nuestro gobierno haya desarrollado jamás.

Vale la pena destacar que tanto el Seguro Social en la década de 1930 como Medicare en la década de 1950 fueron en gran medida el resultado de demandas y movilizaciones por parte del movimiento sindical. Con el debilitamiento del movimiento sindical en las décadas sucesivas, Wall Street y el grupo de cabildeo a favor de la industria de seguros esperan obtener grandes resultados destruyendo la red más importante de seguridad social para nuestros ancianos.

"Dicen que la libertad es una lucha constante": Así dice el antiguo proverbio. Nos consta que conservar nuestra seguridad de jubilación es ciertamente una lucha constante. Pero sabemos que los veteranos de 1199 están listos para luchar porque lo hemos estado haciendo durante todas nuestras vidas. Este año vamos a volver a tener esa lucha. Prepárense.

En solidaridad,

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