

The Benefit and Pension Funds Are on Facebook!

For the latest information on your health and pension benefits, visit our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/1199SEIUBenefitFunds. There you'll find upcoming events and important news that affects you. We're sure you'll find a lot to "Like"!



¡Los Fondos de Beneficios y Pensiones Están en Facebook!

Para obtener la información más reciente sobre sus beneficios de salud y pensión, visite nuestra nueva página de Facebook en www.facebook.com/1199SEIUBenefitFunds. Allí podrá encontrar los próximos eventos e importantes noticias que le afectan. ¡Estamos seguros de que encontrará mucho que le "Guste"!

**For information on upcoming
trip and vacation offers,
call (800) 552-6262, ext. 112,
and (800) 431-1130, ext. 5537.**

1199SEIU Benefit and Pension Funds
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IMPORTANT NEWS

*about chapter
meetings and classes!*

1199SEIU
Retired Members
Division





President's Message

Mensaje Del Presidente

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This month we have three celebrations that are dear to my heart: Older Americans Month, National Nurses Week and Mother's Day. May offers the perfect opportunity to show our appreciation for our seniors and retirees, as well as for our nurses, many of whom are, of course, also mothers.

As a former nurse, I know how important it is for us to take care of our health, and how fortunate we are to have quality healthcare benefits. I urge everyone to visit their healthcare provider for an annual exam and preventive screenings, because staying well allows us to remain "Retired but Active."

And this year's presidential election will give us plenty of opportunities to stay active – starting with making sure to get out and vote. Let us not forget that 47 years ago in Alabama, thousands of civil rights protesters marched from Selma to Montgomery to defend every American's right to vote. In memory of this historic event, I urge all of you not only to register to vote but to encourage members of your community to do the same.

I also want to commend all of our sisters and brothers who've been regular visitors to the Retired Members Division and attendees at our chapter meetings – the turnout continually reminds me of the strength of our commitment to each other and to the next generation. For those of you thinking about trying out a new activity, now is the time to stop by the Retired Members Division. The division offers something for everyone – from arts and crafts or sewing to Chi Gong and yoga – and the spring and summer months mean a trip to 330 West 42nd Street or your local chapter is a great way to get some exercise and fresh air as well.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the retirees who have stayed current with their Union dues and encourage those of you who may have fallen behind to make sure you restart your contributions. As always, I hope you make every effort to stay involved in your Retired Members Division by attending a chapter meeting or class. Remaining active is what keeps us vital, and I ask all of you to join me in leading by example during what is sure to be a challenging – and exciting – year ahead.

In solidarity,
Lena Hayes

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Este mes tenemos tres celebraciones que significan mucho para mí: El Mes de los Americanos de Edad Avanzada, la Semana Nacional de las Enfermeras y el Día de la Madre. El mes de mayo ofrece la perfecta oportunidad para mostrar nuestro aprecio a los adultos mayores y a los jubilados, así como a nuestras enfermeras, muchas de las cuales son, por supuesto, también madres de familia.

Como una antigua enfermera, estoy consciente de lo importante que es para nosotros cuidar nuestra salud, y lo afortunados que somos en contar con beneficios de calidad para la atención de la salud. Ruego a todos que visiten a su proveedor de atención de la salud para someterse a un examen anual y pruebas preventivas, porque mantenernos saludables nos permite estar "Jubilados pero Activos".

Y la elección presidencial de este año nos brindará amplias oportunidades de mantenernos activos, comenzando por asegurarse de salir y votar. No olvidemos que hace 47 años en Alabama, miles de manifestantes de los derechos civiles marcharon de Selma a Montgomery para defender el derecho al voto de cada norteamericano. En recuerdo de ese evento histórico, ruego a todos ustedes no sólo registrarse para votar sino animar a otros miembros de su comunidad para que lo hagan.

También quiero felicitar a todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas que han sido visitantes asiduos a la División de Miembros Jubilados y asistentes a nuestras reuniones de las agrupaciones, la asistencia continuamente me recuerda la fortaleza de nuestro compromiso con cada uno de nosotros y con la siguiente generación. Para aquellos que están considerando probar una nueva actividad, éste es el momento de visitar la División de Miembros Jubilados. La división ofrece algo para cada uno, desde artes y manualidades o costura hasta Chi Gong y yoga – y los meses de la primavera y el verano son la oportunidad ideal para visitar la sede de 330 West 42nd Street o su agrupación local, esto es una magnífica forma de hacer ejercicio y recibir aire fresco también.

Finalmente, me gustaría agradecer a los jubilados que se han mantenido al día con sus cuotas sindicales y alentar a aquellos que se han retrasado a asegurarse de reanudar sus contribuciones. Como siempre, espero que hagan todos los esfuerzos posibles para mantenerse involucrados en su División de Miembros Jubilados al asistir a reuniones de las agrupaciones o a las clases. Permanecer activos es lo que nos mantiene llenos de vitalidad, y les pido a cada uno de ustedes que se unan a mí en dar el ejemplo en lo que probablemente será un año desafiante y emocionante.

En solidaridad,
Lena Hayes



A Message from the Executive Director

Un Mensaje de la Directora Ejecutiva

Dear Retired Members,

Every day it seems we read more about the importance of staying active – both mentally and physically – and its effect on the quality of our lives. In fact, a recent study in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* found that physically active seniors were more likely to outlive their less-active peers.

The benefits of remaining engaged and on the go have long been evident to you, our 1199SEIU retirees, who take advantage of the many classes and meetings your Retired Members Division offers. And there are more activities to choose from every month. We recently added new Chi Gong classes in Brooklyn and the Bronx, as well as quilting and sewing classes in Brooklyn. And a new Staten Island chapter began last month, giving retirees who live in that borough the opportunity to stay in touch with old friends, make new ones and talk about the issues that affect their lives.

With the presidential election coming up in November, there is sure to be a lot to talk about. As President Gresham and President Hayes point out in their columns, healthcare is a critical issue in this year's election, so everyone's vote counts. Make sure yours does.

Finally, we are always thinking of ways to stay connected with our members and keep them informed, and so we have tapped into the power of social media with our own Facebook page. You can keep up to date with everything going on at the Benefit and Pension Funds by visiting www.facebook.com/1199SEIUBenefitFunds. You'll find details about upcoming events as well as programs to help you stay healthy, plan for the future and more. So be sure to stop by and "Like" us!

Of course, you can always speak to us directly. If you ever have any questions about your health or pension benefits, please don't hesitate to call one of our Retiree Services representatives at (646) 473-8666 or (800) 892-2557. We are here for you.

Sincerely,

Estimados Miembros Jubilados,

Pareciera que cada día leemos más sobre lo importante que es mantenerse activos, tanto mental como físicamente, y su efecto en la calidad de nuestras vidas. De hecho, un estudio reciente publicado en *Archives of Internal Medicine* (Archivos de Medicina Interna) descubrió que los adultos mayores que están activos físicamente tenían más probabilidades de sobrevivir que aquellos menos activos.

Los beneficios de mantenerse activos y dinámicos han sido evidentes por mucho tiempo para ustedes, nuestros jubilados de 1199SEIU, que se benefician de las muchas clases y reuniones que ofrece la División de Miembros Jubilados. Y cada mes hay más actividades entre las cuales elegir. Recientemente agregamos nuevas clases de Chi Gong en Brooklyn y el Bronx, así como clases de elaboración de colchas y de costura en Brooklyn. Y el mes pasado se inició una nueva agrupación en Staten Island, lo que permite a los jubilados que viven en ese distrito tener la oportunidad de mantenerse en contacto con viejos amigos, hacer nuevos amigos y hablar sobre los temas que afectan sus vidas.

Con la elección presidencial que se va a llevar a cabo en noviembre, hay mucho de qué hablar. Tal como el Presidente Gresham y el Presidente Hayes señalan en sus columnas, la atención de la salud es un tema crítico en las elecciones de este año, por ello el voto de cada uno cuenta. Asegúrese de que el suyo también cuente.

Finalmente, siempre estamos pensando en formas de mantenernos conectados con nuestros miembros y mantenerlos informados, por ello hemos aprovechado el poder de las redes sociales al establecer nuestra propia página en Facebook. Usted puede mantenerse informado sobre todo lo que ocurre en los Fondos de Beneficios y Pensiones visitando www.facebook.com/1199SEIUBenefitFunds. Encontrará información detallada sobre eventos venideros así como programas para mantenerse saludable, planificar para el futuro y mucho más. ¡Por ello asegúrese de visitarnos y marcar "Me gusta"!

Por supuesto que usted siempre puede comunicarse directamente con nosotros. Si en alguna oportunidad tiene preguntas sobre sus beneficios de salud o de pensión, no dude en llamar a uno de nuestros representantes de Servicios a Jubilados al (646) 473-8666 o al (800) 892-2557. Estamos a su disposición.

Atentamente,

Florida Chapters

Broward – Leon Davis Chapter

Tuesday, May 8 – noon
Tamarac Public Library
8701 West Commercial Blvd. • Tamarac, FL 33351

Casselberry – Doris Turner Chapter

Thursday, May 17 – 11:00 am
Casselberry Public Library
215 North Oxford Road • Casselberry, FL 32707

Miami-Dade – Ossie Davis Chapter

Friday, May 4 – 10:30 am
18441 NW 2nd Avenue
Lincoln Building – North Wing, Suite 502 (Penthouse)
Miami Gardens, FL 33169

Orlando Chapter

Wednesday, May 16 – 11:00 am
UAW Local #788
1825 West Oak Ridge Road • Orlando, FL 32809

Palm Bay-Melbourne Chapter

Tuesday, May 22 – 1:30 pm
Palm Bay United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall
2100 Port Malabar Blvd., NE • Palm Bay, FL 32905

Port St. Lucie Chapter

Wednesday, May 23 – 11:00 am
Port St. Lucie Community Center
2195 SE Airosa Blvd. • Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

South Palm Beach Chapter

Thursday, May 10 – 10:00 am
Temple Emeth
5780 W. Atlantic Avenue • Delray Beach, FL 33446

West Palm Beach Chapter

Wednesday, May 2 – 11:00 am
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church – Parish Hall
1063 North Haverhill Road • West Palm Beach, FL 33414

For information about Florida chapter meetings,
contact Marilyn Silverberg:

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

North & South Carolinas Chapter

Friday, May 18 – 9:30 am to noon
Birnie Hope Center
210 South Purdy Street • Sumter, SC 29150
For more information call Nonnie B. Perry at (803) 481-0475.

Florida News

On Monday, March 5, 967 retirees and their guests from across the state gathered at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach, which was the biggest attendance at our Annual Florida Retiree Banquet ever! The 1199SEIU Funds provided 16 buses in various chapter locations to transport retirees and their guests to the event. The morning session included welcoming speeches from 1199SEIU Benefit and Pension Funds staff, and everyone had plenty of time to mix and mingle. Many retirees sought out their former co-workers and enjoyed catching up on their yearly “news.” The afternoon session featured remarks from George Gresham, President of 1199SEIU, and Monica Russo, Executive Vice-President, 1199SEIU UHE Florida Division. Finally, DJ Mark provided great music and filled the room with the sounds of the islands. Thanks to all who attended and helped make the banquet such a rousing success.

We’re happy, too, that attendance at many of our Florida chapter meetings has reached peak levels. We encourage all of our Florida retirees to attend a monthly meeting to hear updates on your benefits, informative speakers on health-related issues, local politics, and community services, and of course enjoy a friendly social outlet where you can share your retirement experiences.

If you are planning to retire in Florida, please contact Marilyn Silverberg, Florida Retiree Coordinator, for answers to your questions and to learn how you can get involved in your local chapter. (Please note that she is only at the chapter meeting locations during the meetings.)

Be sure to mark your calendar for the next chapter meeting in your area, and enjoy your Memorial Day holiday with family and friends.

Florida West Coast Chapters

Please note that the Brandon chapter meeting has been moved to Tampa.

Fort Myers Chapter

Monday, May 21 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
The Riverside Community Center
3601 Riverside Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33902

North Port Chapter

Tuesday, May 22 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Morgan Family Community Center
6207 West Price Blvd.
North Port, FL 34288

Tampa Chapter

Wednesday, May 23 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
1199SEIU UHE Office
500 N. West Shore Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33609
For directions, call Jennilee Reyes at (813) 898-1940.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 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	2 9:30-10:30 Yoga* (Hicksville) 10-12 Choral Group 10-12 Knitting & Crocheting (Beg) 11-12 Dance (Hicksville) 12-1 Yoga* (Bronx) 12:30-4:30 Knitting & Crocheting (Inter/Adv) 1-4 Knitting & Crocheting (Brooklyn) 1:30-2:30 Chi Gong (Bronx)	3 10-11 Tai Chi 11-12 Yoga* 12 Lunch Club 12-2 Quilting (Brooklyn) 3-5 Arts & Crafts 3-5 Sewing	4 10-11 Yoga* (Brooklyn) 10-12 Quilting 1-2 Dance 2-3 Yoga*
7 10-11 Chi Gong (Brooklyn) 10:30-11:30 Opera Appreciation 12-1 Art History 1:30-3:30 Executive Committee Meeting	8 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	9 9:30-10:30 Yoga* (Hicksville) 10-12 Choral Group 10-12 Knitting & Crocheting (Beg) 11-12 Dance (Hicksville) 12-1 Yoga* (Bronx) 12:30-4:30 Knitting & Crocheting (Inter/Adv) 1-4 Knitting & Crocheting (Brooklyn) 1:30-2:30 Chi Gong (Bronx)	10 10-11 Tai Chi 11-12 Yoga* 12 Lunch Club 12-2 Quilting (Brooklyn) 1-2 General Membership Meeting 3-5 Arts & Crafts 3-5 Sewing	11 10-11 Yoga* (Brooklyn) 10-12 Quilting 1-2 Dance 2-3 Yoga*
14 10-11 Chi Gong (Brooklyn) 10:30-11:30 Opera Appreciation 12-1 Art History	15 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 (New Hyde Park) 1:30-3 Discussion Group	16 9:30-10:30 Yoga* (Hicksville) 10-12 Knitting & Crocheting (Beg) 12-1 Yoga* (Bronx) 12:30-4:30 Knitting & Crocheting (Inter/Adv) 1-4 Knitting & Crocheting (Brooklyn) 1:30-2:30 Chi Gong (Bronx)	17 10-11 Tai Chi 11-12 Yoga* 12 Lunch Club 12-2 Quilting (Brooklyn) 1-3 Birthday Party 3-5 Arts & Crafts 3-5 Sewing	18 10-11 Yoga* (Brooklyn) 10-12 Quilting 10-12 Vision & Hearing Screening 1-2 Dance 2-3 Yoga*
21 10-11 Chi Gong (Brooklyn) 10:30-11:30 Opera Appreciation 12-1 Art History	22 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	23 9:30-10:30 Yoga* (Hicksville) 10-12 Choral Group 10-12 Knitting & Crocheting (Beg) 11-12 Dance (Hicksville) 12-1 Yoga* (Bronx) 12:30-4:30 Knitting & Crocheting (Inter/Adv) 1-4 Knitting & Crocheting (Brooklyn) 1:30-2:30 Chi Gong (Bronx)	24 10-11 Tai Chi 11-12 Yoga* 12 Lunch Club 12-2 Quilting (Brooklyn) 3-5 Arts & Crafts 3-5 Sewing	25 10-11 Yoga* (Brooklyn) 10-12 Quilting 1-2 Dance 2-3 Yoga*
28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 9:30-12 Photography 10:30-12 Drama 12-2 Sewing (Brooklyn) 12-3 Art 12:30-1:30 Shakespeare 1:30-3 Discussion Group	30 10-12 Choral Group 10-12 Knitting & Crocheting (Beg) 11-12 Dance (Hicksville) 12:30-4:30 Knitting & Crocheting (Inter/Adv) 1-4 Knitting & Crocheting (Brooklyn)	31 12 Lunch Club 12-2 Quilting (Brooklyn) 3-5 Arts & Crafts 3-5 Sewing	

* Sponsored by HealthCare Partners, IPA

New Retiree Chapter in Staten Island

Thanks to all of you who joined us at the grand opening of our new retiree chapter in Staten Island. We hope to see more of our retirees at the next meeting on **Monday, May 14, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm:**

**1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds Office
790 Port Richmond Ave., 1st Floor (off Forest Avenue)
Staten Island, NY 10302**

All classes are held at our Manhattan Headquarters unless otherwise indicated.

STATEN ISLAND CHAPTER

1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds Office
790 Port Richmond Ave., 1st Floor (off Forest Avenue)
Staten Island, NY 10302
Monday, May 14
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

NEW HYDE PARK - ELEANOR TILSON CHAPTER

NS-LIJ Cohen Children's Medical Center
Teaching Ctr. – Conference Room
269-01 76th Avenue
Tuesday, May 15
2:05 pm - 3:30 pm

QUEENS - ST. ALBANS CHAPTER

Guy Brewer Democratic Club
197-01 Linden Blvd.
Tuesday, May 22
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

HICKSVILLE - MILTON KONOWE CHAPTER

1199SEIU Hicksville Office
100 Duffy Avenue
Wednesday, May 16
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

NORTH BRONX - BERNARD MINTER CHAPTER

Holy Rosary Church
1510 Adee Avenue (enter at parking lot)
Tuesday, May 8
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

BRONX - JOSEPH JAMES CHAPTER

1199SEIU Healthcare & Education Center
2501 Grand Concourse, Room 301
Friday, May 11
10:00 am - noon

EAST HARLEM - LEON DAVIS CHAPTER

Casita Senior Center
55 East 102nd Street
Friday, May 25
10:30 am - noon

BROOKLYN - MATTIE SMALL CHAPTER

Brooklyn Cluster
25 Elm Place (off Fulton St.)
Friday, May 18
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

BROOKLYN - MARSHALL DUBIN CHAPTER

Brooklyn College
Student Center, 2nd Floor
East 27th Street & Campus Road
Wednesday, May 30
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Yoga Classes New Class in New Hyde Park

Our newest yoga class will meet once a month, just before the monthly New Hyde Park chapter meeting, in the same location. The first class is Tuesday, May 15, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Brooklyn

25 Elm Place (at Fulton)
Rooms 4 & 5
Fridays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Bronx

1199SEIU Healthcare & Education Center
2501 Grand Concourse, Room 301
Wednesdays, noon - 1:00 pm

Hicksville

100 Duffy Avenue, 3rd Floor
Wednesdays, 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Manhattan Headquarters

330 W. 42nd Street, 9th Floor
Thursdays, 11:00 am - noon
Fridays, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

New Hyde Park

NS-LIJ Cohen Children's Medical Center
Teaching Center – Conference Room
269-01 76th Avenue
Tuesday, May 15 – 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
(This class only meets once a month.)

Queens

Devore Dance Center
205-05 Hollis Ave., Main Floor
Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Chi Gong Classes in Brooklyn and the Bronx

If you're looking for a new fitness activity, try Chi Gong – a Chinese healing art that is designed to bring healthy energy into the body. In a meditative atmosphere, participants perform a series of simple movements (either sitting or standing) that are believed to aid the immune and circulatory systems and help calm the nervous system.

The classes meet:

Brooklyn at 25 Elm Place (off Fulton Street)
Mondays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Bronx at 2501 Grand Concourse
Wednesdays from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

Shakespeare Class

Please join us as we read *The Tempest*, the Bard's last play, and ponder whether it is a comedy or a tale of madness.

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

1199SEIU RMD, 330 West 42nd Street, 9th Floor



New Quilting and Sewing 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.

1199SEIU Funds
Benefit and Pension

Save the Date Quilting Class Exhibit

The 1199SEIU Retiree Quilting Class Exhibit on September 24 and 25 will display the beautiful creations of participants in our Manhattan and Brooklyn quilting classes.

We hope you'll visit the exhibit at our Manhattan Headquarters at 330 West 42nd Street on the 33rd Floor, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The movie series has been temporarily suspended; please check future issues for information on when it will resume.

MEETING TOPICS*

May – Shingles (Herpes Zoster)

June – Exercise and Physical Activity

* Sponsored by HealthCare Partners, IPA

Vision/Hearing Screening

Friday, May 18

10:00 am to noon

First come, first served

1199SEIU RMD

330 West 42nd Street, 9th Floor

Dance Classes Have Resumed

Instructor Luther Gale has returned to teach our very popular dance classes at the 1199SEIU Hicksville office on Wednesdays, and on Fridays at our Manhattan Headquarters. Please check the calendar.



A Message from / Un Mensaje de GEORGE GRESHAM
 PRESIDENT / PRESIDENTE, 1199SEIU UNITED HEALTHCARE WORKERS EAST

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It may not always have been pleasant to watch, but the Republican presidential primaries have definitely been educational. The differences between these candidates and President Obama in terms of what they promise for our future could not be more stark.

Leon Davis, the founding president of our Union, said that in politics we 1199ers do not have permanent allies, only permanent interests. We have adhered to this principle ever since. But witnessing the Republican primary campaigns, there is no question that our members – including our Republican members – will best be served by the re-election of President Obama. Conversely, the election of any of the Republican candidates in November would be a disaster for our members, our retirees and our Union.

On healthcare, the Republican candidates have spent nearly a year out-doing one another promising to return healthcare and women’s rights back to the 18th century. They would all gut Medicare (and Social Security), thereby impoverishing millions of retirees and other seniors, and create a healthcare crisis of unprecedented proportions among an aging population.

They would also decimate or altogether eliminate Medicaid, thus denying healthcare to our most vulnerable – our frail elderly, our poor and our children. And when it comes to women’s reproductive rights, the Republican hopefuls – all of whom denounce “big government” and “Washington’s interference in people’s lives” – each promise to take medical decisions out of the hands of women, their partners and their physicians, and legislate how they must treat contraception and conception.

On the economy, there is not a penny’s worth of difference among the Republican candidates. They all pledge to further eliminate taxes on the wealthy and corporations, and further shred the social safety net. Healthcare, education, public safety and other essential needs are on the chopping block. The Republican candidates are bragging as to which one has the sharpest axe.

Just as newly elected Republican governors in Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and elsewhere tried to outlaw collective bargaining and pass anti-union legislation, you can be sure that this is priority number one for a Republican president. At that point, 1199ers can prepare to say good-bye to our healthcare benefits and pensions.

This is not speculation: This is what they promise. Too much is riding on this election – our retirement security, our healthcare, the rights that you fought for – to even think about sitting it out. This is where we make our stand and defend what is rightfully ours.

In solidarity,

THIS PAGE IS PAID FOR BY 1199SEIU UNITED HEALTHCARE WORKERS EAST / ESTA PÁGINA LA FINANCIÓ 1199SEIU UNITED HEALTHCARE WORKERS EAST

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Es posible que no hayan sido siempre agradables de ver, pero las primarias presidenciales republicanas han sido definitivamente educativas. Las diferencias entre estos candidatos y el Presidente Obama en términos de lo que prometen para nuestro futuro no pueden haber sido más crudas.

Leon Davis, el presidente fundador de nuestro Sindicato, afirmó que en política nosotros los miembros de 1199 no tenemos aliados permanentes, sino intereses permanentes. Nos hemos adherido a este principio desde siempre. Pero al ser testigos de las campañas primarias republicanas, no hay duda alguna de que a nuestros miembros, incluyendo nuestros miembros republicanos les serviría mucho más la reelección del Presidente Obama. Por otro lado, la elección de cualquiera de los candidatos republicanos en noviembre sería un desastre para nuestros miembros, nuestros jubilados y nuestro Sindicato.

Sobre el tema de la atención de la salud, los candidatos republicanos han dedicado casi un año completo a intentar superarse entre sí con promesas de hacer volver la atención de la salud y los derechos de la mujer al siglo 18. Todos vaciarían Medicare (y el Seguro Social), con lo cual empobrecerían a millones de jubilados y otros adultos mayores y crearían una crisis sin precedente en la atención de la salud entre la población de edad avanzada.

Ellos también diezmarían o eliminarían en su integridad a Medicaid, con lo cual estarían negando la atención de la salud a los más vulnerables, los débiles ancianos, los pobres y los niños. Y cuando se trata de los derechos reproductivos de las mujeres, los candidatos republicanos, todos los cuales denuncian al “gran gobierno” y a la “interferencia de Washington en las vidas de las personas”, cada uno promete quitar las decisiones médicas del control de las mujeres, sus parejas y sus médicos, y legislar sobre cómo se debe tratar la contracepción y la concepción.

Sobre la economía, no existe un penique de diferencia entre los candidatos republicanos. Todos ellos prometen eliminar más los impuestos sobre los ricos y las corporaciones, y cortar adicionalmente la red de seguridad social. La atención de la salud, la educación, la seguridad pública y otras necesidades esenciales están en los planes de recortes. Los candidatos republicanos están jactándose sobre cuál tiene el hacha más afilada.

Al igual que los gobernadores republicanos recientemente elegidos en Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio y en otros lugares intentaron declarar fuera de la ley a las negociaciones colectivas y aprobar legislación antisindical, puede estar seguro que esto será la prioridad número uno para un presidente republicano. En ese momento, los miembros de 1199 pueden prepararse para decir adiós a nuestros beneficios de atención de la salud y pensiones.

Esto no es especulación: Es lo que ellos prometen. Demasiadas cosas dependen de estas elecciones, nuestra seguridad de jubilación, nuestra atención de la salud, los derechos por los que luchó, como para siquiera considerar no participar. Ahora es cuando nos ponemos firmes y defendemos lo que es nuestro por derecho.

En solidaridad,