

News from Local 362!

The Union of Attractions, Custodial, and Vacation Planners at Walt Disney World and Hotel and Food Service Workers in Central Florida

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Organizer Assignments

- Tito Rosario, Organizer, ext. 14
 - Sky Chefs - Orlando & Tampa
 - SSP America
 - Gate Gourmet - Tampa
 - Hollywood Studios
 - Downtown Disney
 - Typhoon Lagoon
 - Miniature Golf
 - Old Key West
 - Saratoga Springs Resort
- Ed Kontos, Organizer, ext. 21
 - Magic Kingdom
 - Contemporary Resort
 - Grand Floridian Resort
 - Fort Wilderness Campground
- Jeremy Yassen, Lead Organizer ext. 17
 - Epcot
 - POP Century Resort
 - Caribbean Beach Resort
 - All-Star Resort
 - Blizzard Beach
 - ESPN's Wide World of Sports
 - AMTRAK Aramark
- Eric Clinton, President, ext. 16
 - Animal Kingdom
 - Yacht & Beach Resort

Sky Chefs Workers Win New Contract!

After a 2 year long struggle with Sky Chefs, 7000 inflight catering workers in 40 kitchens throughout the United States ratified a new contract on January 12, 2012 by a 3,011 to 399 margin. 250 of those 7,000 workers are represented by Local 362 at the Orlando International Airport. The new contract is firmly putting Sky Chefs workers back on track after massive concessions in 2006 gutted their income by 30%.

The settlement provides for:

- raises up to \$ 1.40 over the term of the agreement
- signing bonuses of up to \$1000
- 2 additional holidays
- improvement in the cost of medical benefits
- multiple language improvements including grievance procedure and seniority
- a commitment from Sky Chefs that if the company decides to terminate its plan as a result of Health Care reform they will bargain with the union about any cost savings.

The settlement also provides for an expedited negotiations and settlement process for the next Master Negotiations Contract round.

This important victory was part of a nationally coordinated comprehensive effort. We trained hundreds of committee leaders about organizing. We also developed a broad comprehensive campaign front including massive client actions by the Organizing Beyond Border program in over 20 cities during the summer. Sky Chefs workers also mobilized countless public rallies, shop floor delegations, lobby days, and a trip to Germany to launch the campaign in Lufthansa's backyard. The German company Lufthansa owns Sky Chefs.

"It took a lot of time and a lot of effort to get to this point but I feel very proud of what we won in this contract," says Irma Candelaria, a member of the bargaining committee from the kitchen at the Orlando International Airport. "We reached an agreement that works for us and for Sky Chefs, and we will remain united across the country to make sure that we are even stronger for the next agreement."

Disney Wage Increases

On April 1, 2012, all Disney workers will receive their annual wage increases. Based on which job classification members are stasured to and how much service employees have with the Company, wage increases may vary.

- Hired prior to 12/12/1998 ("topped-out) - minimum 2.25% increase
- Hired after 12/12/1998 ("tier 2") - minimum 3% increase

Make sure to check your paycheck on April 12, 2012 to ensure your wage increase was properly applied. If you have any questions, contact your Shop Steward or Union Representative.

Shop Stewards set Vision for a Better Florida

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012, over 250 Shop Stewards from Locals 362 and 737 met to discuss the challenges that Central Florida hospitality workers face. Union leaders were present from Disney, the Orange County Convention Center, the Buena Vista Palace, the Doubletree Universal, SSP America and Areas from the Orlando International Airport, and several food and beverage outlets from Disney.

Many Shop Stewards spoke passionately about low wages, expensive health insurance, heavy workloads, and the lack of respect that many hospitality workers experience in Florida.

Local 362 leaders Jesse Massas (Yacht & Beach, Custodial), Kim Hanley (Animal Kingdom, Custodial), Travis Joyner (Animal Kingdom, Attractions), Isaac Cropp (Studios, Artist), Madeline Lugo (POP Century, Custodial), Lafratil Polynice (Magic Kingdom, Custodial), Neftali Colon (Sky Chefs, Production), Evelyn Engram (Epcot, Custodial), Angel Cotto (All-Star, Custodial), and Eli Rivera (Fort Wilderness, Custodial) each spoke at the meeting about challenges facing our communities. Each person spoke about different topics ranging from housing foreclosures, debt incurred from medical conditions, having multiple roommates to be able to pay bills, unaffordable child care to lack of mass transportation in Florida.

With 6,000 workers in Local 362 and 13,000 workers in Local 737, our two UNITE HERE! Unions together are 19,000 strong. United, we can improve our lives!

The Shop Stewards Summit was joined by two workers from our sister UNITE HERE! Local 34 in New Haven, Connecticut and Local 217 in Providence, Rhode Island. Both Evette Hamilton—a worker at Yale University—and Carmen Castillo—a housekeeper at the Westin Providence hotel—recently won elections to City Council positions in their hometowns. The power and voice they have achieved in their cities is an inspiration to us here in Florida! A better Florida is possible!

AREAS Negotiations

After achieving recognition of the Union in October of 2011, workers at the Orlando International Airport who work for AREAS have begun the process of negotiating their first contract. Members elected Julio Almengor, Lynne Ochoa, Brandi Thomas and Juan “Smokey” Rosario to represent the Union at the negotiating table. After multiple bargaining sessions, much progress has been made on most of the non-economic language priorities of the Union Committee. The next bargaining session is scheduled for March 27, 2012 where the Committee expects to address wages, health insurance, retirement benefits as well as the remaining language issues that have yet to be resolved. Contact the Negotiating Committee or Jeremy Yassen/Eric Clinton for more information.

Moving???

If your address has changed, please call the Union Hall at (407) 851-0626 or (800) 468-0626 to notify us of your new address.



News from Local 362! Staff

Editor.....Eric Clinton

Contributions.....Members,
.....Shop Stewards & Staff

Distribution.....Pat Bailey

Upcoming Union Meetings

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2012

9AM and 6PM

@ Local 362 Union Hall