



SENTINEL

Advocate

The Official Newsletter for the CITY
 Professional Managers & Supervisors Association & Public Employees Union
 Division of the Federation of Physicians & Dentists / AHPE

GAO: Labor Department Failing Miserably in Enforcing Wage Laws (Posted on *AFL-CIO Now Blog* by James Parks on March 25, 2009)

WASHINGTON - Labor Secretary Hilda Solis announced the department's *Wage & Hour Division* will add 250 new investigators, a staff increase of more than a third. The agency already has begun the process of adding 150 new investigators to its field offices.

In addition, another 100 investigators will be hired to ensure that contractors on economic recovery projects comply with the applicable laws. This is a big step in the right direction to rebuild the agency, which lost more than 200 investigators during the Bush administration.

The federal agency that is supposed to protect workers and enforce minimum wage, overtime and child labor laws is failing miserably, leaving low-income workers vulnerable to wage theft. In a report released today, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) says the labor Department's Wage and Hour Division *"has left thousands of actual victims of wage theft who sought federal government assistance with nowhere to turn."* [Go to PEU1199.org and click on *"The Insider"* to find a link to the rest of this article.]

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

We have re-launched our website and have made it easier for you to go directly to your Division pages.

We realize that in this day and age, an up-to-date website is essential to the busy working professional. So we've given ourselves a facelift! We've also obtained additional domain names! So, in addition to going through our main FPD/AHPE web page at

fpdunion.org

you can NOW go directly to your Union Division pages for NEWS & UPDATES at

PEU1199.org

Take full advantage of your membership - visit our new web site TODAY!

Congress Introduces Bill to End Insurance Discrimination Against Pre-Existing Conditions (www.healthcarefinancenews.com, March 19, 2009 / Diana Manos, Senior Editor)

WASHINGTON - Legislation was introduced Wednesday (March 18), that would end insurance discrimination against those with pre-existing or chronic illnesses.

Sen. John Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care and Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, have introduced the *Pre-existing Condition Patient Protection Act*, which would eliminate pre-existing condition exclusions in all insurance markets, a priority set by the Obama administration.

Rockefeller and Courtney said they plan to work closely with the president to enact *"this vital legislation."*

"We have 133 million Americans living with chronic illness - insurance companies should no longer be allowed to reap profits by denying care to sick Americans," Rockefeller said. *"These medical services are not optional, and most times they are not affordable without insurance. Our system is broken, which is why we must eliminate the ability of insurers to deny coverage fro pre-existing conditions in every single market. The time for serious action is now."* [Go to PEU1199.org and click on *"The Insider"* to find a link to the rest of this article.]



As a dues paying member, you can now purchase **Aflac™ Supplemental Insurance** policies at a special discounted rate! When you're out of work due to an illness or injury, there are two things that are increasingly hard to come by: piece of mind and cash. **Aflac™** provides both. Find out how by contacting our **Aflac™** agent, Mary Remson at mary_remson@us.aflac.com.

5 benefits union members can use - RIGHT NOW!

Union membership works for you everyday! Not only does membership get you an advantage at the bargaining table on the job, but off the job you and your family are automatically entitled to free benefits and special savings. **TAKE A LOOK!**

1 Battling rising health care costs? Do you lack full coverage through your employee benefits? *Union Plus* programs can help you save by filling in benefit gaps, like discounts on services not covered by your insurance, and by encouraging healthier lifestyles, like discounts to health clubs. Learn more at www.unionplus.org/health/health-savings.

2 Are you struggling with debt? As a dues paying member, you have resources available to you that can help you manage your debt and take action. Simply go to www.uniondebthelp.org today.



3 Act now if you are facing mortgage payment problems. Get free and confidential advice personalized for your situation. Or if you're a first-time homebuyer, it's never been easier and more affordable. Check out the "Money & Credit" section of www.afscme.org/members/71.cfm.

4 Union members can receive a special 10% discount on wireless service from AT&T (formerly Cingular) through www.afscme.org/members/9640.cfm. And whether you're a student, parent or retiree, get your tech savings at www.afscme.org/members/1239.cfm.

5 Only the *AFSCME Advantage MasterCard* offers you exclusive money-saving benefits and *Triple Plus Features* that no other card can equal. Apply directly at www.afscmecard.com/1/2.

Questions? Visit www.PEU1199.org to find a link to your "Member Benefits" or go directly to www.afscme.org/members/71.cfm and start saving TODAY!

PLEASE BE SURE TO LET US KNOW IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET CAPABILITIES AND NEED TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWS & UPDATES IN PRINTED FORM.

LOCAL UPDATES:

RIVIERA BEACH

Negotiations Continue

Negotiations continued for the PMSA Riviera Beach, FL bargaining unit on March 26 - 27. A number of Articles were tentatively agreed upon, while several others were explained and near agreement. Of utmost concern to the members of this unit is the assurance of a fair and equitable grievance/arbitration procedure and an objective evaluation procedure. Bargaining will resume May 18 & 19.

PMSA Vice-President Brenda Nedzweckas has been on the forefront representing several employees in regard to potential disciplinary action in Riviera Beach. As no collective bargaining agreement currently exists, the representation is limited to the current *City Policies and Procedures* governed by the *City Civil Service Rules*. However, to date, the City has been open and frank during the pre-determination discussions.

CITY OF LAKE WORTH

At least eleven members of the PMSA

and PEU can now breathe a sigh of relief and get on with their lives

Following a continuing dialogue between Executive Director, Jack Seddon, and the City of Lake Worth Administration and City Commission, the Commission by a 3 to 2 vote rejected a bid by JCD Sports, Inc. to takeover management of the Lake Worth Golf Course.

Seddon said that the three members of the Commission who voted against the outsourcing of the golf course took the time, energy and effort to seek and understand the outlying issues and the negative impact such a move would have on bargaining unit employees and the City and on all the golf course has to offer.

Heartfelt thanks from these employees to certain members of the Administration and Commissioners Mulvehill, Golden and Jennings. It wasn't an easy decision, but it was the right decision.

On another note, the PMSA and PEU welcome Ms. Susan Stanton as the new City Manager of Lake Worth.



PMSA & PEU get an increased benefit of \$4000 through AIL!

After recent discussions with *American Income Life Insurance Company (AIL)*, a 100% union company with 53+ years in serving the working families of America and an "A+ Superior" rating, we have been able to increase our **accidental death & dismemberment (AD&D) benefit** from \$3000 to **\$4000!** This benefit is available to all dues paying members and retirees AT NO COST and will continue to cover you as long as you are a member or retiree of the local. For more information on this benefit

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