

# 1199SEIU NEWSLETTER

One Union. One Voice.



**1199SEIU**  
United Healthcare Workers East

For Long-Term Caregivers

August 2019

## Message from Our Vice President



First, I want to express my sincere appreciation for reelecting me as your Vice President. It's an honor and a job I take seriously. As a former CNA, I know well how hard you all work and the critically important role you play in providing compassionate care to our loved ones in nursing homes.

You have also recently elected a large team of new delegates

throughout all our nursing homes in the state of Florida. These delegates have committed themselves to helping protect you and your contracts. Contact them when you need guidance or help.

This team, together with all our hardworking members, is what makes our union strong. We'll need this strength to help us weather storms that have been brewing since the Florida legislature cut state funding this year for many nursing homes. Despite this challenge, we've settled good contracts recently. By staying committed and united, bargaining teams representing numerous long-term care facilities have achieved higher starting salaries, secured more protections for their coworkers and themselves and set new standards for future employees.

Since our commitment to work for justice extends beyond our workplaces, we must get ready for the 2020 election. From the white house to the statehouse, the leaders we elect will have the power to fight with us for a \$15 minimum wage, protect union rights, immigrant rights, combat climate change, expand access to quality, affordable healthcare and other critical issues. Stay engaged and active so we can show our power at the polls.

In Unity,  
Margarete Nerette  
V.P, Florida Long-Term Care



## Making Progress Together in 2019

Bargaining teams across the state have negotiated a number of good contracts this year. Among them, Airamid Health Services. Securing this deal was no easy feat. That's because it's one of many Florida nursing homes facing cuts in state

funding. Despite these fiscal challenges, the bargaining team won a strong contract that includes higher minimum wages, annual pay increases and a no layoff guarantee for 12 months! Congratulations team Airamid for this herculean achievement!

[1199SEIU.org/Florida](http://1199SEIU.org/Florida)



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Text LTC to 30644 for mobile phone text updates.\*

\*Carrier message and data rates may apply

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### Tenacity and Teamwork Help Plaza Nursing Home Workers Win a Good Contract



Caregivers from four Plaza Health Network nursing homes in Miami have ratified a new contract that

includes higher wages and bonuses as well as no takeaways.

Securing this deal was challenging because Aventura Plaza was slated to be sold and it was unclear if the new owner would agree to sign off on a new contract. Negotiations ran into the night and at times were tense. But, the bargaining team persevered.

“I am proud of the way our bargaining committee stayed unified despite many challenges,” said CNA Marie Petit Frere. “It’s a good example of the power we have as workers when we come together through our union to negotiate.”

Four Plaza facilities now have a new agreement: Jackson, Sinai, Arch and Aventura Plaza which was signed and agreed to by the new owners. Congratulations!

#### Consulate Worker Wins Job Back Plus Back Pay and Benefits



When Hillcrest driver Jorge Tschebotarjew was unjustly fired, he fought back. His tenacity and a strong union contract helped him to win his job back plus back pay and benefits.

“It wasn’t easy. But, with the strength of my coworkers behind me, we were able to right this wrong. I am elated and grateful to get back to a job I enjoy,” said Tschebotarjew.

#### Strong Contract Helps CNA Get Pay Increase She Deserves Plus Retroactive Pay



After a job promotion, Jeanne Vilna, a restorative CNA at Avante at Boca, didn’t get a pay increase. She decided to stand up for her rights and won higher pay and back wages.

“The increase is almost \$2 per hour. I will use the extra money to take care of my three young children and family in Haiti,” said Vilna.

### Come to our next Union Meeting

**Date:**

**Time:**

**Place:**

[1199SEIU.org/Florida](http://1199SEIU.org/Florida)



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