



THE STATE OF THE UNION



NEWSLETTER HOUSEPARENT HAPPY HOLIDAYS EDITION

Help Us Get the Word Out!

We've tried several ways to get information to our membership, and in fact many of the other Bargaining Units at 464 have used our Newsletter & Facebook page as examples of evolving communication tools for their leadership teams. In this spirit of improving dialog, we are asking all members that are comfortable doing so to send an email to our new Yahoo account, with your names & division. In the future we will use this account to send out notices, reminders & this newsletter.

mhshouseparents464@yahoo.com

FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

This is most likely the last newsletter that will go out under my leadership. As many of you know, I have been involved in the Union since I started as the secretary in 2001, and have served in various positions, leading to being the Branch President since May of 2006 (almost 8 years). I have worked

on several negotiating committees and spent many hours on your behalf. It is definitely with mixed emotion that I will no longer be part of your Union leadership. I thank you for the support that has been extended to me by many of you over the years. This last year has certainly had its ups and downs.

We have learned a lot and I am certain your future leaders will take and implement those lessons as the Union moves forward to support and serve our members. Please know that I have always functioned in my duties for the best interest of houseparents.

Merry Christmas to you & your family, and a blessed and Happy New Year to all!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Bell
Branch President 464
Houseparents/TLAs



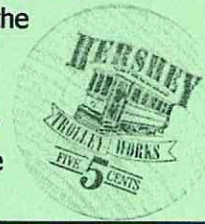
Contract Booklet Update

Copies of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement/Contract should be finished before the end of the year. The printer has been decided on after obtaining several quotes. All new language has been integrated with the existing language and the proof copy is finished. We are currently waiting to get the copies back. This delay is frustrating to some of us, but is also the way it has worked in past contracts. Questions have been asked regarding who pays for the printing of our new contract booklets. These costs are shared by the School and the Union.

FUN CHRISTMAS IDEAS

The Hershey Trolley is free to us if we are enjoying it with our student home. It is best to call ahead to reserve a spot. Also, if you do this, they will ask for a list of the students and Santa will have a special ornament for each one during the ride. The Trolley is an unforgettable experience any time of year!

Don't forget, Hershey Sweet Lights is free to us if we are in our student home van Sunday through Thursday evenings. Don't miss the kettle corn!



Next General Meeting for Houseparents is Tuesday, January 14th, 2014 from 10:00 - 11:30am. This is also election day. A list of those who have agreed to accept the position of steward, if elected, will be sent closer to the date of election. This is certainly not an all-inclusive list, as stewards are a write-in vote. You may vote for any member in good standing within your division for steward.

