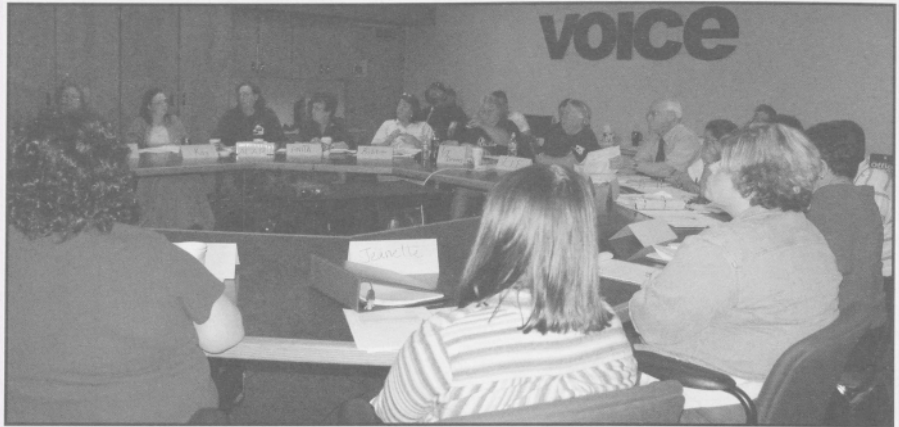


# The Struggle For A Fair Contract Continues!

After approximately six months of bargaining, we entered into mediation in August. So far, our bargaining team successfully warded off many of state negotiators' take-back proposals, maintained improvements from our previous contracts and made significant improvements to our contract during these tough economic times.



Homecare bargaining in action!

Highlights of items won so far include:

- **Paid Time Off:** Live-in providers will have the flexibility to take their time off in 4 to 12 hour increments, instead of inflexible 24-hour blocks. This will enable more live-in providers to use paid time off for their personal needs and participate more in union activities.
- **Greater Ability to Build Political Power:** Members will be able to count on a simple and straightforward CAPE contribution process and we can continue to win on important issues to protect our clients and improve the homecare program (*see page 5 for more details*).
- **Orientations for Live-in Providers:** The live-in homecare program can be very confusing to navigate. Orientations for live-in homecare workers will provide critical job information about pay rates and number of hours authorized before live-in providers begin work.

Our bargaining team continues to be most concerned about maintaining affordable healthcare. The state's negotiators last proposal would make health insurance unaffordable for many members. According to some projections, in a couple of years some members could pay up to \$200 per month to retain health care coverage under the state proposal.

"Ever since we formed our union, we have fought hard for health care so we can keep ourselves healthy to provide consistent, quality, and safe care for our clients," Homecare Bargaining Chair Bev Mackey said. "We will continue to fight for a fair settlement of our contract."

The latest updates on negotiations are available at [www.seiu503.org](http://www.seiu503.org) on the homecare page in the Care Providers section.

**To find out how you can best support your bargaining team, look for a postcard announcing a regional meeting in your area.**

## For more information on bargaining, please contact your bargaining team member:

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