

The healthcare & U

HSEU Family Fiesta Special Edition

JANUARY 2013



An Action-Packed 2012

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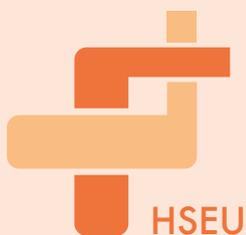
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HSEU Headquarters
No. 3 Bukit Pasoh Road #02-00
Singapore 089817

www.hseu.org.sg

Tel: 6222 1227

Fax: 6222 6683



Word From GS

Diana Chia
General Secretary
HSEU

It has been an exciting and fulfilling year for HSEU in 2012. We are pleased that our employees in the healthcare sector received a salary adjustment of between four and 10 per cent in March and September 2012. On top of this, a Healthcare Cluster Tripartite Workgroup that comprises of the Health Ministry, six public healthcare clusters and HSEU came together and pledged to work together to raise the wages of lower wage workers' in the healthcare sector through productivity, training and job redesign.

The second half of 2012 marked the renewal of our collective agreements with various clusters. Feedback was gathered from the ground. We are still in the midst of concluding these collective agreements and we hope that you will be pleased with the new initiatives that we have settled on with the Management.

It has also been a fun ride with our members in 2012. Not forgetting our senior members, we have launched HSEU Alumni 55 to continue our ties with members who have

loyally supported the union over the years. The Alumni is an effort to help HSEU'S members stay active and healthy even after retirement. In 2012, we have also organised many new and exciting activities for our members such as Cake Baking, Paranormal Nite and Nite on Wheels. We hope that you have enjoyed these activities. If you have not joined us, do look out for the upcoming activities and we hope to see you there! If you have a Facebook account, do "Like" us at Healthcare Services Employees' Union to receive all the latest updates!

As we continue to challenge ourselves to do better, HSEU is going to kick start the New Year with a big bang! The Family Fiesta 2013 will be the first event of the year, and will be held at Downtown East on the 12 January 2013. We hope that you and your family members will enjoy the games and programmes that we have lined up for you.

Lastly, let me wish you a wonderful new year filled with abundance, joy, and treasured moments in 2013.

Healthcare Workers to See Increase in Base Pay

By Joshua Joseph (Adapted from NTUC This Week - 21 September 2012)

Some 16,000 public healthcare administrative, ancillary and support staff are set to see a salary increase of between 4 and 10% in their base pay starting this month after a review by the Ministry of Health and healthcare clusters.

The announcement was made at the launch of the Healthcare Cluster Tripartite Workgroup at the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital on 14 September 2012. The workgroup comprises tripartite partners Ministry of Health (MOH), NTUC's healthcare cluster of unions and six other public healthcare clusters.

In its drive towards progressive wage through a Progressive Wage Model, the Tripartite Workgroup has also set its sight on helping at least 2,000 Healthcare workers in healthcare support, admin and ancillary jobs who currently earn \$1,700 and below to increase their base salaries between 10 and 20% from 2012 to end 2014.



(Continued on Pg 3)



Reflection By President

K Thanaletchimi
President
HSEU

As we usher in another year of renewed hopes, dreams and aspirations, let us pause for a moment to reflect on the events and episodic incidences that took place over the past year, let us reminisce the colourful moments of friendship and bonds that we cherish.

Healthcare Services Employees' Union is an integral part of the Labour Movement representing close to 30,000 union members from the healthcare sector. Though we had a good year in 2012, we must not take the industrial peace and harmony in our institutions for granted and neither should we assume that the good and stable Labour Management Relations could sustain forever by default. It takes lots of relationship building, regular engagement and bonding and the Union is relentlessly working towards achieving an all inclusive Union representing the interests of all workers regardless of collars, ages and nationalities.

In recent years, the Union has represented members in their workplace issues on average five cases a month. On a positive note we have more regular engagement and negotiation with Management to secure a competitive salary, terms and benefits, as well as to gain fair recognition and reward for our workers in terms of bonuses and annual increment. We have concluded the Collective Agreement (CA) for National University Hospital, which took effect in April 2012. We are in the midst of negotiating a new CA for the other healthcare clusters.

In the coming years, we will work towards broadening the Union's scope of representation of the foreign workers on contract terms and the reemployed workers.

The Union hopes to further strengthen its partnership with Cluster Managements in further improving staff welfare, workplace safety and health. We encourage our members to strive for work life harmony with the support of the Management, induct better workplace integration for the good of the organisation and workers, and increase productivity with the tripartite healthcare cluster's various productivity initiatives with automation and mechanisation. Work towards greater representation for Professionals, Managers and Executives so as to be the voices of their concerns through advocacy.

Last but not least, on behalf of HSEU, I wish every union member and their families a fulfilling year ahead with good health and good employment. We thank you for your trust in us and applaud your continued membership with us.

Best Wishes

Annual Increment Settlements for 2012

The following table illustrates the AI settlements that the Union had settled with the six public healthcare clusters for 2012. The Union is of the view that these have been a fair settlement and urge all healthcare staff to continue their good work towards higher productivity and bring the public healthcare clusters to greater heights.

Annual Increment for Average Rating	NHG	NUH	AH	JurongHealth	EHA	SingHealth
	2.8% + \$30	3.5% + \$15	3.0% + \$30	3% + \$30	3.2% + \$30	3.0% + \$40

Three main groups of Healthcare support staff will form the focus of the Tripartite Workgroup, namely Health Attendants (HA), Healthcare Assistants (HCA) and Patient Service Associates (PSA).

In addition to raising productivity and wages, the Healthcare Cluster will work towards strengthening the Singaporean Core in the healthcare sector.

"Through these efforts, we hope to improve the skill levels, career prospects and wages of our healthcare workers as we work towards our shared goal of improving the quality, affordability

and accessibility of our healthcare system for Singaporeans," said Minister for Health Gan Kim Yong.

He was joined by NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say and Healthcare Cluster Tripartite Workgroup Co-chairperson and NTUC Healthcare Cluster Lead Patrick Tay at the launch.



First Short Trip to Malacca!

A first two-day one-night trip to Malacca, Malaysia, was planned out at the lowest rate possible, yet with maximum comfort. On this trip, which took place from 30 June to 1 July 2012, members enjoyed a five-star hotel stay, a day tour, and had seafood for lunch and dinner!

Members who would like to enjoy a short getaway from the bustling city are strongly encouraged to join the trips organised by HSEU. We look forward to seeing you on our next trip!



A "Not-So-Normal" Night to Remember

Young HSEU decided to play it big for the first time with an event not so common, not so usual and definitely not for the weak-hearted – the Young HSEU Paranormal Nite.

Linking up with the Society of Paranormal Investigators (SPI), two runs of the paranormal activities were organised by Young HSEU – the first on 7 July 2012 and the second in 22 September 2012. The first run included an overnight tour guided by experts of SPI with experiments conducted to witness how these paranormal activities start right before your eyes!

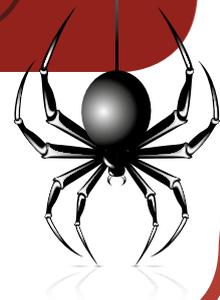
The SPI team consisted of four volunteers who seek adventure through these paranormal activities. They were well-equipped with immense knowledge in the field of paranormal sightings. As some of the locations, such as Old Changi Hospital and Pasir Ris Red House, are now state property or have been abolished, the SPI team made up for the loss by sharing insiders' stories of visiting these locations.

The real excitement, however, began at the Choa Chu Kang cemetery, as participants had a first-hand experience on the Ouija board - the tool used to communicate with "the other side". The supernatural encounter took part amidst the tombstones, joss sticks, Chinese traditional offerings as well as an impending rainstorm.



Amazing Spiderman Movie Screening

Fans of Spiderman were given a treat when the movie rebooted this year. But the treat was tastier for 397 members and their families as they managed to catch the Amazing Spiderman at a subsidised ticket rate of \$5 each, organised by HSEU. The movie screening, at Golden Village in Plaza Singapura, was a great opportunity for family time.



Participants tried out the Ouija board in groups of four, as they placed one finger each on the dish set neatly in the middle of the board. The game began when the dish made its first move out of the centre "house", as if the spirit was telling us that it was ready for the game. Participants asked questions to verify the existence of the spirit, and the answers they got constantly sent chills down everyone's spines. The participants, despite it being four in the morning, were more awake than usual, excited yet scared. Before long, dawn was starting to break and the tour came to an end.

Despite the lack of sleep, participants enjoyed the event thoroughly, especially after having a chance to partake in electrifying and exciting experiments.

Building Camaraderie With Paintball

The sport of paintball is one that requires the good planning of a team and trusting relationships within. Strong team spirit was fostered at the Joint Union Paintball Challenge, which was organised by the Building Construction and Timber Industries Employees' Union, Chemical Industries Employees' Union, HSEU, and Singapore Industrial & Services Employees Union.

A day of paintball challenge brought out the competitiveness in contestants as 28 teams fought it out at Red Dynasty Paintball Park on 7 July 2012.



HSEU Inter-Branch Bowling Competition 2012

More than 50 members from various branches participated in HSEU's annual inter-branch bowling competition. This year, the newly coveted bowling challenge trophy was introduced, where the winning branch for the team high series will get to keep the trophy for one year until the next inter-branch bowling competition.

Inspired by the new challenge, the bowlers intensified their competitive spirit and brought the best bowling skills out of each other at the competition held at Orchid Country Club on 1 September 2012.

A large pool of bowling talents exists among our union members. The bowling competition allows members from different branches who share a common interest in the sport to interact with one another, and enables the best talents to stand out, and be selected to represent the union in bowling at the annual NTUC U Games competition.

Winners of the HSEU Inter-branch Bowling Competition 2012:

- Male High Game: Vincent Lye (CGH)
- Male High Series: Vincent Lye (CGH)
- Female High Game: Jessica (NUH)
- Female High Series: Jessica (NUH)
- Team High: Rapid Strikes 1 (CGH)



Cycling Through the 'Nite on Wheels'

A joint union event saw the participation of 95 young HSEU members cycling around the island, all through the night. Together with members from three other unions, namely, Attraction, Resort & Entertainment Union, Food, Drinks and Allied Workers Union, Chemical Industries Employees' Union, and the Singapore Industrial & Services Employees' Union, the cyclists kicked off the 60km route on the night of 24 November 2012, and were flagged off by President of the National Trades Union Congress, Ms Diana Chia.

It was no easy feat for the cyclists as they encouraged one another with their passion and enthusiasm, to conquer the steep slopes and their aching legs. Stop points at MacRitchie Reservoir and Yishun Dam brought some respite. The night ended with a reward - supper at Jalan Kayu. The fun-filled event taught the cycling participants, regulars and first-timers, the importance of endurance, and helping one another to get to the end point. Congratulations to all members for their sweat and hard work!



Silra Home Outing to the Gardens!

It was a beautiful sunny day on October 28 2012, when the HSEU Welfare Committee had an outing with residents of the Singapore Leprosy Relief Association (SILRA Home). In the morning, everyone excitedly boarded the bus which brought them to the newly-opened attraction, Gardens by the Bay. Entering the Flower Dome, HSEU volunteers assisted in moving the wheelchair-bound folks and those with limited mobility to immerse in the spectacular view of the Marina Reservoir skyline and a cooling stroll. Many took photos as they passed the different collections of flowers and plants from all over the world, and at the amber Flower Field which unveiled the latest Autumn Harvest.

The next feature was the Cloud Forest Dome, where the entire group was brought to another dimension as they were greeted by the world's tallest indoor waterfall. They were elated and amazed to see the impressive spectacle for the first time. The hosts brought the beneficiaries to the "mountain top" for an aerial view of the canopy in a cool-moist environment.

Lunch took place at the Tiong Bahru Hawker Centre as volunteers bought all-time favorites such as Char Kway Theow, Hor Fun, Tiong Bahru Bun and Hokkien Mee for the folks to indulge in. The residents ended their outing with a simple yet delicious fare before heading back to the home.



Miss Chow-Chow's Food Journal

Singapore is greatly known as a food paradise, and every Singaporean knows exactly how to eat. Likewise, I am born with a hearty appetite and always looking for good food to try and share with my friends. It is my pleasure to introduce to you some of the good and cheap eats that I, Miss Chow-Chow, have compiled for your convenience - you will be spoilt for choice!



Uncle Penyet Science Canteen, National University of Singapore

A huge piece of chicken thigh in an Ayam Penyet dish is for any chicken lover! The crisp and tastiness of the chicken, coupled with the simple fried tofu that's crunchy on the outside and soft on the inside, stays in my mind lingering for hours on. Paired with the rice that is drizzled with fragrant curry, this is a dish that you would desire to eat again and again.



Bharakath Mutton Soup King Stall 10, Adam Road Food Centre 2 Adam Road Open daily, 1pm to 3am Singapore 289876

The mutton soup was well executed with the spices and herbs all mixing well together to form a smooth and creamy broth. Not everyone likes the gamey taste of mutton, but for those who like it - this stall does well in bringing out the mutton flavours in the soup. You can choose the cut of mutton you want, from the ribs and leg tendons, to the tripe, tongue or brain for the more adventurous. If you are in the mood for dipping, you can also order bread to go along with the soup!



Lim Hai Sheng Cooked Food Blk 724 Ang Mo Kio Ave 6 #01-09 Singapore 560724

Carrot Cake is probably Singaporean's favorite food. Crispy on the outside, moist and soft inside, you just cannot stop eating once you start. It's so good that the \$2 portion is not even enough!



Tip Top Curry Puff Blk 722 Ang Mo Kio Ave 8 #01-2843 Hiap Wah Coffeeshop 9.30am to 9.30pm Closed on some Wednesdays

Curry puffs are so common nowadays, with many Old Chang Kee outlets popping up around Singapore. Yet, Tip Top Curry Puff brings a whole new level to the humble curry puff. The fragrant filling and the buttery crust with a delicious chunk of chicken hidden within, brings back a nostalgic feel that warms the heart!

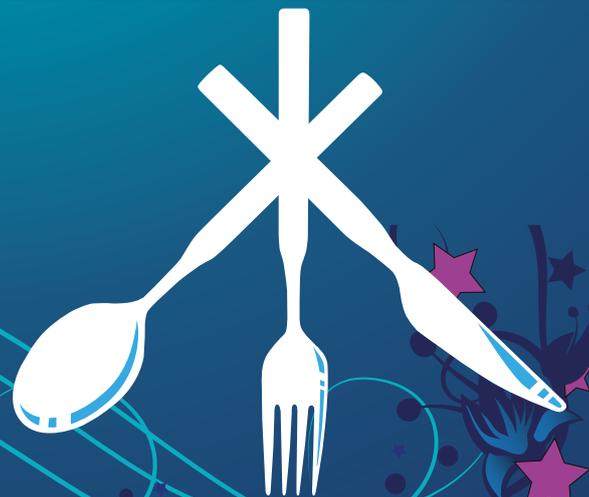


Teck Kee Hot and Cold Dessert 31 Adam Road Food Centre 12pm to 12am Closed on Mondays



It is different from most of the run-of-the-mill type where they only use colorful syrups. They make gula melaka into syrup for the ice kacang.

One gripe I have with ordering Tau Suan most of the time is the meager servings of You Tiao that comes with it. Here, the Tau Suan does not disappoint - this is the normal serving! The desserts came not too sweet, just enough to satisfy.



HSEU Achievements in 2012

We are pleased to share with you on our achievements in the past year:

- U Summit 2012: U Champion (Net Increase) For achieving the highest nett increase in Ordinary Branch membership amongst all the NTUC unions.
- Leadership Trailblazer Award 2012 for committed efforts in developing union officials
- U Games 3-On-3 Basketball Tournament Union: Women's Open Champion, Men's Open 2nd Runner Up
- U Games Sepak Takraw Tournament 2012: Men's Open Team Champion



Take Part in our Facebook contest!

Drop us a message on Facebook, and tell us the answer to this:

How many healthcare employees does HSEU currently represent?

Send us your answer, along with your name, NRIC, contact number, and email address to hseu.events@ntuc.org.sg.

Ten lucky winners will stand to win a pair of movie tickets each!

Hint: Check our Facebook description!

U-Games update:



LEADERBOARD - POINTS TABLE TALLY

Updated as at Dec 2012

Our players have been performing well to date with HSEU currently in 5th position in the overall leaderboard. With half the games gone and core sports such as basketball and running coming up, HSEU will definitely push on and try to break into the top 3 position in U-Games leaderboard!

Rank	Union	Points
1	UWEEI	1320
2	SMMWU	1200
3	NTWU	1070
4	UTES	770
5	HSEU	760

Below is the list of sports that have done HSEU proud in the current U-Games.

- Men's Open Category (Team A): Champion Plate Category
- Mixed Netball Team A: Quarter finals
- U-Games Sepak Tekraw HSEU A: Champions

5 New Initiative for Senior Members

In collaboration with U Live, HSEU launched a new sub-committee known as HSEU Alumni 55 to build a stronger community among the union's senior members.

In his speech, HSEU Alumni 55 Chairman Mr Mahmood Idrose shared that the union has had a long history which dates back to the days of Amalgamated Union of Public Employees (AUPE) and National University Hospital Employees' Union (NUHEU). Many members have chosen to join HSEU from its humble beginnings.

Through the alumni, Mr Mahmood hopes to increase the communication process between the union and its senior members. He urged all members above 55 years old to lead an active lifestyle and have more participation in U Live and HSEU activities as they stand to enjoy additional subsidies.

Guest-of-Honour Mr Ong Chin Ang shared that he is glad that HSEU started this new chapter with U Live as it represents the union's continuous efforts to work with flow-on leaders and members. HSEU would like to shout a big "Thank You" to all members for being there for them through thick and thin.

