

Port Worker

a newsletter of the
singapore port workers union



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www.spwu.org.sg

**#EVERY
WORKER
MATTERS**



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LUNAR NEW YEAR VISIT TO PORT

5 February



There's no better way to show appreciation to our port workers than visiting them during the festive season. On the first day of the Lunar New Year, SPWU leaders and management partners went down to ST1 and ST2 to greet workers who were changing shifts at 7:30am. This year, our Union Advisor, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Finance Brother Heng Swee Keat and Senior Minister of State Brother Lam Pin Min joined us in reaching out to our members to thank them for their contribution over the festive period.



SPECIAL MAY DAY RALLY 2019 FOR SPWU

This year's May Day Rally was a special one for our union. One of our members, PSA Senior Container Equipment Specialist Brother Lim Chin Chye's story was captured in the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Finance Heng Swee Keat's May Day Rally Speech while he talked about how we should prepare our workers for jobs of the future via lifelong learning.

Brother Lim used to operate manual yard cranes from his cabin seven storeys high. After taking up the Professional Conversion Programme (PCP), he now works in an air-conditioned control centre to handle automated cranes. Learning the new system in a brand-new environment has created some uncertainty for Brother Lim and it took him a while to get used to the changes. Still learning and adjusting, Brother Lim is determined to tackle the transformation at his workplace with the help of an on-the-job mentor. Brother Lim is a living testament of a worker who has taken great effort in adapting to his new role through workplace transformation. His experience of going through PCP was widely publicised. The programme aims to re-skill mid-career professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs) for occupations or sectors with good prospects.



MAY DAY AWARDS

3 May



On 3 May, our Brother Thangamani Sinniah received the Comrade of Labour award from NTUC Secretary-General (SG) Brother Ng Chee Meng, during the Annual May Day Award Ceremony.



Brother Thangamani joined Singapore Port Workers Union in March 1992 as a member and was elected as delegate in 2007. Shortly later, in 2010, he was elected as an Executive Committee member and thereafter appointed as 2nd Assistant General Secretary in 2014, a position which he holds till present.

Brother Thangamani is well-loved by SPWU members and management partners. His approachable and fun-loving nature has earned much respect from his peers and colleagues.

Brother Thangamani is a committed leader and believes strongly that good labour-management relations will benefit the members. He worked closely with the PSA management as they spearheaded the taskforce initiative which focused on building a positive working environment for the port workers in PSA.

Brother Thangamani is also known to embrace changes. Setting a good example in continuous learning, he enrolled himself in the OTCI Diploma in Employment Relations. Despite being on 12-hour shift, he diligently attended classes and successfully completed his course in 2018.

For his many years of contribution towards the Singapore Port Workers Union and its members, he was conferred the Comrade of Labour Award.

We are so proud of you, Brother!

We also celebrated with our management partner from PSA Corporation Limited, Senior Industrial Relations Advisor Brother Heng Chiang How for receiving the Medal of Commendation Award. In a span of four decades, Brother Heng played a vital role in building up excellent labour-management relations between PSA and SPWU. He worked tirelessly with the union to benefit the lives of PSA staff and his collaborative approach has enabled issues to be resolved expediently and amicably. As a veteran in union and tripartite matters, Brother Chiang How has been instrumental in mentoring and encouraging younger PSA leaders to work closely with union leaders, to continue to strengthen the excellent union-management relationship. This special bond will continue to help the company and the employees overcome challenges in the years ahead.

Thank you, Brother!



EBIS/PI NEGOTIATION WITH PSA & PSAM

12 March and 29 March



SPWU was able to conclude the EBIS/PI with PSA and PSA Marine earlier this year. After several meetings with the management, the union managed to negotiate for a fair payout for the members, to reward them for their hard work and contributions in 2018.



EXCO TEAM BUILDING TRIP TO PENANG

17–19 January



SPWU Executive Council members headed to Penang for our team building session earlier this year. It was a good bonding session, together with our management partners. The newly elected members for term 2018-2022 spent three days bonding through various challenging activities that required teamwork. The first exco meeting and pre-CPS discussion were held here. Our union advisor, Brother Ong Chin Ang, was invited to speak to the newly elected leaders on how SPWU has helped members through the tough times and the challenges that had to be overcome. Through the trip, we got to know each other better and will aim to work together more harmoniously.



PSAM IFTAR

24 May 2019



NTUC Secretary-General (SG) Brother Ng Chee Meng, together with Senior Minister of State, Brother Lam Pin Min were cordially invited to PSA Marine to join our members during one of their Iftar sessions held annually. During the visit, they were able to get up close and personal to speak to our members and to understand PSA Marine's operations better.

This Iftar session was especially meaningful as Brother Ng and Brother Lam were there to witness the signing of MOA between SPWU and PSAM to form a Company Training Committee (CTC). The CTC demonstrates the unity and commitment between the union and the management in looking at job redesign, help workers leverage technology and ride the changes with the right training programmes. The setup of the committee would not have been possible without strong labour-management relations, having the same goal towards creating a productive and a conducive working environment for our workers.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Learning Visit from our Brothers & Sisters from SOS – 30 January



On 30 January, Sisters and Brothers from Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS) came for a learning visit at our union office. It was an enriching experience that enabled both unions to exchange ideas and to learn from one another on how unions can better engage their members.



USports Futsal Champions – 24 February



Congrats to our brothers who managed to clinch the top spot for the NTUC U Sports Futsal Tournament this year.

HSSE E-waste Recycle Exercise – 14 March



Our Sisters and Brothers from the HSSE Committee took part in the E-waste recycling exercise at Tanjong Pagar Complex on the 14 March. Great effort to save Mother Earth!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Joint Event between SPWU Sports & Young Committee – 21 April



A bowling tournament was held at Temasek Club on the 21 April. The joint event between SPWU Sports and Young Committee saw a total of 17 teams participating in the event. Members who brought their families along were in for a sweet treat by SPWU.



Visit to Sembawang Wharves – 25 April



Our members were happy to receive key officials from SPWU and management when they dropped by Sembawang Wharves on 25 April. The objective of the visit was to learn more about the daily operations, to engage and to show appreciation for the hard work of our members.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

HSSE St Luke's Visit – 30 May



Our HSSE Committee visited St Luke's Eldercare to plant and harvest edible organic crops together with the seniors.

You've got a gift! Annual Souvenir for SPWU Members



A big thank you for members who turned up at their respective locations to collect our annual souvenir – a waterproof bag! For members who have yet to collect the bags, fret not! The waterproof bag can be collected at our Union Office at Tanjong Pagar Complex 7B Keppel Road #12-07, 09:00-17:30. Do bring along your staff pass for verification.

APPLICATION FOR SPWU SCHEMES

Achievers Award

SPWU – Achievers Award Scheme is to reward members' children who have excelled in their school academics or represented the school or country at National level.

Achievers Award Scheme focuses on outstanding academic results or excellence in sports or arts.

Successful recipients of the SPWU Young Seedling Award **shall not be eligible** for the SPWU Achievers Award and vice versa.

Award value: **\$250 to \$3,000/annum**

Children of applicant must be:

- Studying and residing in Singapore.
- Singaporean or SPR.

Criteria:

Applicants who have received other sources of similar scholarship/bursary/merit awards will not be qualified to apply for this Award.

Recipients of the SPWU Young Seedling Award shall not be eligible for the SPWU Achievers Award and vice versa.

Application deadline: 15 July

Young Seedling Award

SPWU – Young Seedling Award Scheme is to reward members' children who have 65% and above pass grade in their academic results with preference given to higher grade. For Sports, selection is based on outstanding performances at National Inter-School or National Age-Group competitions, together with the potential to excel in future. For Fine Arts the selection is based on outstanding achievements in the artistic, academic and affective domains and must be enrolled in SOTA or NAFA.

Young Seedling Award Scheme focuses on good academic and/or non-academic results.

Award value: **\$700 to \$2,000/annum**

Special Health Care Scheme

SPWU – Special Health Care Scheme is to provide a source of financial relief for members who require the purchasing of medical aid equipment, health monitoring equipment, subsidies for chronic illnesses and health screening package.

Subsidy of up to **\$100** (aged 55 & above) for chronic illnesses.

Subsidy of up to **\$50** (aged 55 & above) for the purchase of health screening packages.

One-off grant for member or his family member to purchase medical aid equipment, capped at **\$1,500 per member/household**.

One-off grant for member to purchase health monitoring equipment, capped at **\$100 per year**.

Criteria:

Member must submit a doctor's letter.

Member must submit receipts/ tax invoices of purchases.

Hospitalisation Grant

SPWU – Hospitalisation Grant is to reimburse 20% ward charges incurred at Government Hospitals.

Value: Capped up to **\$200 per member / year**

Criteria:

Applicant must submit hospital bill.

To qualify for SPWU schemes, applicants must be:

- residing in Singapore;
- Singaporean or SPR;
- a fully paid-up union member of more than 1 year.

Special Family Support Scheme

SPWU – Special Family Support Scheme is offered to members who suffer any loss of income due to hardship or have any special needs/disabled family members living in the same household.

It is a **one-time relief grant**.

Criteria:

Member must submit documentary proof regarding financial hardship or doctor's letter for special needs/ disability.

Skill Upgrade & Leadership Development Scheme

SPWU – The Skills Upgrading Scheme is to provide training support for members in the port industries. Courses available for claims must be listed under Skillsfuture, NTUC OTCs local tertiary education course directory or any other course which focuses on employability, capability building, lifesaving skills and relevant to the individual/port industry.

Value: Capped up to **\$400 per member**

Criteria:

Member must submit receipts/invoices of registration/payment of courses.

The claimable amount is determined after subtracting subsidies under the UTAP scheme or other similar subsidies.

Please refer to respective schemes for detailed criteria.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.spwu.org.sg or visit SPWU office: 7B Keppel Road, Tanjong Pagar Complex #12-07, Singapore 089055.
Call union hotline **6221 6338**.