

CT News



CLERICAL-TECHNICAL UNION OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 4

Organized and Independent since 1974!

May 2011

President's corner

CTU stepping up

By Deb Bittner

We've been repeating this for years: "What we gain at the bargaining table, we can lose at the ballot box."

Based on the calls and comments I've received from members over the past couple weeks regarding all of the legislative bills in the news, I would say that it is a truth that is hitting home with CTs. Many of the proposed laws would affect public employees and unions. CTs fit in both categories. Although we don't know how they will affect us, we are pretty sure that they will.

Most of us never fully believed that labor at MSU existed in a vacuum. We knew that anti-worker schemes or trends—such as GM seeking concessions from the auto workers or public institutions outsourcing regular employees' jobs—could come knocking at MSU's door. But we got pretty good at working with the administration to keep that door shut. We also worked out in the community to keep those kinds of things from happening to our union colleagues. After all, lower incomes mean less tax money for higher education. And, when it came to work standards for all

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Lansing Capitol Rotunda, April 28—CT Colleen Drake, CTU Secretary Barb Harris, and Board Member Willie Paulsen staff a table during the Workers Memorial Day Ceremony.



April 27—CT Becky Sullivan helps present information on Workers Memorial Day at the Membership Meeting.

April Membership Meeting

The April 27 Membership Meeting included a presentation of the 2010 audit by Certified Public Accountant Jim Nyquist of Maner and Costerisan. As always, we received a "clean opinion" of our financial statements, meaning that our finances are presented fairly and conform to generally accepted accounting principles.

Because Treasurer Jan Wallace was on vacation, Finance Committee Member and past Treasurer Walt Peebles presented the 2011 budget on behalf of the Executive Board. [Karen Jo Peterson]

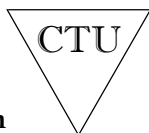


CPA Jim Nyquist

(Copies of both the audit and 2011 budget are available to members who request them from the CTU office.)

Thirty-three CTs attended, 17 short of a quorum, so no business could be conducted. CTU Health and Safety Committee Chair Willie Paulsen, along with several other CTs, gave a presentation on Workers Memorial Day. CTU President Deb Bittner announced the June 9 picnic and led discussions on other union issues, including the need to continue our opposition to anti-worker legislation.

Door prize winners: Karen Gray and Willie Paulsen each won \$50, Marlinda Lowery won a Rosie the Riveter lunchbox, and Kathie Kirby won a CTU t-shirt.



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Editorial Policy: The *CT News* is the voice of our union. It is our vehicle for communicating, on a regular basis, the issues that confront us as workers. Through this newsletter we explain union policies, show how dues are spent, and explain the views and actions of the elected leadership for evaluation by the members.

The *CT News* is the voice of the membership. We welcome articles from members and stories about members.

While contributions are welcome, they should be constructive and contribute positively to the welfare of our union.

We will accept no attacks on any union leader or member. We will accept thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letters section, and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the union and its policies.

Direct ideas, letters, questions and comments to Cheryllée Finney.

CT Classifieds

For sale:

◆ **Pasture raised freezer beef:** ¼, ½, whole available. \$2.10/lb + processing. No hormones, antibiotics, etc. . . . Grass fed, grain finished. Contact Becky at 517-490-3902 or meadrebe@gmail.com for more info.

◆ **Cabin:** Located in Roscommon, MI, approx. 2.5 miles north of Higgins Lake. Approx ¾ acres. Cozy cabin, with knotty pine interior, approx. 700 sq. ft., 3 rooms (including bathroom), plus loft. Electric hot water heater, propane furnace and stove. Septic field (tank). 10' x 12' shed (3 years old). Fire pit. Pictures upon request. \$35,000 or BO. Please contact sromspartans@hotmail.com for more info.

◆ **Video game systems and accessories.** We are downsizing our game systems: **PlayStation 2** w/controllers, 36 games, 4 PS underground, and 23 PS Magazine, \$100. **2-3 PlayStation**

steering wheels for use w/PS One or PS 2, \$20 or best offer EACH. **X-Box, older style** w/controllers, 15 games, \$50. **Atari Flashblack system** w/games in the system, controllers, \$10. **Nintendo** w/gun, controllers, 4 games, \$50 or best offer. **Perfect Shot ergonomic gun grip for Wii**, \$5. **Game Cube** w/controllers and 6 games, \$40 or best offer. **Disney Think Fast**, the ultimate trivia showdown, includes 4 buzzers, \$15. 517-285-0089 or rtv12001@yahoo.com.

◆ **Tupperware:** Looking for a Tupperware consultant? Need to keep updated on monthly sale specials by Tupperware? Contact Becky at 517-490-3902 or meadrebe@gmail.com.

◆ **Kelly all season tires:** Navigator gold, P205/65R15, 7/32 to 9/32, gently used, \$150 w/o rims, \$250 w/metal rims, \$100 metal rims only, fits Toyota Camry and Toyota Solara. **Tomtom One GPS system:** 125 SE, special edition w/bonus spoken street names, 3.5" QVGA touchscreen, 3.8" x 3.2" x 1.0", 6.1 oz., internal lithium ion battery, comes w/cables, directions, original box, etc., we no longer need it, \$80 FIRM. **Headlamp aimer kit:** Excellent condition, original box, no longer used, \$100 FIRM. Reply to 517-285-0089 or rtv12001@yahoo.com.

◆ **Bird cages:** Various sizes, \$25 and up. **Cage:** Large, on rollers, can fit two parrots, \$100. **Typewriter:** Electric, \$20. **Kitchen table:** Octagon, pedestal: \$25. **Dining room table:** Dark, with leaves, 4 chairs, \$100. **End tables:** Antique, round, \$12 each. **Coffee table:** Metal, glass top, \$8. **Coffee table:** Heavier wicker, glass top, \$15. **Vacuum:** Newer Kirby w/shampooer, \$600. **Floor sweeper:** Not a broom, \$5. **Dining table:** Antique oak, \$35. **Swimming pool:** Above ground, with equipment/chemicals, \$75. **Sewing machine:** Older, with cabinet, \$65. **Coffee table:** Long, wooden, \$30; with matching end table, \$15. **Earrings:** Blue beaded/18K gold dangle, from

Classifieds continued on next page

2011 General Membership Meetings

The two remaining Quarterly Membership Meetings in 2011 will be held Thursday, July 21 and Wednesday, October 26 in Room 252 Erickson Hall. Meetings begin at 5:20, but doors open at 5, so come early to socialize. Membership meetings are for making decisions about the Union, asking questions and receiving updates about Union activities.

Executive Board Meetings

Special Summer Schedule

June 7

July 12

August 16

In September, we will return to our regular schedule of first and third Tuesdays of the month.

CTU Office

5:15 p.m.

All members welcome.

President

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workers, we have raised our voice in opposition to the race to the bottom.

Now, the anti-worker scheme is right in our own backyard, knocking at our workplace door and our own homes. And it is scary.

Having said that, I am pleased to say that we are stepping up to the plate and taking on the fight.

First and foremost, we are in contract negotiations where your team is defending the provisions that we have won through thirty years of struggle.

And, through the Coalition of Labor Organizations (CLO), we work continuously to keep health care costs low while maximizing benefits. There is no denying that we have made sacrifices and members have improved their health care behaviors to keep costs down. Our union has made significant investments into learning about the health care system and into dealing

directly with insurance companies and providers through the MSU/CLO Joint Health Care Committee. We learned long ago that this is the best way to actually lower costs rather than shift them to the backs of workers.

But what does it all mean if the legislature and governor can wipe out large portions of our agreements?

Right now, bills are pending that would require public employees to pay *at least* 20% of their health insurance premiums and freeze their wages or reduce them by 5%. These proposals, along with those that prohibit unions from using taxpayer funded equipment and facilities or that prohibit the employer from granting released time for union activities, violate our contract or the health care MOU. Others could affect us in the future. The rest of the anti-worker proposals, at the very least, weaken the rights and status of workers and, therefore, harm our communities.

Based on a discussion with members

at the April Membership Meeting, the Board voted on May 3 to continue donating to Michigan State AFL-CIO's legislative battle against State proposals that will hurt Michigan workers, including CTs. The vote extended to six months the original three-month donation of \$480 per month (30¢ per member). It will be discussed with the membership again at the July membership meeting. [Kimberly Kurtz]

I was asked to help co-chair the Lansing Area Community Action Team, a group of people that include labor organizations, religious leaders, local City Council members, and many other activists from diverse organizations that care about the future of Michigan. CTs are attending rallies, summits, educational forums, town hall meetings, and other activities to participate in the dialogue. We even have members writing letters to their elected representatives. The Michigan State AFL-CIO has facilitated this by providing the "Daily Bill Update," a spreadsheet of applicable legislation along with links to help you formulate letters to elected officials and local newspapers. Access the spreadsheet at www.miaflcio.org/legislative-action/legislative-report.html.

We still have plenty to do. Many activities are being held on weekends or after 5 p.m. for workers to attend. If you plan to go and want to carry a CTU sign or banner, call the office and we will get materials to you. We even have supplies for making signs of your own.

For some of us, writing letters, going to demonstrations, just getting involved, takes us out of our comfort zone. But hey, this is a union and we are public workers. We're here to support each other. Give me a call. We can drive downtown and attend a rally together. We need to keep up the fight for our state and our jobs.

Classifieds

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Colombia, SA, \$100. **Earrings:** Red beaded/18K gold dangle from Colombia, SA, \$100. Photos available on request. Contact Milly at millyshiraev@yahoo.com or 269-823-3739 after 6 pm M-F, anytime weekends.

For rent:

◆ **Suite or individual office:** 2990 East Lake Lansing Road in East Lansing. Will work to meet your specifications. Contact the Clerical-Technical Union, 517-355-1903.

Services:

◆ **Tree trimming and removal:** Old brush piles removed. No job too small. Not only will I cut your trees, I

will cut your cost!!!!!!! NO TRASH PLEASE. Jeff Mitchner, 517-526-1080, email mitchne1@yahoo.com.

◆ **Quality carpet and upholstery cleaners:** Great time now to get your carpets and upholstery cleaned before the open houses, weddings, and showers. Reasonably priced and owner operated. Give us a call for a free estimate, 517-694-0497.

Free: Advertise to your colleagues in the *CT News*. Contact Cheryllee Finney at ctnews@msu.edu. The *CT News* accepts ads from CTU members on items for sale and/or services provided by CTU members and/or their household family members.

Congratulations and best wishes

Our congratulations and best wishes go out to the CTs who were honored this year for retirement and years of service at Michigan State University.

Forty years

Ronald Burgess
Nancy Creed
Darlene Howe
Judy James
Susan Pavick
Linda Peters
Charlotte Wilks

Ruth Sedelmaier
Audrey Smith
Meredith Swamp

Twenty-five years

Edna Awalt
Harold Andrew Beer
Mark Bitman
Linda Blodgett

Thirty-five years

Cynthia Arntz
Karen Battin
Jill Bullis
Terrie Hayes
Jacquelyn Mussell
Loismarie Newhouse
Joyce Schultz
Karen VanAtta

Kristina Davis
Kimberly Dobson
Alena Dollarhite
Kathryn Felton*

Lynne Frechen
Sue Ann Gessler
Valerie Sue Geyer
Elizabeth Gorecki

Carolyn Stevens*
Karen Ann Stowell
Carmen Thayer
Duferia White
Peter Wilson
Sue Zimmerman

Carol Ann York
Darcie Ann Zubek

Thirty years

Jackie Lou Bennett
Janet Davenport
Diane Lynne Davis
Karen Deford
Rhutelia Deloney
Lorene Griffin
Deana Lynn Haner
Edyth Ann Holland
Georgette Kennedy
Juli Kay Kerr
Monica Klaver
Cynthia Kranz
Michael Lewis*
Nancy Ruth Lumley
Irene Marie Luna
Kristine McClintic
Susan McCormack
Barbara Sue Meyers
Susan Monroe
Amy Pollok
Rosemary Porter
Linda Kay Rom
Jodie Schonfelder

Marla Goucher
Barbara Heyser
Lisa Ingraham*
Kathie Susan Kirby
Sherri Kleinhart
Kevin Knights*
Pamela Kay Kramer
Jane Opal Lott
Tammy Madden
Ellen Maher
Nina Lee McMillan*

Rene Mendoza
Kristine Mae Mikek
Mary Moening
Felicitas Moreno
Mike Nila
Deborah Patterson
Susan Schaefer
Ellen Schueller
Harley Seeley
Diana Shank
Maureen Shinsky
Joni Kay Smith
Shelly Lynn Smith
Angela Marie Sorrells-
Jones

Twenty years

Carol Adado
Patience Adibe
Denise Bakker
Rosanne Baxter
Beatrice Biddinger
Kelly Bierstetel
Max Thomas Brauer
Amelia Casanova
Debbie Conway
Betty Fancher
Helen Farr
Jane French
Lisa Ann Fuentes
Michelle Halstead
Opal Jean Hansen
Brenda Sue Haynes
Patti Ann Kalil
Colleen Kavanagh
Jeannine Lee
Randie Jo Lotridge
Lora Ann McAdams
Julie Anne Reynolds
Pratiksha Trivedi
Brian Vreibel
Ingrid Weitlauf
Norma Lopez Wharff

Fifteen years

Tina Marie Bird
Rhonda Rae Buckley
Sandra Cummings
Julia Czerwinski
Heidi Rae Dalton
Kimberly Ann Davis
Tamra Deary
Jennifer Ann Edgell
Hazell Feldpausch
Jillene Fosburg
Lisa Devon Fruge
Linda Gibson
Haila Hayner
Gail Lynn Hebert
Heather Lenartson-Kluge
Patricia McPherson
Joe Miller
Vernie Nichols
Ruth Patino
Dani Jo Peterson
Christine Renae Phipps
Lesley Ann Reed
Shirley Reuther
Rebekah Rhodes
Ricky Rosebury
Brenda Siefert
Rosa Soliz
Patricia Vallance
Christine Ann Vandeuren
Kay Wood



Retirees

In the list on the previous page, an asterisk (*) indicates CTs who, in addition to being recognized for their years of service, retired this year. We also want to wish the best to the following retirees:

Linda Dunn, 39
 Judy Osburn, 35
 Suzanne Peacock, 34
 Diane Baclawski, 33
 Mary Freese, 32
 Janet Bordner, 32
 Linda Young, 31
 Kenneth Corrigan, 29
 Rose Binkley, 28
 Madeleine Brown, 28
 Marcella Schafer, 27
 Catherine Friess, 27
 Kim Geyer, 27
 Sandra Morey, 26
 James Curtis, 24
 Maria Struck, 23
 Victoria Smith, 23
 Kathleen Welter, 22
 Linda Driscoll, 22
 Lynn Anderson, 22
 Susan Lee Barratt, 21
 Paula Harris, 17
 Nan Murray, 17
 Darlene Pugsley, 16
 Gabrielle Seyka, 16



"It's a retirement party for Jenkins. Plus, he finally paid off his student loan."

Stay in touch with the CT News

CTU members approaching retirement don't need to worry about losing contact with the union. Just email ctnews@msu.edu with a request for a free subscription or call 517-355-1903. Include your name and address with your request. We're also available on line at www.msu.edu/~ctumsu/CT_News.htm.



Annual report on AFPs

For the year 2010, the auditors determined that only 2.53% of our dues were not directly related to the union's defense of its members and contract. This is down 1.1% from last year

CTs who opt out of membership in the union have to pay a fee equal to dues but have a right to the return of the portion of dues not spent on issues directly related to negotiating or maintaining our contract. These CTs, known as Agency Fee Payers (AFP) cannot vote in our elections, run for office or vote on whether or not to accept negotiated contracts, but they receive all the benefits that result from those negotiations and are entitled to union representation.

AFPs often change their minds and decide to become members in order to vote or participate in the union. However, a few CTs decline membership for religious or philosophical reasons.

A typical union spends 10-20% of its funds on "nonchargeable" activities, with some spending as much as 50%. The CTU, on the other hand, has only minor charges that qualify, such as our classified section and certain articles in the newsletter, some committee activities, and a few of our community donations.

In total, we refunded \$180.42 to 25 AFPs in 2010, with the average check being \$7.21. Six of the AFPs left University employment over the course of the year. [Karen Ellis]

Some unions require that each AFP request a rebate, but the CTU sends out these checks automatically as soon as the amounts are determined.

UR district news

The following CTs have petitioned for reappointment as URs. They will be appointed if no one else in the respective districts expresses an interest in a position by 5 p.m. on June 10.

▼ **District 2** (Administration Building floors 2, 3, 4): **Kathie Kirby.**

▼ **District 7** (East and West Fee, Hannah Technical Building): **Stephanie Six.**

District 20 (Eppley, Owen, Shaw, North Business College Complex): **Tammy Jo Sopocy** has been reappointed UR. She can be reached at 355-2410 or sopocy@msu.edu.

Want more information about becoming a UR? Contact URCC Chairperson Becky Sullivan (884-3374, sulli306@msu.edu) or Vice President Nancy Gray (353-8632 or grayn@msu.edu).



Photo courtesy of MSU Bikes Service Center

Get a bike!

Now that winter is over, you might want to consider transportation that is friendly to your health and the environment: bicycling. One advantage of using a bicycle at MSU is that it can help you maneuver around all of the summer construction on campus.

MSU was recently named a bicycle-friendly campus by the League of American Bicyclists. One look at the MSU Bikes Service Center website (www.bikes.msu.edu) shows why.

The Center offers bike repair work, short- and long-term bike rentals, new and used bikes for sale, biking accessories and bike storage.

Bike rental costs:

| | Green Bikes | Deluxe Bikes |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Hourly | \$4 | \$6 |
| Daily | \$12 | \$18 |
| Weekly | \$20 | \$30 |
| Semester | \$30 | \$45 |
| Yearly | \$60 | \$90 |
| Refundable Deposit | \$40 | \$75 |

Green bikes are used bikes that have been painted green. Deluxe bikes are typically sold through bike shops (Specialized, Trek, Giant, etc.). The deluxe bikes are not painted green.

Use your union hall

In this season of receptions, open houses and other gatherings, CTU members should keep in mind that our union hall is available for our use free of charge.

A refundable \$100 deposit is required (uncashed check to be returned to lessee provided the Hall is cared for as outlined in the Rental Agreement).

Non-members can also rent the hall, but the deposit is \$250 and the rental fee is \$25 per hour.

Rental includes access to a large room, complete kitchen and bathrooms. To book the Union Hall, please contact the CTU office at 355-1903. All arrangements to obtain a key need



to be made in advance at the CTU office. Payment and deposit are due when picking up the key. Lessees are required to sign a written Rental Agreement. [Kimberly Jo Crosslan]

Bookings are handled on a first come, first served basis. However, CTU members have priority.

CTU committed to the community

In another example of our union's commitment to the community, President Deb Bittner presented a check for \$1,000 to Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) Executive Director Terry Link to help stop hunger in the area.

Members attending the January membership meeting had expressed their desire to have the CTU make this donation. There was not a quorum at that meeting, so the money could not be voted out of the contingency fund. The Executive Board voted subsequently to make the donation out of the operating fund.

GLFB is a non-profit organization providing emergency food to individuals and families in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. Food is distributed through an extensive network of food pantries and community kitchens located throughout the greater Lansing area. The Food Bank annually serves



April 26—CTU President Deb Bittner presents CTU's check to Terry Link, Executive Director of the Greater Lansing Food Bank, at the Food Bank's Fifth Annual "Empty Plate" Dinner.

tens of thousands of people, many of them seniors and children. Recipients include the "working poor," those individuals who are employed but don't earn enough to meet housing, health, transportation and food needs.

Individuals can make donations of money, food and other items as well as volunteer for enjoyable and rewarding projects. Visit GLFB's website at www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org for more information.

CTU Annual Picnic

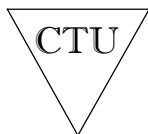


**Thursday, June 9, 2011
4–7 p.m.
C-T Union Hall
2990 East Lake Lansing Rd.
(Corner of Lake Lansing & Hagadorn.
Look for the big Sparty.)**

**Come as you are!
Friends and family welcome.**

CTU provides the food and softdrinks.

Games! Prizes! Activities for the kids!



CTU OF MSU
2990 E. LAKE LANSING ROAD
EAST LANSING, MI 48823-6219

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

June 1. Fundamentals of Meditation with Kiran Gupta, a five-session series, begins. If you have wondered what meditation is all about, this series will give you an opportunity to learn about and explore this aspect of emotional wellness (provided at no cost to participants). 121 Baker Hall, 12:10–12:50

pm. Register at health4u.msu.edu/classes/fundamentals_meditation.html.

June 1. How to Eat . . . Resolving the Weight Dilemma Orientation. Peggy Crum introduces the “How to Eat” program, a unique program directed at learning internal regulation in eating. 255 Baker Hall, 12:10–12:50 pm. Register at health4u.msu.edu/

classes/how_to_eat.html.

June 3. Kripalu Yoga begins. A blend of the traditional yoga approaches. This class carries a fee of \$3 per class (or \$21 for the full seven weeks). Payment required before Friday, June 3. IM Circle Dance Studio, 12:10–12:50 pm. Register at health4u.msu.edu/classes/kripalu_yoga.html. [Sally Jo Carl]

June 5. Vegan Potluck. Everyone welcome. Bring a vegan dish to share. C-T Union Hall, 6 pm.

June 7. Kitchen Skill Drill: Melon Cutting and Carving. Bring your own lunch or purchase lunch at the Riverwalk Market. 12:10–12:50, Community Kitchen of Owen Hall. Register at health4u.msu.edu/classes/kitchen_skill_drill.html.

June 7. CTU Executive Board meeting, C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome. (Please note the change from our regular schedule.)

June 9. CTU picnic. See page 7.

Board meetings— summer schedule

Due to vacation schedules and the amount of time being spent on bargaining, Board meetings (usually every first and third Tuesday) will be held once a month during the summer.

June 7
July 12
August 16



Meetings start at 5:15 at the C-T Union Hall.

