

CT News



CLERICAL-TECHNICAL UNION OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 9

Organized and Independent since 1974!

November/December 2011

CTU update

CTs return leaders to office

Board told to continue opposition to anti-worker legislation

CTs at the fall Membership Meeting received results from the recent election, oversaw the swearing in of three of our newly elected leaders and discussed several issues of interest to the union.

President Deb Bittner thanked the candidates, volunteers and voters.

Update continued on p. 7



You can buy American

'Tis the Season

Most of us still have quite a lot of holiday shopping ahead.

As you begin yours, remember to check out the Union Label website (www.unionlabel.org) about where to go for union-made products. The site is maintained by the Union Label and Service Trades Department of the AFL-CIO. [Charles William Donald, Jr.]

By supporting workers in other unions, we are supporting organized labor. A strong labor movement gives our union greater strength at the bargaining table and, ultimately, in the work place. This is win-win for us and all employees.

Buying products made by union workers and other U.S. workers is still possible—and it's important. When money spent here goes into the pockets of people who live here, they, in turn, can purchase goods and services. Some of the money goes into our tax base and contributes to stronger communities.

Holidays continued on p. 4

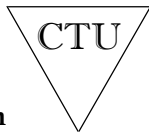


Above, October 26—CTU Director Norma J. Teague, President Deb Bittner and Treasurer Jan D. Wallace take the oath of office at the Fall Membership Meeting.



Left, November 16—Director Walt Peebles is sworn in.

Director Janet Roe-Darden and Audit Committee Member Kim Smith will take the oath before taking their positions.



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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 Cherylee Finney.

CT Classifieds

For sale:

◆**For Quilters:** Unit holds 60 slots of Fat quarters material. Would like to sell for \$60. If interested, please call 517-980-0832 after 5:30 or leave a msg; email ncailou@hotmail.com.

◆**Seasoned Firewood:** Trailer load of firewood, 8' logs, approximately 8'x18' x32" tall. Will deliver. Make offer. 517-243-0816

◆**Matching couch and chair with stool:** White washed wood trim, blue/off white, custom made, very tastefully done, \$250/set. **Mickey Mouse leather purse/satchel:** Shape is similar to a physicians bag, well preserved, old and very adorable, \$55. **Office chair:** Black leather, great shape, \$15. **Stereo system:** Panasonic, surround sound, bookshelf style, \$50. **Hair piece:** Never worn, several shades of blond, from Elegant Wigs, \$10. **Portable sewing machine:** \$25. **Sewing machine:** In-cabinet older model, electric, with extras, \$85. **Electric typewriter:** \$8. **Table:** Oval, antique oak, needs refinishing, \$70. **Table:** Antique walnut, refinished, w/2 leaves, no chairs, \$95. **Coffee table:** Wrought iron, glass top, \$8. **Table:** Octagon,

walnut, pedestal, \$40. **Cockatoo:** Male, umbrella, 15 years old (live up to 80+ years), whistles, barks like a dog, named Cisco, says "Hi Cisco, hello," can train to speak many more words, make reasonable offer. **Singing canaries:** Four, young, variegated colors, \$50 each. **Bird cages:** All shapes/sizes. **Hayward pool heater:** Includes filter, pump, hoses, automatic pool vacuum, debris screen with pole, chlorine generator, ladder. **Christmas tree stand:** Heavy duty for a real tree. **Broadcast lawn spreader.** **Tires** (from a Mercedes). **Solar pool blanket:** With pole for winding, 18' diameter. **Car top luggage racks.** Information, prices & photos on request. Any reasonable offer may be accepted on all items. Contact millyshiraev@yahoo.com or 269-823-3739.

◆**Computer cart w/hutch:** 35.5W x 51H x 19.5D, assembly required (still in box), \$50. **Drop-leaf pedestal-base table:** 36" round top, hardwood butcher-block, assembly required (still in box), \$50. **Sofa:** custom-made, beige linen w/3 removable seat & back cushions, 72"L x 34"D, comes w/bolt of leftover upholstery fabric, \$150. **Two chairs:** Green wood w/rush sheet, \$10; Antique Victorian rocker w/carved pattern, \$30. **Pine "gossip bench":** (phone bench), colonial style, \$30. **Two side tables/plant stands:** 3 round dark wood shelves, \$5; dark wood w/3 round marble shelves, \$10. **Five brown metal folding card-table chairs:** \$25. **3-piece wicker porch set:** Settee, rocker & coffee table, \$30. **File cabinet:** Beige metal, 2-drawer, lock w/key, 18"D x 15"W x 28"H, \$15. **Two heavy-duty metal storage shelves:** 5 shelves, 18"D x 37"W x 72"H, need assembly, \$30 for both. **White wood 3-shelf display or bathroom cabinet w/glass door:** 16"H x 10"W x 4"D, \$10. **Walnut wall rack:** W/3 hooks, mirror & two 4x6" photo openings, 23"L x 12"H, \$10. **Hanging lamp**

Classifieds continued on p. 10

2012 General Membership Meetings

Quarterly Membership Meetings in 2012 will be held at 252 Erickson Hall on Tuesday, January 24; Thursday, April 19; Thursday, July 19; and Wednesday, October 24. 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

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 5:15
CTU Office

All members welcome.

Out with the old / In with the new

By Deb Bittner

It's that time of year, and I've been thinking about what would best be left behind with 2011 and what I would like to see in 2012.

It seemed like every time I opened the paper this year, Michigan's legislature had passed or was considering the passage of another law to undermine working families. One of the most recent proposals, House Bill 5002 (also Senate Bill 708), will slash benefits for workers compensation and give your employer more power to dictate where you can seek medical treatment.

According to Michigan State AFL-CIO, 14 anti-worker bills were passed in 2011, three more are on the governor's desk and a whopping 63 are on the docket as we head into the new year.

I could do without all the legislative "harassment" that puts a target on my back and aims to make our lives even harder than they are right now. It is tough to make it to each pay day with-

out having to figure out ways to pay for more and more. I could do without all that added stress and worry in 2012.

There was some good news in 2011, especially in the November elections. Voters strengthened their public infrastructures by approving millages for public safety in numerous municipalities around the state. Grand Blanc recalled an anti-worker, anti-education state representative. Ohio voters used their citizens' veto to repeal SB 5, a right-to-work law supported by corporate special interests. Wisconsin recalled two state senators. Voters are sending a strong message across the country that working and middle class people reject the anti-worker agendas of those placed in power by corporate interests.

Hopefully, "the will of the people" will cause lawmakers to wake up and reconsider the path they have been on for the past year. Citizens need to use common sense instead of listening to sound bites. We need to remember what this country was founded on and how we got to be the greatest nation. I could use more of that in 2012.

Here in Michigan, our elected leaders need to get their priorities straight. It's time to stop the power struggles and catering to the 1% (the other part of a phrase that is so descriptive of the working person's struggle—thank you to the "Occupy" movement!). We need our legislature to start working together to create good jobs that pay a fair wage and invest in education to give our kids a better future.

I know we keep saying this, and wishful thinking isn't getting us what we need. It may be a new year soon, but it will be the same old story unless we make things change. As always, we can

be the start of something new. We all can do more. We will have to.

A suggested New Year's resolution might be for each of us to write to one of our elected leaders or submit a letter to the editor of our local paper on a topic that affects us as workers. If each CT did that once a week, or even once

New continued on p. 6



New CTU website

We have established a new CTU website: www.ctumsu.org

This new site is not part of the MSU system, allowing us more freedom to publish information that might be problematic for a public employer.

As part of this move, the CTU staff and president have been assigned new email addresses:

Deb Bittner Deb@ctumsu.org
Cherylee Finney
Cheryl@ctumsu.org
Barb Harris Barb@ctumsu.org
John Klusinske
John@ctumsu.org
Dan McNeil Dan@ctumsu.org
Patricia Shackleton
Patricia@ctumsu.org

Although we look forward to a time when we can stop paying for hosting services through MSU, our old website will remain operational until the move is complete. At that point, we will provide a redirection page. Information sent to former email addresses will be forwarded for the foreseeable future.



MSU homecoming parade marshals: CTs Patricia Miller and Heather Dover

Holidays

continued from p. 1

With a good job—a good union job—workers may even be able to afford to put money toward higher education for themselves and family members. More demand for higher education in Michigan means greater job security for us.

Because many brands are made by both union and non-union, as well as American and non-American workers, checking the source of merchandise is important.

Another way to support workers is to purchase goods and services from our state. It bolsters the local economy and benefits our neighbors and community.

Studies have shown that locally owned businesses hire more local workers, purchase more goods and services from other local businesses, and contribute more to local charities than their big-box counterparts.

A study conducted in Chicago analyzed ten locally owned restaurants, retail stores, and service providers and compared them with chains competing in the same categories. The study concluded that every \$100 spent at one of the independent businesses created \$68 in additional economic activity in the city, while spending the same amount at a chain only generated \$43 worth of local impact. (Civic Economics, *The Andersonville Study of Retail Economics*, 2004.)

One of the main reasons for the difference was that the local retailers bought more goods and services from other local businesses. They did their banking at a local bank. They hired local accountants, web designers, and other professionals. They turned to a local print shop for their printing, and they advertised in local publications. The chains had almost no need for these

Local *continued on next page*



The birth of a new tradition

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods—merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor.

This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands.

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper?

Everyone—yes everyone—gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates

from your local American hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops, car washes and repair and service shops would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates. Such a gift could even help ease the conscience of someone driving a foreign vehicle.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plonking down the Benjamins on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

Just check your local yellow pages.

Tradition *continued on next page*

Made in U.S.A.

One large chain store, Menards, simplifies the task of determining which items are made in the United States. Menards' advertising and commercials clearly indicate where products were made, often giving the actual town of manufacture.



A Menard's ad for siding made at a work site in Jackson, Michigan.

Signs indicating U.S. origin accompany many of the products on store shelves.



Tradition

continued from previous page

Certainly, an American-owned business will be willing to help you.

If changing the oil won't be appreciated, maybe getting the house cleaned for the day will. Check around for a local cleaning company.

Everybody has to eat. There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants—all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big national

chains—this is about supporting your fellow citizens who put their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open. You can also plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants. Be sure to leave your server a nice tip. [Beatrix VanCampen]

Then there's entertainment. Tickets to plays or ballets at a hometown theater might be great for some people on your list. Musicians need love too, so a gift certificate to a venue showcasing local bands might be just the ticket.

Looking for something more personal? Local crafts people are spinning their own wool and knitting it into mittens, hats, scarves and sweaters. They are making wonderful custom leather handcrafts, jewelry, pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

We also have local manufacturers. One that comes readily to mind is Capitol Bedding, which makes mattresses, futons and more in the Lansing area. Their products are sold locally at The Mattress Source.

Michigania, a great source of gifts and information about the Great Lakes State, is located at 112 S. Washington Square in Lansing. Their internet catalog is located at www.michigania.com/.



"Everything I deliver is union made!"



"If you merged with the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy, you could cut operating costs."

Just down the road, the local Everybody Reads bookstore features local and Michigan authors. Located at 2019 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing, this community resource serves individuals, families and communities by offering a comprehensive bookstore and neighborhood center. Visit their website at becauseeverybodyreads.com/.

Shopping for someone a little less . . . conventional? Would a gift certificate for a tattoo fit the bill?

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that companies can further exploit workers in other countries in ways that we don't allow here.

Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care for communities, and the benefits come back to us. *This* is the new American holiday tradition.

—Thanks to everyone who forwards labor related emails, quotes, jokes and information to us. Keep it coming.

Local

continued from previous page

local services and spent relatively little in the city.

A consequence of this is that even modest shifts in the mix of local and non-local businesses in a community can have significant economic ramifications. A case study in Kent County, Michigan, estimates that the region would gain 1,600 new jobs, \$140 million in new economic activity, and \$53 million in additional payroll if residents shifted 10% of their spending from chains to local businesses. A shift in the opposite direction—more spending at chains—would cause equivalent economic losses. (Civic Economics, *Local Works: Examining the Impact of Local Business on the Western Michigan Economy*, 2008.)

Recently, CTU received several versions of an email about keeping our holiday dollars local. See the companion article, "The Birth of a New Tradition," on page 4. The different versions reflected the changes people made to reflect their own locales and situations. We couldn't resist adding a few items ourselves.

New

continued from p. 3

a month, it would make a huge impact. At the very least, you are educating your neighbors and community. The Michigan State AFL-CIO has a site that gives the latest updates on all upcoming legislation affecting workers (www.miaflcio.org/legislative-action/legislative-report.html). A link to sample letters to legislators and local papers is also provided for your convenience.

Now that CTU has a new, independent website, we will also be able to publish more information about political issues that affect us as workers and how we can have an impact on them.

There are a lot of ways CTs can become more involved in the community. And a lot of you are doing just that. Send us your stories or the stories of your coworkers who are making things happen in their neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, nursing homes, anywhere where a CT volunteers to keep something going or happening, and we will publish a story honoring that CT. This idea was inspired by all the Gliozzo award submissions for the last 10 years. CTs are doing so many good things and deserve to be recognized. See the box on this page about getting a free CTU t-shirt to wear when you are out and about doing great work!



MSU homecoming parade marshals: CT Sherry Kleinhardt with her husband Duane and CT Lynda Hensley.

We also had many volunteers help CTU be the good community partner that we are known for by assisting with the MSU Homecoming Parade and the MSU Broad Art Museum Gala event.

CTU is you. And every time you are recognized for being the profession-
Community *continued on next page*

Free t-shirt

If you are assisting with a community project or action, let us know. We would be happy to have you promote your union affiliation at your event by wearing a free CTU t-shirt.

Contact
President
Deb Bittner
at Deb@ctumsu.org or
355-1903.



Thank you

... to the CTs and their family members who helped marshal the MSU homecoming parade:

Heather Dover; Sue Faivor with family members Liane Faivor and Olivia Blackwell; Lynda Hensley; Dena Kittle and her mom, Joetta Nason; Sherri Kleinhardt with her spouse, Duane; Jean Lyle Lepard; Patricia Miller; and Julie Stoner with family members Teresa Stoner, Lyndsey Young, Quinn Armstrong, and Shawn Young.

... and also to everyone who helped staff the Broad Art Museum Gala:

CTs Carol Ann Adado; Mark Bitman; Heather Dover; Rosie Garcia and her daughter, Angelica; Darlene Lane; Laurie Rashid;



CT Anne Brooks casts her ballot in the October 25 CTU elections.

CTU election results

One hundred twenty-two members voted in the October 25 elections, returning all of the incumbents to office and electing Kimberly Smith to the Audit Committee.

President: Deb Bittner, 116 yes, 6 no

Treasurer: Jan D. Wallace, 115 yes, 7 no

Director (three positions):
Walt Peebles, 105
Norma J. Teague, 104
Janet Roe-Darden, 96

Audit Committee Member:
Kimberly Smith: 114 yes, 6 no, 2 invalid/blank

Tracy Rich; Becky Sullivan and her mom, Joanne Sullivan; Dagny VanDuine; Amanda VanKoevinger; Jan Wallace; and Betty Walther. We also want to thank CTU software computer specialist, Linea Nicholls, and MSU student Grace Lynch, for helping us at this event.

Community

continued from previous page

als that you are while doing the great work that you do, it just reinforces us as a strong community partner.

Now take it one step farther and use that power to support local businesses when you honor those you love during this giving season. We are needed and I know we are up to the task.

Have wonderful holidays that are full of laughter and love. I can do with lots more of that in 2012, too.

Election volunteers

We greatly appreciate and thank all the members who volunteered to help make our 2012 elections process a success:

Terri Bailey
Wendy Baker
Katherine Bergdolt
Julie Detwiler
Heather Dover
Rosie Garcia
Nancy Gray
Terri Lee Janson
Kathie Kirby
Angel Loveall
Jeanette Robertson
Stephanie Six
Pam Sloan
Betty Walther

Our special thanks goes to the Elections Committee volunteers:

Liz Owen (Chair)
Brenda Bailey
Kelli Kolasa
Tracy Rich
Becky Sullivan

And, of course, we are very thankful to the members who ran for office.

Last, but not least, a big thank-you goes out to the members who took time out of their very busy days to get to the polls and vote "Union-yes!"

Update

continued from p. 1

Treasurer Jan Wallace discussed our financial situation. At the time of the meeting, we had over \$4 million in our designated account and about \$100,000 in operations.

Contract Administrator Dan McNeil reported that we have few CTs on lay-off, but we have seen disruptions due to cuts in the College of Agriculture's budget and more can be expected.

Bittner raised the issue of our monthly donations to the Michigan State AFL-CIO to help counter the legislative campaign against unions and working families. Although we fell 20 members short of the constitutionally required

50-member quorum, those in attendance told the Executive Board that they support the union's efforts to block anti-worker legislation in Michigan and want to see those activities continued.

Jan Wallace and Betty Walther won the \$50 door prizes. Heather Dover and Linda Krause won gift bags.

In keeping with the wishes of the members attending the fall meeting, the Executive Board voted at its November 15 meeting to donate \$480 per month for three months to participate in Michigan State AFL-CIO's legislative battle against State proposals that will hurt Michigan workers, including CTs.

At their meeting the Board also established its committees for the coming year and set dates for the 2012 Membership Meetings. See these announcement elsewhere on this page.

Executive Board Committee Appointments

The Executive Board, at its November 15 meeting, established its Board Committee assignments through October 2012:

- ▼ **Finance:** Treasurer Jan Wallace (chair), Pamela Brock, Walt Peebles, Jeanette Robertson, Janet Roe-Darden
- ▼ **Grievance, Appeal and Trial:** Vice President Nancy Gray (chair), Willie Paulsen, Norma Teague, Duferia White, Jenn Woods



Mark your calendars

The 2012 Membership Meetings will be held at 252 Erickson Hall, 5:20 p.m.:

Tuesday, January 24
Thursday, April 19
Thursday, July 19
Wednesday, October 24

Membership meetings are for making decisions about the Union, asking questions and receiving updates about Union activities.





Board actions

July—September 2011

The following CTU Executive Board discussions took place July through September 2011. All expenditure decisions are included, but the list does not represent meetings in their entirety. CTs can receive copies of complete minutes through the mail or email by contacting the CTU office at 355-1903.

July 12

Renewed annual graphics service subscription to ClipArt.com for \$159.95.

Donated \$75 to WKAR for Radio Reading Services for the visually impaired. [Laraine Walton]

Voted to purchase two tickets for \$99 each to attend Michigan Labor-Management Association Workshop.

Agreed to purchase a portable printer for \$179.99 with a \$90.23 battery pack.

Decided to purchase four tickets for \$50 each to attend MI State AFL-CIO Community Service Class.

Discussed recent ratification of the CTU Contract.

Announced the 2011 Election Committee members: Liz Owen, chair; Brenda Bailey; Kelli Kolasa; Tracy Rich; and Becky Sullivan.

Announced that the CTU will assist with the Broad Gala event on September 30, 2011.

Announced that CTU's president and vice president will represent the union on the planning committee for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration at MSU for 2012.

August 9

Renewed annual Union Communications Services subscription in the amount of \$220.

Renewed annual subscription to the National Organization for Women publication in the amount of \$40.

Discussed upcoming meeting with WKAR concerning reorganization.

September 20

Renewed annual \$99.95 subscription to *The Nation* magazine.

Renewed annual membership in Mid-Michigan Labor and Employment Relations Association, to include 10 lunches, for \$250.

Agreed to send up to four people to MI State AFL-CIO "Renew America" Union Label Conference for \$75.

Agreed to order two desk informational organizers for CT staff for a total cost up to \$230.

Executive Board meetings

The Executive Board will hold one meeting in January 2012. The meeting is scheduled for January 17.

Constitutionally, the Board is required to meet at least once a month (Article VII, Section 3). In order to adequately attend to the business of the union, however, the Board schedules two regular meetings—on the first and third Tuesdays—of each month. Board meetings are open to all members starting at 5:15 p.m. at the C-T Union Hall.

From time to time, because of conflicting events, vacation schedules or other matters, the board will cancel one of the semimonthly meetings. In the event that a Board meeting is cancelled, an announcement will appear on our web site at www.ctumsu.org.

From the CTU Constitution. . . .

Article VII—Meetings

Executive Board

Section 3. The Executive Board shall hold a regularly scheduled meeting at least once a month. Special meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at the request of the President or majority of the Executive Board.

Article VIII—Quorum

Executive Board Meetings

Section 2. At meetings of the Executive Board, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority (6) of the total membership (11) of that body.

CT grew up knowing “hard work & giving”

In accepting this year’s Clerical-Technical Recognition Award, CT Joyce Brennan acknowledged that her parents’ and grandparents’ values helped shape her life.

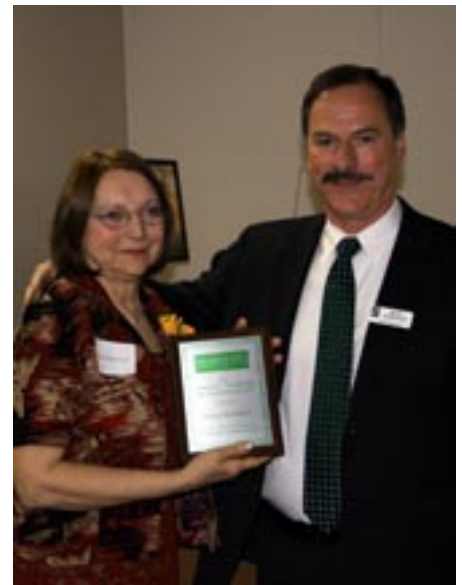
“We lived the Polish customs,” she said, “and God, family, hard work, and giving were the way of life. . . . I think we all realized later in life how we had learned what we lived.” Brennan grew up in a farming family with nine siblings. [Ernestina Lamb]

Brennan, the tenth winner of the award, is a 26-year MSU employee who works

as a Secretary in Educational and Support Services. She was nominated for the award by three coworkers.

Brent Bowditch, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, praised Brennan for her contributions to MSU and the community.

Brennan’s public service includes participating in MSU’s Friendship Family Program, hosting students from China, Taiwan, Romania and Poland, serving on the Women’s Advisory Committee for Finance and Operations, volunteering as a trained emergency responder, and volunteering in her church.



October 28—CT Joyce Brennan accepts this year’s Clerical-Technical Recognition Award from Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Brent Bowditch.



Assistant HR VP resigns

The Coalition of Labor Organizations has been asked to provide input into the selection of MSU’s new Assistant Vice President for Human Resources. CLO and CTU President Deb Bittner will participate on the selection committee.

Brent Bowditch, the assistant VP at HR since 2008, has decided to return to Purdue University where he previously worked in human resources. Bowditch came to MSU without previous union experience. However, he respected the relationship and the process we had established at MSU, and CTU has enjoyed working with him. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Tony Kleibecker will serve as interim assistant VP of Human Resources during the search.

The Clerical-Technical Recognition Award was established by Dr. Charles and Marjorie Gliozzo in honor of Dr.

Gliozzo’s parents to recognize outstanding clerical and technical employees. The award is presented every year by MSU’s Human Resources.

Don’t close the Collins Rd. P.O.

Postal workers and others in our community are opposing the United States Postal Service’s plan to possibly close its regional mail processing site on Collins Road next year. The services would be moved to Grand Rapids.

The proposal is part of a nationwide move to close sites, slash services and fire hundreds of thousands of postal workers across the nation in order to address what USPS officials say is a multi-billion dollar deficit.

It is a budgetary shortfall that does not stem from an increase in internet transactions or a decrease in mail. The USPS is actually profitable and does not receive tax dollars. The deficit is a direct result of a 2006 congressional mandate that the Postal Service pre-fund future retiree health benefits for the next 75 years and do so within a decade. Con-

gress created this “crisis” and Congress is currently considering bipartisan legislation that would address the long-term financial challenges faced by the USPS and eliminate the need to consolidate mail processing services.

Closing the Collins site would slow down mail in the area, actually causing our local mail to be shipped to Grand Rapids before it is returned.

Voicing your concern is a very important part of the process. Mail your letters to:

Mgr Consumer & Industry Contact
Greater Michigan District
PO Box 999631
Grand Rapids MI 49599-9631

More information and additional contacts can be found on the CTU website at ctumsu.org.

Sometimes you have to laugh

Quote: “Between 1979 and 2005 the inflation-adjusted income of families in the middle of the income distribution rose 21 percent. . . . Meanwhile, the income of the very rich, the top 100th of 1 percent of the income distribution, rose by 480 percent . . . from \$4.2 million to \$24.3 million. So do the wealthy look to you like the victims of class warfare?”

—Economist Paul Krugman in *The New York Times*

The Big Squeeze

The local bar was so sure that its bartender was the strongest man around that they offered a standing \$1000 bet: The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and hand the lemon to a patron. Anyone who could squeeze one more drop of juice out would win the money. Over the years, many people had tried but nobody could do it.

One day a scrawny little man came into the bar, wearing thick glasses and a

polyester suit, and said in a tiny squeaky voice “I’d like to try the bet.”

After the laughter had died down, the bartender said OK, grabbed a lemon, and squeezed away. Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little man. The crowd’s laughter turned to total silence as the man clenched his fist around the lemon and six drops fell into the glass.

Stunned, the bartender paid the \$1000,



“I’m aiming for that ideal balance between work life and my second job.”

and asked the little man “What do you do for a living? Are you a lumberjack, a weight-lifter, or what?”

The man replied: “I negotiate union contracts for management.”

—Union Communication Services

Classifieds

continued from p. 2

shade: Red & white checked fabric, pleated, 18" circumference, 12" length, still in box, \$15. **Vintage valance:** hand-carved wood, pale blue, ca. 1950s, \$25. **Oster Kitchen Center:** Never used, still in box; includes stand mixer, dough maker, food processor, salad maker, blender, and ice cream/frozen yogurt maker, \$100. **100% cotton throw:** 46x67", never used (still has tag), Swedish “Dala Horse” design w/red & yellow colors, \$30. Photos & detailed descriptions provided upon request, prices negotiable. Contact Jane at 484-1221 or jane1753@yahoo.com.

Wanted to buy:

◆ **10+ acres** to build a single family home. Must be partially wooded and perk. Within 30 miles from MSU campus. Call 517-202-0225.

For rent:

◆ **Drummond Island rental homes:**

Privacy and space. Our Drummond Island properties—located on the “Gem of the Huron”—are ideal for your next family or group vacation. For complete information on each of the homes, including accommodations, locations and rates, visit our website at <http://www.drummondislandhotel.com>. To book your home away from home, call 906-493-6799.

◆ **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:

◆ **Quality Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners:** It is a great time to get your carpets and upholstery cleaned before the holiday celebrations. Have your home warm, cozy, and sparkling like the holiday season!!! Please give us a call for a free estimate and

scheduling your appointment: 517-694-0497.

◆ **Capital Area Transportation Authority** offers a ride sharing service called Clean Commute that several CTs are using. Contact Clean Commute toll free (877-921-POOL), locally (517-393-RIDE), by fax (517-394-3733), or website (www.cata.org/cleancommute/index.html).

Free:

◆ **CTU Conference Room:** Available free to members (with deposit). For non-members, \$25/hour plus deposit. For questions, reservations, etc., contact the CTU office at 355-1903.

◆ **Advertise** to your colleagues in the *CT News*. Contact Cheryllee Finney at Cheryl@ctumsu.org. 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.

“Social justice—your turn to act”

Remembering Martin Luther King

Monday, January 16, 2012

For many years, the union has struggled to get MSU to declare Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a university holiday so that CTs can fully participate in commemorating and celebrating King's legacy. So far, we have not succeeded. Although MSU classes will be cancelled on MLK Day, January 16 is *not* a paid holiday for MSU employees and we are expected to report to work.

However, there will be lots of opportunities for CTs to participate in this year's MLK events. CTU and MSU renewed a letter of agreement during this year's negotiations that affirms our mutual commitment to diversity and inclusion and encourages supervisors to be flexible in permitting employees to participate in events associated with commemorating Dr. King.

If you are denied a reasonable request to participate in an event associated with MLK Day, contact the CTU for support in working out a mutually agreeable arrangement.



Into the streets with CTU

CTU members will join the “Into the Streets” Commemorative March on Monday, January 16. Join us at our banner in the MSU Union Building first floor lobby at 3 p.m.

After the march, join us for a Community Celebration Dinner at Akers Hall (pre-registration required).

The theme of this year's celebration at MSU is “Social Injustice—Your Turn to Act.”

One of the more popular events, especially for support staff members who need to stay on the job during the day, is the **Community Celebration Dinner**. This opportunity for staff, students, faculty and community members to share in celebrating the legacy of Dr. King will be held Monday, January 16, in the Akers Hall Dining Cafe. Food is served starting at 4:30 p.m. and the program starts at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is free. However, pre-reservations are required and can be made at msuinclusion.wufoo.com/forms/mlk-community-dinner-reservation-form/. [Mary Faloon]

For a frequently updated list of events associated with MSU's week of celebration, visit www.inclusion.msu.edu/Outreach/MLK.html.

Other MSU events include:

▼ **Showtyme@MSU**, Saturday, January 14, International Center Food Court, 8 p.m. Showcase of MSU student talent.

▼ **Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer & Protest**, Sunday, January 15, shows at 3 and 7 p.m., Pasant Theatre at the Wharton Center.

▼ **“Into the Streets” Commemorative March**, Monday, January 16, begins in the Union Building first floor lobby at 3 p.m. and ends at Beaumont Tower. CTU will be marching with a banner. Come join us!

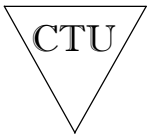
▼ **History and Culture Quilt Exhibit**, MSU Museum, Monday, January 16, 4 p.m.



Off campus, the **27th Annual Celebration Luncheon** in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will start at 11 a.m. on Monday, January 16, at the Lansing Center. The luncheon is sponsored by the Greater Lansing Area Holiday Commission.

This year's theme is “I Am a Dream Keeper” and the keynote speaker will be the Honorable Judge Joe Brown, the non-traditional presiding judge of the syndicated reality courtroom show. Judge Brown was the first African-American prosecutor for the City of Memphis, director of the City of Memphis Public Defender's Office and judge of the State Criminal Courts for Shelby County. Judge Joe Brown is committed to making a difference in people's lives. He currently resides in Memphis, Tennessee, where he dedicates his time helping at risk teens.

Tickets are \$25 per person online at www.lansingmi.gov/mayor/mlk/index.jsp or by calling 517-483-7637.



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

December 16. Nomination deadline for Jameyson employee/graduate student award. A description of the award and link to the nomination form is located at www.hr.msu.edu/recognition/supportstaff/JameysonAward.htm.

January 11. The first 2012 meeting of the Tobacco Cessation U Can Quit Support Group facilitated by Jonathon Novello, LMSW, ACSW, Emotional Wellness Consultant. The meetings are Wednesdays, 12:10–12:50 p.m. in Room 248 of the Olin Health Center. More information at health4u.msu.edu/classes/ucanquit_support_group.html.

January 16. Martin Luther King Day. Classes cancelled. University open. CTU will join the “Into the Streets” Commemorative March starting at the MSU Union Building at 3 p.m. See p. 11 for other events commemorating King throughout the week.

January 17. CTU Executive Board meeting, 5:15 p.m., C-T Union Hall.

Members welcome. This is the only Board meeting scheduled in January.

January 19. Health4U presents “Leftovers into Makeovers,” a menu featuring several recipes that can re-purpose foods left from one meal into delicious offerings at another. Reservation and payment for lunch of \$15 required by noon on Tuesday, January 17. Fees include lunch and beverage, gratuity for the wait staff and an interactive speaker session. Information and payment options at health4u.msu.edu/classes/cc_Jan19.html. MSU University Club, 12–1.

January 20. “The Centerpieces and the People’s Party: Creating a Workplace Holiday Tradition.” Presented by Michigan Historical Center. MSU Museum Auditorium, 12:15–1:30. Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Brown Bag Series.

January 24. CTU Membership Meeting, 252 Erickson Hall, 5:20 p.m.

UR district news

Recent UR appointments:

- ▼ **District 13** (Anthony, Meats Lab, Engineering): Reach **Megan Kroll** at 353-9556 or krollm@msu.edu.
- ▼ **District 35** (Olds, Museum, Music): **Amanda VanKoevinger** can be contacted at 355-5030 or vankoeve@msu.edu.

The following members have petitioned for appointment to UR positions. If no other members express an interest in the positions before 5 p.m., December 15, they will be appointed.

- ▼ **District 1** (Administration Building Floors B, 1): **April Moore**.
- ▼ **District 9** (Life Sciences): **Stephen Stofflet**.
- ▼ **District 15** (Nisbet, Manly Miles, Univ. Printing, Spartan Village Community Center): **Rosie Garcia**.

For more information, contact URCC Chairperson Becky Sullivan (884-3374, sulli306@msu.edu).