

CT News



CLERICAL-TECHNICAL UNION OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume XXXVIX, Issue 4

Organized and Independent since 1974!

April 2012

Labor fighting back

The current anti-labor climate is giving union workers plenty of opportunity to stand up, show solidarity for each other and make our voices heard on crucial issues that affect the middle class.

Wisconsin is in the middle of recalling a governor who continues to sign anti-worker bills into law. Ohio voters threw out legislation that limited collective bargaining for public employees in November. Workers in Indiana, which became the twenty-third right-to-work state in February, are fighting to restore their right to democratically choose union representation.

In the midst of an onslaught of legislative attacks on labor, Michigan workers are also fighting back. We have launched a petition drive to head off the possibility of a right-to-work law in our state.

As a group that supports the rights of workers to decide for ourselves—through the democratic process—whether or not to form a union, the CTU has long been on record as vehemently opposing right-to-work laws.

The petition needs over 300,000 signatures by July 1 to be included on the ballot. We need to encourage our co-workers, our family members, our friends and our acquaintances to sign the petition and vote for the “Protect Our Jobs” amendment in November.

Fighting back continued on p. 7



Red Cross strike affects community

April 11, Lansing—Approximately 200 workers are on strike against the Red Cross in Lansing. Red Cross has refused to bargain with the workers represented by Teamsters Local 580 and OPEIU Local 459 over cuts to health care benefits and wages. The

workers also contend that the Red Cross is implementing changes that compromise the safety of donors and the blood supply.

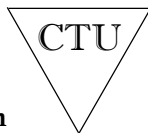
The two sides returned the table on **strike** continued on p. 6



Postal workers speak out

Lansing area postal workers rallied outside Senator Carl Levin's office on April 12 to protest the planned closing of the Collins Road mail processing facility and bring attention to federal legislation that deliberately undermines the fiscal solvency of the U.S. Postal Service.

The closing of the Collins Road site is part of a nationwide plan by USPS to save \$3 billion by consolidating **postal** continued on p. 6



Clerical-Technical Union
of Michigan State University
2990 East Lake Lansing Road
East Lansing, MI 48823-2281

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Phone: (517) 355-1903

Fax: (517) 353-3284

Website: www.ctumsu.org

CTU EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:

Deb Bittner Deb@ctumsu.org

Vice President:

Duferia White whitedu@msu.edu

Treasurer:

Jan Wallace wallac12@msu.edu

Secretary:

Pamela Brock brockp@msu.edu

Directors:

Willie Paulsen paulsenw@msu.edu

Walt Peebles peeblew@msu.edu

Tracy Rich richt@msu.edu

Jeanette Robertson robertso@msu.edu

Janet Roe-Darden jroe@msu.edu

Norma Teague teaguen@msu.edu

Jennifer Woods woods@msu.edu

CTU STAFF

Contract Administrators

John Klusinske John@ctumsu.org

Dan McNeil Dan@ctumsu.org

Financial Manager

Patricia Shackleton Patricia@ctumsu.org

Organizational Manager

Barb Harris Barb@ctumsu.org

Communications Specialist

Cheryllee Finney Cheryl@ctumsu.org

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 Cheryllee Finney.

Sometimes you gotta laugh



"We'll discuss it, vote on it, then I'll decide."

STOP!

If a train station is where the train stops and a bus station is where the bus stops, what is a work station?

—Anonymous

CT Classifieds

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.

Ride share:

◆ **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:

◆ **Clerical-Technical Union 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. [Joanne Frances Flynn]

2012 General Membership Meetings

Quarterly Membership Meetings for the rest of 2012 will be held in 252 Erickson Hall on 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.

Stewards of our community

By Deb Bittner

"Community."

We hear and see this word a lot lately but what does it really mean?

When I "googled" the word community, I came up with this definition from Wikipedia, the free Internet encyclopedia:

The term community has two distinct meanings: 1) A group of interacting people, living in some proximity (i.e., in space, time, or relationship). Community usually refers to a social unit larger than a household that shares common values and has social cohesion. The term can also refer to the national community or international community, and, 2) in biology, a community is a group of interacting living organisms sharing a populated environment.

In human communities, intent, belief, resources, preferences, needs, risks, and a number of other conditions may be present and common, affecting the identity of the participants and their degree of cohesiveness. . . .

The word "community" is derived from the Old French *communité* which is derived from the Latin *communitas* (cum, "with/together" + munus, "gift"), a broad term for fellowship or organized society.

This definition reveals that the word has more depth and resonance than I realized, especially the Latin origin, which recognizes "community" as a coming together and a social gift. I thought of community in more general terms—a collec-

tion of groups and individuals operating in a given space—but it certainly *can* be a gift when it serves the society or populated environment for the good of all.

This is how I choose to see "community." We are called to serve each other and the greater good of the collective. That is unionism as its best. When we work together, we can accomplish so much more. We become a powerful voice for the individual and the group. We become a force to be reckoned with!

Now we need to come together as a community more than ever, as you can see from stories on the front page of this newsletter. We are attacked by the legislature. We are attacked by the press and in editorials. We are seen as greedy and obsolete. Even our families, friends and neighbors sometimes lob nasty comments our way and perpetuate stereotypical myths that put unions in a bad light. It can be hard to take and even harder to fight.

However, the newsletter also gives us a more accurate portrayal of unions.



We see long time, loyal employees receiving service awards.

We see an announcement for the Gliozzo Award, which was started in recognition of CTs who perform at the highest level to serve students and co-workers, CTs who embody the spirit of community. [Becky Sullivan]

We also see CTU stepping up to help with another fundraiser, this time by co-sponsoring MSU's Summer Circle Theatre, which will help students and the greater community.

We see on the front page, groups joining together to protect decent jobs, a voice for workers and the safety, health and interests of the community at large.

CTs *are* the community and we benefit from it—from the collective outpouring of goodwill during our strike in the 1980s to the individual assistance many of us have received from voluntary agencies when necessary. Even with a job, members sometimes need help getting out of an abusive relationship, dealing with a sudden loss or emotional crisis, managing care for an elderly loved one, etc. Any one of us might find him or herself in such a situation.

CTs *are* the community and we need to take our responsibility for supporting it seriously, both by assisting local charities and other endeavors and by making our voices heard on issues that affect us. Workers and their unions created the middle class. Now that we are under attack it is imperative that we fight to protect it.

CTs *are* the community, and it is up to us to help define it.

Congratulations and best wishes

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

MSU's University Service Recognition ceremony will be held Tuesday, May 1, 4:30 p.m. in the Spartan Club, Spartan Stadium Tower.

Fifty years

Joann Janes
June Messner

Sharon Ruggles
Dagny Vanduine
Catherine Vaughn
Marsha Walsh

Forty years

Pamela Bailey
Dale Dadd
Kathleen Delaney
Dawn Everts
Gloria Garcia
Lucy Ramsey

Thirty years

Carole Abel
Nancy Ashley
Kristine Baclawski
Robin Borowski
Nora Carr
Chan-Chuan Chen*
Judy Fogle

Thirty-five years

Margaret Barkman
Karol Fry
Gregory Kapp
Deborah Kelley
Sandra Kuchta
Cathy Perez
Patricia Peterson

Jacqueline Guyton
Linda Krcatovich
Lois Leech
Sharon Mauro
Patricia Naeole
Carolyn Nash*
Sue Plesko

Kassandra Ray-Smith
Vanessa Rengstorf
Emily Rodriguez
Elaine Sklar
Carolyn Suddeth
Tamara Walker
Shiela Wing-Proctor
Patricia Wolff

Twenty-five years

Ellen Acker*
Carol Aho
Linda Aslin
David Baker*
Gloria Bateman
Debra Bittner
Tracie Blakely*
Linda Brandau
Cynthia Braun
Anne Brooks
Christine Brown*
Diana Bushre
Tracy Carey
Lisa Cole
Dianne Dreffs*
Nicole Ebert
Karen Ellis
Stanley Fedewa
Isabel Garcia
Debra Gleason
Sheri Graham*
Theresa Grover
Linda Hartwig
Severo Hernandez
Diane

Hernandez-Wojda
Deborah Hettinger
Elizabeth Hoover
Rita House
Kelly Keys



Mary Korrey
Joseph Kulikowski
Philip Lienhart
Mary Lilly
Melinda McLouth
Cynthia Meorado
Winslow Minott
Deborah Misiak
Angela Penner
Lori Phelps
Denise Rabi
Janet Reynolds
Sandy Riebow
Cheryl Roe
Yolanda Rosales
Sally Schoch
Celia Seniff
Catherine Sernick
Nancy Smith
Karen Smith
Annette Sonier
Fayelene Spencer
Shari Stockmeyer
Janet Taylor
Penny Unger-Marsh
Diane Waldie
Theresa Walker
Cynthia Wallace
Betty Walther
Sue Welch
Debra Wilson
Susan Wismer

Mary Witchell
Carol Wood

Twenty years

Francine Allen
Roberta Brandt
Donna Carncross
Connie Crew
Lisa English
Neerja Hajela
Tamara Hicks-Syron
Kathleen Joseph
Marian Matiyow
Susan McIntyre
Lorie Neuman
Melanie Parish
Marcia Pung
Jean Robinson
Karen Ryczek
Nancy Sehlke
Nancy Sheldon
Michelle Strickler
Donna Sweet
Kathryn Walicki
Kathleen Walker
Teri Walters
Suzanne Watson
Ruth Welch-Blair
Kimberly Wright

Fifteen years

Kimberly Baker



"Since you announced your retirement, there were 2 applicants for your job and 275 applicants for your parking space."

Congratulations continued on next page



Retirees

In the list on the previous page and below, an asterisk (*) indicates CTs who, in addition to being recognized this year for their years of service, have or are in the process of retiring. We also want to congratulate and wish the best to the following retirees.

Laura Neal, 44 years
Ronald Burgess, 41
Janice Parnell, 41
Susan Pavick, 41
Halina Marek, 37
Lillian Damer, 34
Cathy Hargrove, 32
Patricia Horn, 31
Nancy Lumley, 31
Janice Anderson, 29
Constance Williams, 29
Barbara Lehman, 28

William Morgan, 28
Gilda Sundeen, 28
Meredith Swamp, 28
Sheri Graham, 27
Sheila Shiels, 27
Barbara Campbell, 26
Kristina Davis, 26
Mary Hill, 26
Lisa Manni, 26
Mary Reynolds, 26
Joyce Schultz, 26
Sue Zimmerman, 26

Robin Ankney, 25
Pamela Pope, 24
Evelone Herman, 24
Janet Cornelius, 21
Debra Moray, 21
Janice Barker, 19
Linda Trimble, 19
Nancy Burd, 16
Kay Wood, 16
Bridget McCarthy, 15
Rebekah Rhodes, 15

Congratulations

continued from previous page

Carol Baker
Deborah Barratt
Michele Beltran
Pamela Bower-Rheaume
Pamela Brock
Monica Conklin
Sherry Danner
Marsha Edington
Stephania Ford
John Gordon
Paula Hildebrandt
Jeanine Honke
Rachel Iseler
Carol Lake*
Tracy Lee
Joyce Lockwood
Angel Loveall
Monique Mataya-Trevino
Sandra Montgomery
Hung Nguyen
Alice Nobis
Ethel Oberlander
Wilma Paulsen
Debra Peabody
Jacqueline Riley
Candie Sanchez
Margaret Selasky
Dionne Snorden
Nancy Spitzley
Yvonne Squiers
Nancy Stark
Sheila Teunissen
Nancy Thoma
Christine Tolfree
Trina Trefil
Marlena Vertrees
Tracy Volk
Lisa Wilton
Pearl Wong
Amy Yanz
Suzan Zutaut

UR district news

The following CTs were reappointed to UR positions:

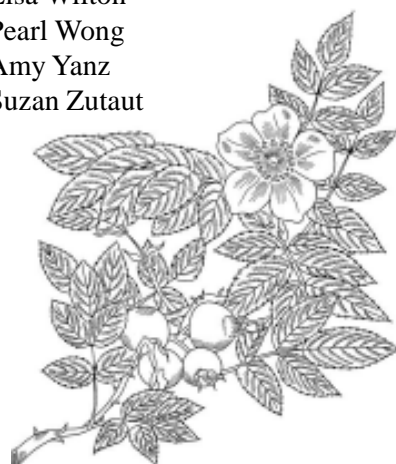
- ▼ **District 5** (MSU Detroit Medical Center Campus): **Wendi Winston** can be reached at 313-578-9624 or winst106@msu.edu
- ▼ **District 19** (MSU Macomb University Center Campus): Contact **Simone Wesley** at 586-263-6746 or wesleysi@msu.edu.
- ▼ **District 38** (Vet Medical Center-2): **Liz Owen** can be contacted at 432-3674 or owene@msu.edu.

District 31 (N&S Kedzie, Bessey, Comp. Ctr.): **Betty Walther** has petitioned to continue as UR. If no one from her district expresses an interest in the position by 5 p.m., May 7, she will be reappointed.

Interested in becoming a UR? Contact URCC Chairperson Becky Sullivan at 884-3374 or sulli306@msu.edu.

Keep in touch with your union

CTU members approaching retirement don't need to worry about losing contact with the union they helped build. Just email Cheryl@ctumsu.org 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.ctumsu.org.



Nominate an outstanding CT

*Submitted by Jackie Mussell, CT
Assistant VP Human Resources*

Is there an outstanding CT in your unit who deserves special recognition for his or her skills, abilities and dedication to excellence? Nominate that special person for the 2012 Clerical Technical Recognition Award!

Nominations for the 2012 Gliozzo Clerical Technical Recognition Award will be accepted by Human Resources until 5 p.m., **June 1, 2012.**

The winner will be profiled in MSU's

Strike

continued from p. 1

April 11 while the strike continued. At the time we went to press, negotiations were reported to be rocky.

Because several blood drives were scheduled on campus during the strike, the CTU sent an email out through its listserv and posted information on its website informing members as to how to respond to picket lines at their buildings. The message also responded to inquiries about how CTs can assist the strikers.

Members may remember how important community support was to the success of our own strike in 1988. Legally, we are unable to leave our jobs to strike with the Red Cross picketers. However, there are several ways we can show our support, such as joining the picketers on breaks and lunch hours, honking our horns as we drive by, making donations to help pay for medical and other bills, etc.

For more information about the strike and how we can assist the strikers, visit the CTU website at www.ctumsu.org.



Source and will receive the award at a special recognition reception. The winner also will receive a monetary award of \$1,000. Criteria for the award include:

- ▼ Respect of peers and continuous diligence in attending to daily responsibilities;
- ▼ Concern for students, faculty, staff, and colleagues, particularly (but not limited to) overseas U.S. students and faculty, international students, international faculty, etc.
- ▼ Extraordinary and significant contributions to the community or

public service;

- ▼ Innovative thinking in facilitating unit tasks and responsibilities.

You don't have to be an individual's supervisor to submit a nomination. Individuals may be nominated by any member of the University community. To nominate a CT, complete a nomination form and collect a minimum of two support letters (maximum of five) by MSU colleagues. You may include additional information if it supports the applicant's nomination. You can find nomination forms under the *HR News* section of the MSU Human Resources Web site at www.hr.msu.edu.

Submit the nomination form and attachments (*preferably electronically—PDF*) to ServiceAwards@hr.msu.edu, Attn: CT Recognition Award Selection Committee. If you are unable to submit it electronically, send it to Room 120 Nisbet Building. If you have questions, contact Jackie Mussell at 517-884-0114 or mussellj@hr.msu.edu.

Postal

continued from p. 1

mail sites and ending Saturday delivery. [Deena Kakirjan-Kalbach]

The workers do not believe that many of the changes are necessary. They say the crisis was created by recent legislation that requires the Postal Service, which is completely self-funded, to pre-fund future retiree health benefits for the next 75 years and do so within a decade. This law, they believe, needs to be overturned.

If a distribution center does need to be closed, they add, it should not be the one in this area.

The consolidation plan calls for

Lansing services to be moved to Grand Rapids. Not only would such a move result in slower mail for the capital city area, it would be more costly and demand more resources. Lansing is more centrally located in the region than Grand Rapids, so remaining here would result in less mileage and lower fuel costs. Also USPS owns the Collins Road site, meaning it would not have to pay rent here as it would in Grand Rapids.

For more information about these issues, visit the American Postal Workers site at www.apwu.org, www.saveamericaspostalservice.org and www.savethepostoffice.com.

Fighting back

continued from p. 1

Information about the petition drive, and other solidarity opportunities, will be available on the CTU website at www.ctumsu.org.

In response to the legislative attack on workers, the Michigan State AFL-CIO continues to maintain a database of upcoming labor bills that includes information about how we can oppose them. Just go to www.miaflcio.org/legislative-action/legislative-report.html.

Same weekend as the Art Fair

MSU Horticulture Garden Plant Sale

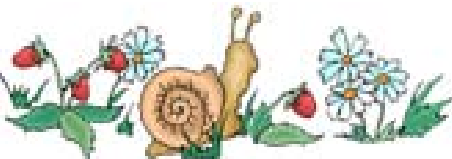
The Horticulture Garden's 2012 Plant Sale will be held on the same weekend as the East Lansing Art Fair. Make this a family outing and enjoy two great campus events in one trip! Mark your calendars for the following Plant Sale dates:

- ▼ Friday, May 18, 2012, 5–7 p.m. (members only, pre-sale)
- ▼ Saturday, May 19, 2012, 7 a.m.–2 p.m. (public sale)

Note that all 2012 Garden members have access to sales one day in advance and also receive a 10% discount on all purchases!

As in past years, there will be great deals on perennials, grasses, herbs, annuals, cottage garden plants, vegetable seedlings, shrubs and more.

The plant sale will be held in the headhouse of the Plant & Soil Sciences greenhouses, MSU campus.



The CTU is pleased to announce the following event, which are helping to co-sponsor:



On Stage with Summer Circle Theatre

Wednesday, May 9th ♦ 6–9:00pm



Join the Friends of Theatre at MSU for a fantastic Benefit Gala supporting Summer Circle Theatre's 52nd year.

Held on campus at the Fairchild Theatre/Auditorium Stage, the Gala will feature:

*A Gala Welcome
Hors D'oeuvres & Wine
A Silent Auction
Preview Student Performances
Music provided by MSU Students*

Due to the nature of this event, reservations are required, and must be paid for by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, or Discover) by calling the Theatre Department at 517.355.6690 by May 2nd, 2012.

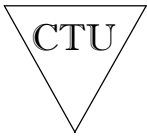
Tickets are \$40 per person.



CTU contract

The 2011-2015 CTU contract (ratified June 29, 2011) is at the printer and will be distributed in the near future. Until then, a draft

version of the document is available under "Contracts" on the CTU website at www.ctumsu.org. [Beth Anne Lannon]



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

May 1. CTU Executive Board Meeting, C-T Union Hall, 5:15 p.m. Members welcome.

May 1. University Service Recognition ceremony, 4:30 p.m. in the Spartan Club, Spartan Stadium Tower.

May 7. Deadline for Open Enrollment. Anyone making changes in coverage—such as adding or removing a dependent, switching health or dental care plans, or changing life insurance options—must participate in Open Enrollment. **Staff members who wish to continue coverage for a spouse or OEI must participate by filling out the affidavit.** After this date, we will not be able make changes to our selections until next year. Except for in rare cases related to specific life-event changes, we will not be able to switch plans, add or remove dependents, cancel or add coverage or make other changes after May 7. The Open Enrollment Guide was sent out via email this

year to our MSU NetID email addresses. Direct questions to the MSU HR Benefits office at benefitsinfo@hr.msu.edu or call 517-353-4434. For long-distance, call toll-free 800-353-4434.

May 9. On Stage with Summer Circle. See page 7 for details.

May 13. Final day for “On Equal

Terms: A Mixed Media Installation by Susan Eisenberg.” MSU Museum. Cosponsored by the CLO and CTU.

May 15. CTU Executive Board Meeting, C-T Union Hall, 5:15 p.m. Members welcome.

May 3. Deadline to sign up for employee paid, voluntary vision care insurance. Go to www.ctumsu.org/tools/vision-program for info. [Susan Schaefer]

June 1. Deadline to nominate a CT for the 2012 Clerical Technical Recognition Award. See page 6 for details.

June 7. CTU Picnic, 4–7 p.m., C-T Union Hall. Hold the date!

June 9. Renew America Expo, UFCW Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights. Come check out the “American-made” vendors and other cool family activities. For more information, go to www.miunionlabel.org or www.facebook.com/unionlabelmi.

