

# CT News



CLERICAL-TECHNICAL UNION OF  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume XXXVII, Issue 6

Organized and Independent since 1974!

June 2010

## President's corner CTU meetings —why bother?

By Deb Bittner

“Why do I need to go to union meetings?” is a question I’ve heard several times lately.

There are many reasons to attend our Union Membership Meetings.

One reason is to get timely information first hand. Want to know what’s happening in health care negotiations? The latest on layoffs, parking, etc.? Come to the Membership Meeting.


Heard a rumor? Address it at the Membership Meeting.

Have a problem on the job, perhaps one that doesn’t rise to the level of a grievance? Bring it up at a Membership Meeting and hear how your C-T colleagues are handling similar situations.

When we attend Union meetings our voices are heard. We sometimes complain to coworkers—about management, other CTs, even the Union—but this kind of complaining doesn’t get us anywhere. When we attend a Membership Meeting, we can get information and make motions to correct the problems we see with the Union and the workplace. [Andrew Montroy]

Attending Union meetings also shows solidarity, which supports the Union in its dealings with management. Whether we are going to bat for indi-

**Let's keep our union dues working for union members!**



The CTU needs a membership vote to move \$125,000 from the Contingency Fund to operations in order to cover the day-to-day expenses of defending our contract and fighting for our rights. Our last two meetings have fallen a few members short of a quorum, a circumstance that obliges the Executive Board to reschedule the Summer Membership meeting for the earlier date of June 29. The transfer will be the first item on the agenda as soon as we have a quorum.

**Attend the Tuesday, June 29  
Membership Meeting**

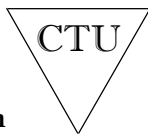
**5:20 p.m.  
S-107 Kedzie Hall**

vidual members or negotiating a contract, it helps immensely when everyone knows we have strong, vibrant, active membership support.

Another—*very important*—reason to attend Union meetings is that it gives us an opportunity to find out how dues are being spent and have input into how we want them used.

We pay two hours every month in dues to support our Union financially (prorated for part time employees). It is a financial investment that gives each of us a substantial stake in the Union. Personally, I have a hard time understanding why any member wouldn’t take an active interest in her or his investment in our Union.

**Meeting continued on p. 3**



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## CTU EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President:

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### Treasurer:

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## CTU STAFF

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### Communications Specialist

Cherylee Finney [ctnews@msu.edu](mailto:ctnews@msu.edu)

**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:

### ◆Beef or Pork for your freezer:

Farm raised, grain fed, all natural, no antibiotics or hormones. Beef at \$2.50/lb. by the 1/4 or 1/2 (approx. 200 lbs. per 1/4). Pork at \$2/lb. (approx. 150 lbs.). Processed to your specifications. Orders accepted through July 2, ready the first week of August. Raised by Narrow Brook Farms, Charlotte, 517-543-4525 or [narrow\\_brook@att.net](mailto:narrow_brook@att.net). [Kevin L. Knights]

### ◆1987 14 x 70 Schult Mobile

**Home:** Situated on a beautiful end lot in Hamlin Park, Webberville, 2 car garage with paved driveway. 2 bedroom (large master bedroom), 1 bath, central air, cathedral ceiling throughout, china cabinet in dining area as well as walk in pantry and broom closet. Comes with all appliances including full size washer, dryer, snowblower and lawn mower. New roof in 2005, new carpet 2004 and new furnace in 2007. This home has been very well taken care of. \$5,000. Call 517-347-1523 or after 6 pm. 517-468-3469.

## Services:

### ◆Quality Resurfacing:

Bathtub, countertop and tile resurfacing is an affordable home improvement. Give us a call for a FREE estimate. 10% discount by mentioning this ad. Visit our website at [www.qualityresurfacing.net](http://www.qualityresurfacing.net). Call 517-285-0308.

## Home-based business opportunity:

◆Take just 45 minutes out of your day to learn about a health and wellness catalog shopping company. No sales, no inventory, no billing! Exceptional products at reasonable prices that are both natural and safer for your family and the environment. Exceptional business plan with a proven record, terrific bonuses, profit sharing, and prestigious awards from the Better Business Bureau! A visual presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2010, at 5:30 pm in the CTU Conference Room, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road (Campbell Building). For more information and/or to schedule a personal presentation, please contact Audrey Smith at 517-887-2118 or [smithau910@yahoo.com](mailto:smithau910@yahoo.com) or Evette Chavez Lockhart at 517-487-5179 or [evettechavezlockhart@yahoo.com](mailto:evettechavezlockhart@yahoo.com).

## 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](http://www.cata.org/cleancommute/index.html)).

**Free:** Advertise to your colleagues in the *CT News*. Contact Cherylee Finney at [ctnews@msu.edu](mailto: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.

## General Membership Meetings in 2010

Quarterly Membership Meetings for the rest of 2010 will be held on Tuesday, June 29, in S-107 Kedzie, and Wednesday, October 27, in Room 252 Erickson Hall. Meetings begin at 5:20, but the doors open at 5, so come early to socialize. These 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.



# Labor night 2010

The CTU will join members of area unions to watch a Lugnuts game on Saturday, August 14, at 7:05 p.m. at Cooley Law School Stadium ("the house that labor built").

**Go nuts together!** The CTU will sit together in a block of reserve seats and be recognized by the community.

**Win a prize?** Someone from our group

will win a great Lugnuts gift in the group raffle. Maybe you!

**Autographs.** Free player autographs before the game (6:15-6:45).

**Fireworks!** Come and enjoy the crowd-pleasing fireworks display immediately following the game. [Michelle Denise Hall]

**Tickets.** Just \$9 each for reserved seating. Contact Deb Bittner (355-1903, [ctupres@msu.edu](mailto:ctupres@msu.edu)). Tickets must be purchased by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 9. We have a limited number of seats and they go fast, so get yours early. [Brenda S. Titus]

## Meetings

*continued from p. 1*

Unlike a car insurance company, where you pay your premium and hope you never need to collect, the CTU is a democratic organization and works every day for us through our great Contract. And we get to decide how and when we want our money to work for us.

We allocate a significant amount of our dues to long-term investments (our Contingency Fund) where it grows. The rest we use to pay salaries and other expenses that keep us strong on a day-to-day basis. For decades, the amount of dues constitutionally allocated to regular expenses has been insufficient. The CTU membership could vote to reallocate dues so that more money goes into operating expenses. Instead, we have opted for financial justification and an accounting of expenditures before voting to transfer money from the Contingency Fund to operations as needed.

This process has served us quite well. It has worked because enough members are informed and active and show up to make decisions about the health and future of the organization.

Our Membership Meetings are serious business. We have set them up to be an integral part of running our Union.

But, when we don't have 50 members present at a meeting, we can't do busi-

ness or make decisions. And right now we need a decision.

We need a decision on transferring \$125,000 from the Contingency Fund to operations. Voting for a transfer would mean voting to keep the union strong during these difficult times. Voting to withhold operating funds would be a vote to cut Union services. Either of these choices would provide direction for the Union.

The leadership of the organization has not heard that the membership wants to cut back on services. In fact, with layoffs, health care issues, upcoming contract talks, understaffing, and threats to workers on the legislative front, we are more in need of our Union than ever.

However, if we don't vote to transfer funds, we will start running out of money to operate the Union in August.

As you can see, the lack of a 50-member quorum at the last two meetings leaves the Union in a bind.

The June 29 meeting was rescheduled from our usual July gathering in the hopes of getting a quorum before many of us go on vacation and because we need a decision as soon as possible. This meeting is especially crucial. We will be deciding what kind of investment we want to make in our job security—if we have a quorum.

## UR district news

**District 37.** (Clinical Center [A-Wing]): Kimberly Baker has petitioned for reappointment to her UR position. If no one from her district expresses an interest in the position before July 6, she will be reappointed.

The following areas are currently without a UR. If you are located in one of these areas and have an interest in becoming a UR, please contact Vice President Nancy Gray (353-8632 or [grayn@msu.edu](mailto:grayn@msu.edu)).

▼ **District 3** (Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, Basell Building (MBI), Henry Center, Alliance Drive).

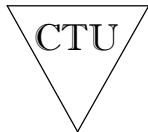
▼ **District 4** (Biomedical Physical Sciences, Planetarium).

▼ **District 23** (Plant and Soil Sciences, Wharton Center).

▼ **District 33** (Veterinary Medical Center-1).

▼ **District 34** (Agriculture Hall, Cook Hall).

Produced by your CT colleagues at MSU.



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

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Ingham County Fair**



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2010**

Bring the family to a day of

**Carnival Fun - Food - Rides**

**Guitar Hero Contest**  
for Kids (age groups 6-10, 11-14, 15-18)  
2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Cash prizes!

▼Discount tickets are available through CTU. Contact Barb Harris (355-1903, [ctustaff@msu.edu](mailto:ctustaff@msu.edu)). Tickets must be purchased by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 30. We have a limited number of tickets and they go fast, so contact us early.

▼The entry donation is **\$3 per person** if purchased through your union (\$8 at the gate). (Children two years old and under are free.) **All-day (noon to close) ride tickets are \$12 per person** purchased through the union (\$18 at the fair).

## Calendar

**June 29** Rescheduled CTU Membership Meeting, 5:20 pm, 107 S. Kedzie. [Hortencia Reynaga]

**July 6** CTU Executive Board meeting. C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.

**July 15** Deadline to submit materials for the August *CT News*.

**July 20** CTU Executive Board meeting. C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.

