

CT News



CLERICAL-TECHNICAL UNION OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume XXXVII, Issue 9

Organized and Independent since 1974!

September 2010



Left to right: Elections Committee Chairperson Brenda Bailey and committee members Liz Owen and Becky Sullivan.

Members run the CTU

CTU members have stepped forward to run for all of the positions available this fall.

Pamela Sloan, Duferia White, Jennifer Wood, Willie Paulsen

Vice President:

Nancy Gray

Audit Committee:

Colleen Drake

Secretary:

Pam Brock

The races for vice president, secretary and Audit Committee positions are uncontested. In situations where

Four directors:

Jeanette Robertson,

Candidates continued on p. 4

Questions for the candidates?

The best opportunity to ask questions of the candidates and assess their leadership skills is during the give and take of the candidate forums.

You can also submit questions to the Elections Committee (see con-

tact information on page 4) by Monday, October 18. The Committee will review the questions and give the candidates a chance to respond. Both the questions and answers will be posted on our web site at www.msu.edu/~ctumsu/.

CTU candidate forums

An opportunity to question our future leaders



The hours can be long and the effort often goes underappreciated. So why do they do it?

Come meet CTU's candidates, and ask them why they are running and how they intend to lead our organization. Like all CTU elections, the one on Tuesday, October 26, 2010, is crucial.

In order to make sure that we all have an opportunity to make informed decisions about our future leaders, the Elections Committee has scheduled three candidate forums. Try to attend the one in your area or as many as possible to get all of your questions answered.

Wednesday, October 20

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Room C9 Owen Hall*

Thursday, October 21

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Room S109 S. Kedzie

Monday, October 25

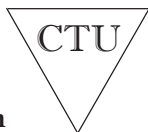
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Abbot Seminar Room, Snyder Hall*

*Please, no outside food.

*Food can be purchased from the Food Court.

More information on the CTU elections is available in this issue. See page 4 for instructions on obtaining elections rules, volunteering, etc.



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of Michigan State University**
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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:

◆ **Bose speakers:** 1) Pair of Bose 201: 120w bookshelf speakers, wood grain, \$140; 2) Bose VCS-10: 50w center, black, \$60; 3) Pair of Bose 601: 200w tower speakers, black, \$220; Acoustic Research s112ps: 120w 12" subwoofer, \$80. Or all of it for \$400. Contact me for pictures or to purchase item at stunningtigrress@yahoo.com.

◆ **Copper Omega elliptical machine:** Great copper color elliptical has 16 levels of computer controlled magnetic resistance. Hand pulse sensor monitors your heart rate. 2 computer windows show you your time, speed, distance, scan and pulse. Weight capacity 330. Barely used. \$325. **Weslo inversion flex system:** Helps decrease pressure on spine and increase blood flow to body's extremities, release muscle tension. Padded nylon bench, foam padded handlebars, height, ankle lock, and pivot bar. Barely used. \$75. Call John at 517-648-9079 or dudajohn@sbcglobal.net.

◆ **South Lansing home:** Delightful gambrel roof style with inviting front porch. Will capture your heart. New double hung tilt windows, new furnace with humidifier, new roof, new wood burning fireplace, refinished hardwood

floors throughout and a beautiful dining room with quarter sawn oak paneling with built in plate rack and buffet. Walk in closets, built in dresser, linen cabinets, and medicine cabinets. Close to LCC and 10 minute drive to MSU campus. Asking \$99,999. This is a great starter home as all the major repairs have been completed. To see pictures and/or schedule a viewing, please email stunningtigrress@yahoo.com.

◆ **2009 Kawasaki Vulcan:** 500 LTD, 160 miles, \$5,000 or BO. Call Romie 517-694-7797 or 517-204-4089. Leave a message.

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. Call 517-285-0308.

◆ **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).

◆ **Youth group fundraiser:** Excursion to Chicago on Saturday, October 30. Experience the Magnificent Miles, Navy Pier, the Children Museum, Millennium Park, Shedd Aquarium, Alder Planetarium, Field Museum, great food & fun. Depart at 6:30 am from Maranatha Church and return before midnight. Stops can be made at Grand Rapids & Kalamazoo if needed. \$55 per person, \$30 deposit by 10/8/10 (price includes light breakfast snack & travel). For questions & details, call Francine Bushrey at 517-402-2262 or fbushrey@retailers.com.

For rent:

◆ **Suite or individual office:** 2990

Classifieds continued on p. 8

October General Membership Meetings

The final Quarterly Membership Meeting in 2010 will be held Wednesday, October 27, in Room 252 Erickson Hall. The Meeting begins at 5:20, but the 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.

Time to get involved, again

By CTU President Deb Bittner

We are in the midst of another election cycle and big politics with state-wide consequences. As we have said many, many times: union members need to be informed and involved because our very jobs may depend on it! [Trinh Thi Tuyet Tran]

October CTU elections

Our October elections are well under-

way. We have already been through the Nominations phase and are moving into the October "Meet the Candidates" phase. The October newsletter will have more information on the candidates and full election day details. Again this year, members will receive an election notice at their home address. Look for that letter sometime in the first week of October. The election is on October 26.

Elections continued on p. 5



Why UNIONS engage in political action

By Daniel H. Kruger

The political season is upon us. Television, radio and newspapers present an ongoing stream of articles and ads on the presidential primaries. Candidates for public office seek support from both individual citizens and groups in their efforts to get elected. Business groups, environmental groups, gays and lesbians, pro-abortion, anti-abortion, doctors, lawyers and unions all engage in various types of political action.

[S]tudents ask me why UNIONS engage in political action. Below are 10 reasons:

- ▼ To help shape legislation that supports the individual in his or her dual role as citizen and worker.
- ▼ To help shape the role of the Federal Government and its impact on the job economy through monetary and fiscal policies.
- ▼ To influence the appointments by the President of the United States as cabinet members, members of administrative agencies and federal judges.
- ▼ To have a voice or help shape U.S. foreign trade policies which affect jobs and therefore the livelihood of

American workers.

- ▼ To help shape policies of the federal, state and local government as they relate to their employees. . . .
- ▼ To elect congressmen, senators, state legislators, county commissioners and city officials friendly to workers and their legitimate interests.
- ▼ To help elect governors in order to shape the state budget and the allocation of tax revenues for human services. . . .
- ▼ To serve as a countervailing force to the legislative agenda of businesses and other special interest groups.
- ▼ To expand the institutionalization of collective bargaining which is the only legally mandated system of employee involvement in the United States.
- ▼ The work of a democratic society is achieved through a system of negotiated transactions with groups who possess political power. Political action by unions gives workers a seat at the social negotiating table.

Through political action, unions seek to enhance their political power. Why is political power so important? In a democratic society the extent or magnitude of political power gives unions

their voice and their seat at the great social negotiating table provided by democracy. The work of a democratic society is accomplished through a system of bargaining by those who possess political power. The greater the political power, the greater the bargaining power. And political power is achieved. In the words of Samuel Gompers, one of the founders of the American Federation of Labor, "Elect your friends and defeat your enemies." This statement was made in or about 1881 and applies as well today.

Political action is part and parcel of a free democratic society, and unions, as part of the democratic community not only do engage in political action, but are obligated to do so on behalf of their members and their interests.

The late Daniel H. Kruger, a professor in Labor and Industrial Relations, was a friend of labor and a special friend to the CTU. As we embark on another political season, we thought it fitting to re-run this comments on why unionists become politically involved.



CTU elections information

Candidates

continued from p. 1
only one candidate is running, Article IV, "Officers, Nominations and Elections," section 9, of our Constitution requires:

"that an alternate choice through the process of a no vote be afforded members voting. Should the no vote receive the highest number of votes cast, the elected Executive Board shall fill the position until a special election could be called. The previous nominee would not be eligible for appointment."

This means that we will have a choice of "No" for vice president, secretary and Audit Committee member.

Call for volunteers

The Elections Committee is looking for volunteers to work on tasks at the following times:

Wednesday, October 6

▼ Prepare ballots at the CTU Office, 5:15 p.m. until done.

Tuesday, October 26

▼ Work the polls at the Auditorium, half-day and full-day shifts, 7:15 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

▼ Drive a van for our Shuttle Service, half-day and full-day shifts, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

▼ Count votes at the CTU Office, 5:30 p.m. until done.

CTs not running for a Board or Audit Committee position are eligible to assist the Elections Committee.

Elections Committee

Any questions, concerns or comments about the elections should be directed to one of the Elections Committee Members:

▼ Brenda Bailey, Chairperson, baileyb@msu.edu, 884-1058

▼ Liz Owen, owene@msu.edu, 432-6088

▼ Becky Sullivan, sulli306@msu.edu, 355-0120x333

Coming in October:
Special CTU Elections issue featuring candidate statements



Labor challenge

The Coalition of Labor Organizations at MSU has initiated a Labor Challenge as part of the annual 2010-11 MSU Community Charitable Campaign. If you donate to the Charitable Campaign, we are asking you to mark your contributions so that it is clear you are a union member.

Unions are all about working collectively, and through our joint efforts, your contribution—no matter how small—strengthens other gifts. Every contribution will help someone who might not otherwise receive help.

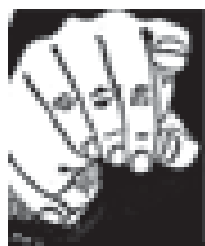
By giving through payroll deduction, most working people have found that they can afford to contribute. By joining other union members who share our commitment, camaraderie, and teamwork we can showcase what the MSU Labor Family can do when challenged. [Mildred A. Shiraev]

To ensure it counts toward your union, just write "CTU" on the department line after your department name.

Thanks for all you do on part of the MSU community and the communities where you live!

Elections rules

All candidates receive a copy of the Election and Campaign Rules. Other members can request a copy by contacting Barb Harris at 355-1903 or ctustaff@msu.edu. A copy is also available on the web at <http://www.msu.edu/user/ctumsu/Rules.pdf>.



Your union needs you

Elections

continued from p. 3

While we have a hardworking Committee (Thank you Brenda Bailey [chair], Liz Owen, and Becky Sullivan!) and dedicated staff working to prepare the elections and make sure the process is smooth, the elections can't run successfully without member volunteers. If you are interested in assisting, please call the CTU office (355-1903) or any of the Committee members. You'll find information about volunteer opportunities in this issue. I look forward to working with you and seeing you on election day.

The political environment

We all know there is a big election for the State of Michigan taking place in November. We don't live in a bubble, but sometimes we don't realize that off-campus politics affect us. I know it seems that we have so much to worry about around us—like layoffs and budget tightening—that we cannot even begin to think of outside politics. But we need to pay attention.

We watch the news and see our neighbors, families, and friends worrying. We worry about jobs leaving our state and being shipped out to be done by workers in third world countries at wages that keep them living a third-world lifestyle. Is that what we are to become? Already, many American workers lucky enough to get "any job" are forced to work two or three just to get by. If we can't manage, even after years of working—if our job is eliminated, if our pension is gutted, etc.—we're told it's our own fault. The safety net has been shredded and there is little to fall back on.

But we keep working to keep our employer top-notch. We work together with our unions and management to find solutions for health care problems, to correct inefficiencies in systems, educate the public and meet our social

responsibility to help our communities. We truly are part of Team MSU.

So, what else can we do?

I would like to suggest that now is the time for individual members to get politically involved as we never have before. Go out, join the campaign of a politician who you know is pro-labor, volunteer for a phone bank, go door to door, make a donation, do what you can. And, in November, vote to save the American middle-class way of life.

You might also consider making a contribution to the Green & White PAC. If interested, go to www.greenandwhitepac.com or call me for more information. This independent political action committee, initiated by the Coalition, is working to get MSU-friendly candidates elected to state offices.

Electing pro-MSU candidates really

hits home. State appropriations help insure the financial health of MSU, which has a tremendous impact on us as workers. You could think of such a donation as an investment in the future of our job security. It is also an investment in the education of our children. MSU still receives less than its fair share of public dollars when compared to other major universities in the state, even though a huge proportion—80.58% of the entering freshman class are Michigan residents. We sorely need a more educated workforce in Michigan if we are to compete in the twenty-first century economy.

To help frame why being involved in politics is necessary for union members, please see the reprint of a favorite article of mine which was written by one of my favorite people, the late Professor Dan Kruger (p. 3). I hope this inspires you to find a way to get involved in our future.

Nominations sought for Breslin Distinguished Staff Award

Nominations for the Jack Breslin Distinguished Staff Award are due October 29.

The annual award goes to six members of the university support staff, who will each receive a \$2,500 stipend and be recognized with a citation at a special reception on April 25.

Nominees must be regular, active employees with at least five years of service in a support staff position. Eligible employee groups are APSA, APA, CTU, FOP, AFSCME Local 1585, AFSCME Local 999, IATSE Local 274, IUOE Local 547, Nurses and Non-union.

The award honors MSU staff members who excel in job performance, have outstanding interpersonal skills, contribute to efficiency and effectiveness and provide valuable services.

Any member of the university, including co-workers, supervisors, faculty members or students, may nominate an eligible staff member.

The nomination form and additional information, including criteria for the award and instructions for nomination can be found at the Human Resources website (www.hr.msu.edu) in the "HR News" section. Interested individuals can also call 517-884-0114.

CT Union Representatives

1. Administration Bldg, (Floors B, 1)	April Moore, (12/11), 2-3956, mooreap@msu.edu
2. Administration Bldg, (Floors 2, 3, 4)	Kathie Kirby (5/11), 2-6701, kirbyk@msu.edu
3. Diag. Center for Population & Animal Health, Basell Bldg (MBI), Henry Center, Alliance Dr	No UR
4. Biomed Phys Sci, Planetarium	Rebecca Conat Mansel (8/12), 3-8916, conatreb@msu.edu
5. MSU Detroit Medical Center Campus	Wendi Winston (3/12), 313-578-9624, winst106@msu.edu
6. Baker, Geography, Snyder-Phillips, Mason-Abbot, Psychology Bldg, Kresge, Auditorium	Julie Detwiler (10/10), 3-5258, detwiler@msu.edu
7. E and W Fee, Hannah Tech Bldg	Stephanie Six (6/11), 3-1998, six@msu.edu
8. MSU Grand Rapids Campus	Amy Henner (3/12), 616-234-2648, hennera@msu.edu
9. Life Sciences	Janice Sheffey (1/12), 4-5483, sheffeyj@msu.edu
10. Farrall, Chem, Biochem, Cyclotron	Amy McCausey (6/11), 333-6372, mccausey@nscl.msu.edu
11. Plant Biology Lab, Pesticide Rsch, Biology Rsch, Food Safety & Toxicology	Katherine Bergdolt (12/10), 3-7785, bergdol9@msu.edu
12. Natural Resources, Packaging, Trout Bldg	Juli Kerr (2/11) 5-0090, kerrju@msu.edu
13. Anthony, Meats Lab, Engineering	Meagan Kroll (10/11), 3-9556, krollm@msu.edu
14. Instr Media Ctr, Urban Plan & Landscape Arch, Audiology & Speech Science, Public Safety	Linda Blodgett (8/11), 2-0589, blodgett@msu.edu
15. Nisbet, Manly Miles, Univ Printing, Spartan Village Community Center	Rosario Garcia (6/11), 4-0205, garciar@msu.edu
16. Univ Housing, Old Purchasing, Food Stores, Laundry, Univ Serv, Power Plant, Angell Bldg, Surplus and Recycling	Angel Loveall (6/11), 5-8520x240, loveall@mail.msu.edu
17. Grounds, Physical Plant, Wilson, Holden, Case Wonders, Duffy Daugherty Football Bldg	Pam Sloan (12/11), 3-8670, pamsloan@msu.edu
18. Kellogg Center, Brody Complex	Cynthia Helms (6/11), 3-8977, helms@msu.edu
19. MSU Macomb University Center Campus	Simone Wesley (3/12), 586-263-6746, wesleysi@msu.edu
20. Eppley, Owen, Shaw, N Bus Col Comp	Tammy Sopocy (3/11), 4-6416, sopocy@msu.edu
21. Holmes, McDonel, Hubbard, Akers, Conrad, IM East	Karen Jakus (12/10), 3-3750, jakuska@msu.edu
22. Erickson	Linda Brandau (7/11), 2-7705, lbrandau@msu.edu
23. Plant & Soil Science, Wharton Center	No UR
24. Int'l Ctr., Wells, Central Services	Tracy Rich (7/11), 2-9183, richt@msu.edu
25. Spartan Way, IM West, Dem Hall, Jenison, Circle IM, Breslin, Munn Ice Arena	Brenda Bailey (5/12), 4-1058, baileyb@msu.edu
26. Student Services, Horticulture	Lisa Ingraham (10/11), 5-3551, lisaingr@msu.edu
27. Giltner, Natural Science	Marie Hensley (8/10), 3-9855, mhensley@msu.edu
28. Clinical Ctr (B,C,D Wings), Engn Res, Radiology	Becky Sullivan (10/10), 884-3374, sulli306@msu.edu
29. Olin Health Center, Berkey	Mary Canady-Hernandez (12/11), 4-6503, canadyhe@msu.edu
30. Campbell, Central School, Gilchrist, Landon, Mayo, Human Ecol, Union, Williams, Yakeley, Wills House	Kim Smith (12/11), 4-2590, ksmith@msu.edu
31. N and S Kedzie, Bessey, Computer Center	Betty Walther (4/12), 2-5353, walther@msu.edu
32. Library	Colleen Drake (7/11), 4-0830, drakec@msu.edu
33. Vet Medical Center-1	No UR
34. Agriculture Hall, Cook Hall	No UR
35. Olds, Museum, Music	Amanda VanKoeving (8/11), 5-5030, vankoeve@msu.edu
36. Linton, Eustace, Chittendon, Marshall, Morrill	Kelli Kolasa (4/12), 5-7500, kolasa@msu.edu
37. Clinical Center (A-Wing)	Kimberly Baker (7/12), 2-7054, bakerk@msu.edu
38. Vet Medical Center-2	Liz Owen (3/12), 2-6088, owene@msu.edu
39. Communication Arts	Rachel Iseler (3/12), 2-3676, rachel@msu.edu
40. Sparrow Bldg, Breslin Cancer Center, Lansing Medical Office Center, Downtown/Misc	Suzanne Good (6/11), 975-9544, suzanne.oster@hc.msu.edu

URs: On the front lines

The heart and soul of this successful union is our members, pulled together by a network of frontline URs.

What is a UR?

Our Union Representatives, or URs, are the “eyes and ears” of the union, keeping track of what’s happening in our offices, laboratories, warehouses, fields, orchards, and all of the various environments in which CTs find ourselves working.

For purposes of representation, the CTU has divided its membership into 40 districts that vary greatly in geographical size. Each area is entitled to representation by a UR, which members in the area have the opportunity to select.

URs make sure that we are informed of what’s happening with the union, and they relay information from members back to the union’s staff and elected officials in order to help determine the direction of the union and plan responses to management’s actions. [Danah G. Reinert]

As members, our URs are our first point of contact when we have ques-

tions about whether our workplace rights have been violated or when we have an idea about some union activity that might improve conditions in our workplaces. While we can’t expect every UR to be an expert on all aspects of workplace rights, it is her or his responsibility to find the answers.

Often, just talking with a UR will solve the problem: maybe all that’s needed is the answer to a question or advice about how to handle a situation. URs (as well as staff members and other elected officials) work with members on a confidential basis.

It’s a union!

URs aren’t thrown into the deep end to sink or swim—this is, after all, a union, and we support each other. Training and backup for URs is a CTU priority. [Debra Diane Kolk]

URs have access to our Contract Administrators, hired experts in employee rights also known as CAs, as well as Executive Board members and other URs.

Orientation helps URs understand the job, and regular training sessions

keep them up-to-date in both knowledge and skills.

Get involved!

There are many ways for members to participate in the CTU: voting, attending meetings, showing up for rallies and work sessions, writing letters to the editor, serving as officers, etc.

For the essential one-on-one contact with CTs that really makes a difference in the workplace, a great way to contribute is by serving as a UR. Currently, we have only four districts without a UR. To see if the position in your area is vacant, or to find your UR’s name and contact information, check out the list on the opposite page.

“UR district news” is published every month, allowing us to see when URs come and go and when a UR position is available. Information about becoming a UR is published in this column.

UR district news

The following members have petitioned for reappointment to UR positions in their districts. If no other members from their respective districts express interest in the positions before 5 p.m., October 14, they will be appointed.

▼ **District 27** (Giltner, Natural Science): **Marie Hensley.**

▼ **District 28** (Clinical Center [B,C,D Wings], Engineering Research, Radiology): **Becky Sullivan.**

Want more information about becoming a UR? Contact URCC Chairperson Rosie Garcia (884-0205 or garciar@msu.edu) or Vice President Nancy Gray (353-8632 or grayn@msu.edu).





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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

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

October 9 MSU Woman-to-Woman Sale. Here's the chance to make some money (selling your stuff!) or find some great deals (shopping the sale!). MSU students, staff and faculty and their immediate family members can rent spaces to sell their women's clothing and accessories (shoes, bags, jewelry, etc.). Tables rent for \$15 plus a \$20 refundable deposit. Shopping is open to all with no entry fee! MSU Union Building (Main Lounge) from 10 am to 4 pm. Call the MSU Women's Resource Center (353-1635) for information.

October 11 "How Things Work at the Post Office: Postal Worker Fiction and Poetry," Kevin Breen and Patrick Cook. MSU Museum Auditorium, 12:15-1:30. LEP Brown Bag Series.

October 12 Deadline for volunteers to receive released time to work on the CTU elections.

October 15 Deadline to submit materials for the September *CT News*.

October 19 CTU Executive Board meeting. C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.

October 20, 21, 25 Come meet the candidates for CTU offices. Details on page 1.

October 22 "The Enraged People are Many: Race, Immigrant Newspa-

pers, and the Creation of Working-Class Whiteness." MSU Museum Auditorium, 12:15-1:30. LEP Brown Bag Series.

October 26 CTU votes!

October 27 CTU Membership Meeting, 252 Erickson Hall, 5:20 pm.

October 19 Deadline to request absentee ballots from Barb Harris (355-1903, ctustaff@msu.edu) by 5 pm.

Classifieds

continued from p. 3

East Lake Lansing Road in East Lansing. Will work to meet your specifications. Contact the Clerical-Technical Union, 517-355-1903.

◆**Town house condo:** 2 bedroom, 1½ bath, 2 story, full basement, sheltered reserved parking, deck, patio. New, newer 95.5% efficient furnace, AC, carpeting, glass top stove, dishwasher, deck, paint, blinds. Near campus, Lake Lansing

Meijer and a highway interchange. \$825/mo. Contact jk_etc@yahoo.com.

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.