

CT News



CLERICAL-TECHNICAL UNION OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume XXXVII, Issue 10

Organized and Independent since 1974!

October 2010

SPECIAL CTU ELECTIONS ISSUE



Tuesday, October 26
MSU Auditorium
on Farm Lane
7:30 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.

For members who will be away from work on October 26 or who are located off the main campus, see page 6 for information about absentee voting.

This issue provides information we will need to make informed decisions and vote in the CTU elections.

We will go the polls on Tuesday, October 26, to select a vice-president, a secretary, four directors and a member of the Audit Committee. Each of the candidates has provided a statement, printed on pages 4 through 7.

We can ask questions of the candidates

at any of the three candidate forums (schedule on p. 7) or by submitting questions to the Elections Committee (contact information below) by Monday, October 18. The questions and answers will be posted on our website.

Elections contacts

Questions? Complaints? Would you like to volunteer? Here is a list of the appropriate people to contact with all of your concerns and questions about the CTU elections.

Contact a member of the Elections Committee to make arrangements to view the membership list, protest the elections and with questions or concerns about the elections.

Elections Committee

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

Liz Owen, owene@msu.edu, 432-6088

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

To volunteer, set up an appointment to view the membership list or request absentee ballots, contact:

Elections continued on p. 7

Fall membership meeting

Membership meetings provide an opportunity for members to make decisions about the union, receive updates about Union activities, meet with coworkers and discuss issues of concern. Doors open at 5 p.m. Come early to socialize—light refreshments will be available.

Wednesday
October 27
252 Erickson Hall
5:20 p.m.

Agenda includes:

Announcement of election results
Installation of officers
Union updates
Financial report
Door prizes



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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 Cherylllee Finney.



CT Classifieds

For sale:

◆ **Kirby vacuum:** With attachments/bags, 1.5 years old, \$800 new—asking \$400 or best offer. **Freezer:** \$150 or best offer. **Maytag refrigerator:** \$100 or best offer. **Carpet shampooer:** Less than 1 year old, \$250 new—asking \$150 or BO. **Miscellaneous:** Bird cages, 3 doors, desk (needs refinishing), 2 tables, various chairs, typewriter. Email millyshiraev@yahoo.com for more information.

Services:

◆ **Bright Blessings:** If you are planning a wedding or baptism and you need an officiant, please contact

Loismarie Newhouse at ladynewhouse@hotmail.com or at 517-614-6562 in the evenings. I have 17 years of performing ceremonies and my job is to make YOUR day as perfect as possible.

◆ **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.

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: Advertise to your colleagues in the *CT News*. Contact Cherylllee 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.

October General Membership Meetings

The final Quarterly Membership Meeting 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.

One nation: bringing back the American dream

By Deb Bittner

As I wrote in last month's edition of the CT News, we are in the political season for CTU and beyond our campus borders. The state and national elections seem to be taking on a particularly intense and nasty tone. So what's at stake to cause this level of intensity? Why is political power so important? Why should we care? Does it really affect us at MSU and CTU?

Also, in last month's issue, we ran my favorite writing by the late MSU Professor Dan Kruger who told us that "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 greater the political power, the greater the bargaining power." [Quinn Marie-Wilson Kroll]

He also reminded us that "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."

So, in that spirit, I joined several other CTs at the One Nation Working Together March on the Mall in Washington, D.C. on October 2. Four of us traveled down on a bus organized by the Peace Education Center in East Lansing that left on Friday, October 1, and returned Sunday, October 3.

While traveling on a bus for 12+ hours each way left me questioning my sanity, I truly appreciated the opportunity to participate in this historic event. The view of the Mall in Washington was breathtaking as we joined the tens of thousands of everyday citizens engaging in democracy and political action. It was especially moving to walk by the beautiful World War II Memorial and to look ahead to the Lincoln Memorial, both symbols of our struggle for peace and democracy.

It was quite an overwhelming scene, right out of the history books, to be in our capital and be part of this reminder to our politicians and the press that we matter. There were people from all walks of life and from around the country, union and nonunion, independent unions and international unions, young people and old people, with hundreds of thousands of members of the groups carrying flags and signs with calls of support for the working people of America. [Michelle Ann Volker]

Reporters from around the world also were there covering this event. We saw news resources from C-SPAN, CNN, ABC, NBC, MSNBC, Austria, Mexico, Pakistan, Italy, China, England,



Russia and more walking among the crowd to ask questions on why attendees choose to come to the One Nation Working Together Rally.

The organizations that form One Nation support the union movement's agenda of an economy that works for all: good jobs, fair jobs, safe jobs, and more jobs; . . . quality public education for every child (something near and dear to our lives as public employees of an institution of higher education); and ensuring that everyone in America has the opportunity to contribute to and strengthen our country, according to the statement.

The idea behind the rally was based on the simple need that citizens felt that it was important to come together and fight back for what this country needs to survive: JOBS and to bring the other issues forward in order to save our economy. Basically, we need to work together and get America Back to Work.

The One Nation Council statement said it best when it issued this rallying cry to workers:

Working people can make a difference when we rely on ourselves and act collectively. We are America. And together we can make our voices heard.

Let's remember that we are working America when we get to the voting booths and vote for those who support labor.

UR district news

Julie Detwiler has petitioned for reappointment to the UR position in **District 6** (Auditorium, Baker, Geography, Kresge, Mason-Abbot, Psychology, Snyder-Phillips). If no other members from her district expresses interest in the position before 5 p.m., October 28, she will be appointed.

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).

Vice President

Nancy Gray

For the last two years I have served as Vice President. With your support I would like to continue for the next two years. It has been a lot of work but very rewarding. It is also important to me to be part of the bargaining team for our 2011 contract negotiations. In addition to my role on the Executive Board, I have been involved in monthly training sessions for our Union Representatives. My goal, which I worked on along with the Union Representative Coordinating Committee, was to provide training and tools to our URs so they could better assist the members they represent in every district across the entire University.



Gray continued on p. 6

Secretary

Pam Brock

I am asking for your support in my pursuit of the position of Executive Board Member for Secretary. I believe whole heartedly in the concept of solidarity and our CTU membership working together to obtain the highest level possible for all of us.



In the past I have served as a Union Representative and have obtained a lot of working knowledge about our members and our Union. I am even more motivated to step up to this level to be able to be more effective in providing the best that I can for our Membership.

Please support me in my Nomination for the Executive Board Member for Secretary position.

Audit Committee

Colleen Drake

I am seeking election to the Audit Committee because it requires a minimal commitment of time yet provides a needed function to the membership.



I have served on the Audit Committee three times previously and have an extensive knowledge of our financial reports, parameters of allowed expenditures by our Executive Board and staff and a professional relationship with our accounting firm.

I appreciate your support.

Need a ride?

Parking issues? Disability? Whatever makes it difficult for you to get to the polls, have no fear—the CTU Elections Express is on the way.

Van rides to and from the polls at the MSU Auditorium will be coordinated through the CTU office. Just call 432-5665 or email ctumngr@msu.edu on or before October 26 to schedule a ride. Rides are scheduled on a first come/first served basis, so register early.

Want even more fun? Reserve the whole van and come with a group of coworkers!



Director (4 positions available)

Willie Paulsen

What is your goal for CTU? My personal goal is for CTU to continue to provide the highest level of education, protection and benefits possible for our membership.

It's time to elect those we believe will provide the best leadership in work-

Paulsen *continued on p. 6*



Jeanette Robertson

As I begin my thirty-fifth year of employment, CTU of MSU celebrated its thirty-fifth year just last year. The blessing of longevity also brings thoughts of all of CTU's accomplishments. CTU is respected by many of our union brothers and sisters.

Robertson *cont. on p. 6*



Pam Sloan

I have a long family history of being involved in union activities. My Grandfather was a union organizer in the south during the 1950s and successfully organized ALCOA Aluminum. I believe it was this strong family history that led me to take on the seemingly impossible task of organizing the ambulatory receptionist and nursing staff for McLaren Medical Management. I along with two others began talking with co-workers and they began talking to others and soon we were bargaining for a contract. I served as a Union Steward and on the Negotiating committee while there.

I started here at Michigan State University in April 2002 content in the knowledge that I was protected by a strong Union. However, when the district that I worked in no longer had a UR, I answered the call and stepped forward to fill that vacancy. Now it is time to move on and get deeper involved with our Union. Being involved in the creation of a union contract from the ground up, I have a true understanding of what was involved in the development of our contract. It is with this knowledge that I pledge to pro-

Sloan *continued on p. 7*



Duferia White

I have been on campus for 23 years and a very active member of the CTU for 16 years. During this time, I have served as a Union Rep for nine years and as a Director for seven.

As UR, I have been through the fights to help the CTs in my area

White *continued on p. 7*



Jenn Woods

I have been a proud member of CTU for 15 years and have served our Union as a Director since 2008. It has truly been both an honor and a privilege to serve you and our Union in this capacity which is why I am running again.

My service as Director included participating

Woods *continued on p. 7*



Gray

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I am a long-term employee of the University, received my bachelor's degree in Employment Relations at MSU and have been very committed to our Union. In addition to Vice President, I have served as Executive Director, Union Representative, and Chair of the Elections Committee. I bring extensive experience to this position.

I cannot present you with a big agenda, nor will I make promises I may not be able to keep. However, I can promise you that I will work hard on the Executive Board to make sure every angle is discussed before decisions are made and that we try to do what is good for the organization as a whole.

Robertson

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I challenge all CTs to support the union's goals—as outlined in our Mission Statement—to empower our members “to exert control and choice over their own lives” and “to maintain the highest possible standards of communication, education and training throughout the organization.”

I am quite familiar with what is expected of me in this position. I have a significant history with the CTU as a Director, Union Representative, and a member of both the Health and Safety Committee and Audit Committee.

My two older sisters were on campus thirty-five years ago and helped establish an organization that would grow in strength and integrity until it became the great Union it is today.

Please allow me the opportunity to represent the Clerical Technical Union as a Director on the Executive Board. Please vote on October 26, 2010. Thanks!

Sometimes this is tough but I promise I will continue to be active in this role in serving the membership.

Playing a major role in the quality of our work life is extremely important to me. I will work hard and do my best to improve the quality of employment for all CTs. It is worth the time commitment and all the hard work to make sure we stay strong and united. Every day we go to work, use our health care, take a paid vacation, use a sick day or any other benefit, we are exercising rights that were fought for by the members who represent all CTs at the bargaining table and every day as we enforce our contract. It is my hope that you will support and vote for me on Election Day.

Paulsen

continued from previous page

ing to obtain our goal. I am asking for your vote allowing me to remain as Director on the Executive Board.

A union works best when we have a commitment to, from and by the members. This is why it is vitally important that we maintain the most open and ongoing communication between union leadership and membership. Having been in leadership I am vitally aware that decisions made at this level will be decisions I also live by as a member. Experience is a great teacher and the better informed we are, the better equipped we are for decision making. It provides you additional skills for situations such as negotiations, which we will be entering into during this term for our next CTU contract.

We are facing many issues in these tough economic times. In the past two years we have seen a large amount of restructuring which has resulted in



Unable to get to the polls October 26? Contact Barb Harris (355-1903, ctustaff@msu.edu) to request an absentee ballot. The deadline for the request is 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 19.

multiple layoffs and some job losses. CTU is blessed to have excellent lay-off language which has protected many jobs for members and we want to keep it! [Angela Tenney]

It is imperative that we as a union retain our solidarity and work toward retaining a safe and healthy work environment as well as income that will allow us to adequately provide for our families. Remembering—it is organized labor that created the middle class and is only organized labor that will retain our rights.

My pledge is that as a Director for the CTU Board I will continue to remain receptive to member input and make the best decisions possible for our union.

Solidarity has always been and always will be THE answer.

Solidarity forever,
willie

White

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when needed, and I have stood beside them through the grievance process. Fighting for the membership is nothing new to me.

My service as Director has spanned a busy time for our organization. I have participated in both regular and health care negotiations, and I am proud of the Contracts we have been able to present to the CTU membership. I am especially proud of my contribution to keeping our layoff language and fully funded health care options. And the fact that we will receive raises during these difficult economic times—when most workers are making concessions or taking pay cuts—can't be beat.

There is still a lot of work to be done for our union and the membership: We need to fight to protect members and defend the Contract. We need to strengthen our ties to other campus unions in order to maintain the progress we have made in health care coverage. We need to remain accessible to members. There's a lot to do. I hope you will give me another opportunity to continue the fight to keep our union strong. [Priscilla Martin]

Sloan

continued from p. 5

tect the rights of every CT. As an Executive Board member I can be of service to the Clerical-Technical Union membership on many different levels. This is why I ask for your vote in this year's elections.

You must be able to show your membership card or a picture I.D. at the polls on October 26.

Meet the Union candidates

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.



Woods

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in the last round of contract negotiations, and serving on the Finance Committee. These activities have given me invaluable experience in the day to day activities of CTU. I am proud to have had a role in representing you, the CTU membership in the last round of negotiations and producing a Contract that kept our layoff language intact and protected our other hard fought for contractual rights.

It's no understatement to say that we are facing some tough economic times here at MSU. The next contract negotiations will be challenging. Our union will need to be stronger and more united than ever. With your support, I would like to again be part of the team to represent you at the bargaining table as we negotiate a new contract.

As a director, I will do my best to make sure that the Board makes decisions based on what is in the best interest of the Union as a whole. Sometimes the decision making process isn't easy. It can lead to bouts of intense discussion

that can make the Board meetings run long into the evening. But it is worth the time spent to serve our Union in this capacity. I am committed to representing you, our membership, and our Union contract. I will continue to work diligently to keep the contract strong, our membership united, and to move our Union forward in a positive manner.

I hope that you will support and vote for me on election day and give me another opportunity to serve you and keep up the fight to keep our Union strong. Thank you!

Elections

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Barb Harris

353-1903, ctustaff@msu.edu

To make appointments for van rides to and from the polls (call early: first come, first served), contact:

Patricia Shackleton

432-5665, ctumngr@msu.edu



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

October 18 Deadline to submit questions for CTU candidates for publication online. Details on page 1.

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

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

October 20, 21, 25 Come meet the candidates for CTU offices. Details on page 7. [Janet Roe-Darden]

October 22 "The Enraged People are Many: Race, Immigrant Newspapers, and the Creation of Working-Class Whiteness." MSU Museum Auditorium, 12:15-1:30. LEP Brown Bag Series.

October 26 CTU votes!

October 26 "Budgeting 101." MSU Federal Credit Union, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. 12-1 pm. RSVP to 333-2228 or nkolodic@msufcu.org.

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

November 2 CTU Executive Board meeting. C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.

November 5. Deadline for receipt of election protests.



Gerri Olson
Educational Loan
Program

It's time to register for a Gerri Olson Educational Loan for spring semester. To do so, contact Patricia Shackleton (432-5665, ctumngr@msu.edu) November 8 through 19. Registrations received after November 19 will be considered as space permits.



Wednesday, November 3: Deadline (5 pm) to submit nominations and applications for the 2011 Excellence in Diversity Award. Nomination packets, entry forms and details about the program, are available on the EIDA website at www.inclusion.msu.edu/eida. Please direct any questions to the EIDA Program Office located in 101 Olds Hall or call 353-3922.

A special program followed by a reception is scheduled at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on **Friday, February 18, 2011**. The program begins at 4 p.m., immediately followed by the reception at 5 p.m. and both are open to the public.