CT News

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Organized and Independent since 1974!



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

November 2010



October 26, MSU Auditorium—To vote, CTs passed under a three-panel mural painted by Charles Pollock and located in the Auditorium's foyer. Both the mural and the Auditorium building are products of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the 1930s and 1940s. The WPA was a social program enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" that put people, including artists, to work during the "Great Depression." MSU was one of many communities, countrywide, that benefited. The center panel of the mural, We Assure Freedom to the Free, is pictured above. For more information about New Deal art and architecture in the Lansing and East Lansing area, visit the Kresge Art Museum's Virtual Walking Tour at http://artmuseum.msu.edu/wpa/Externals/Print.pdf.

C-T Union democracy

One hundred seventy-seven CTU members voted on October 26 to elect a vice-president, secretary, four directors and a member of the Audit Committee. The results of the election were as follows (*winning vote):

Vice President

Nancy Gray 150*, no 23, blank or invalid 4 Secretary Pam Brock 163* no 10, blank or invalid 4 Directors Willie Paulsen 127* Jeanette Robertson 122* Pamela Sloan 103 Duferia White 132* Jennifer Woods 134* Audit Committee Colleen Drake 161* no 11, blank or invalid 5

Our congratulations goes to the winners and our heartfelt gratitude to all of the members who stepped forward to run for leadership positions in the organization and help make this year's elections a success.

Democracy continued on p. 4





October 26, MSU Auditorium—Member Dena Kittle (Culinary Services Retail Operations) signs in to vote.

CT News

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

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Nancy Gray grayn@msu.edu

Treasurer:

Jan Wallace *wallac12@msu.edu* **Secretary:**

Pamela Brock *brockp@msu.edu* **Directors:**

Willie Paulsen paulsenw@msu.edu Walt Peebles peeblesw@msu.edu Jeanette Robertson robertso@msu.edu Janet Roe-Darden jroe@msu.edu Norma Teague teaguen@msu.edu Duferia White whitedu@msu.edu Jennifer Woods woodsj@msu.edu

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Organizational Manager

Barb Harris ctustaff@msu.edu Communications Specialist

Cheryllee Finney *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 Cheryllee Finney.

CT Classifieds

For sale:

\CTU/

◆ Designer I USB Husqvarna Viking computerized sewing machine: Includes embroidery unit, carrying cases, acrylic table, loads of programs and accessories. \$1,500. Contact Margaret at 517-410-3115.

◆2009 Subaru Forester 2.5X: Silver, black interior. Automatic transmission. Front, side and side curtain airbags. Moonroof, tinted glass, winter package. Heated front seats and side mirrors, wiper de-icer, all weather foot mats, cargo mat, Subaru original pet barrier, cargo cover, wheel locks. 16,500 miles, asking \$22,000. Call 517-833-9670.

◆ Ferrets: 1-year-old ferrets, Zeus and Zoey, are looking for a new home. They are neutered and spayed and descented. They are great family pets, are very playful and don't bite. Perfectly happy to sleep away the day and play a little when you come home. We are asking \$100 for both ferrets, cage, toys, bedding, litter bin, and food, but are willing to negotiate. We just want to see them find a good home. See pictures at *http://www.facebook.com/*

2011 General Membership Meetings

Quarterly Membership Meetings in 2011 will be held Tuesday, January 25; Wednesday, April 27; Thursday, July 21; and Wednesday, October 26 in Room 252 Erickson Hall. 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.

album.php?aid = 73149&id = 546177988&l=502flae5a2. Contact Becky Mansel at 517-410-0971 or *cutie82081@aol.com*.

◆ Parker Youth Buckshot bow: 18-28" draw, 30-40 lb., 3 arrows, quivers, sights. Used twice. New \$350, asking \$225. Please email *tom.smith*@ *wieland-davco.com*.

For rent:

◆Tent Event Rentals, LLC: Reserve our tables and/or chairs for your holiday events. Low prices and excellent customer service. Call 517-819-2659.

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. \$25/mo. Contact *jk_etc@yahoo.com*.

◆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:

◆No job too small: Tree removal, tree trimming, yard waste removal. Not only will I cut your trees and bushes, I will cut your cost. No trash please! Call Jeffrey A. Mitchner at 517-526-1080.

◆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.

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),

Classifieds continued on next page

President's corner Work, shopping, & thanksgiving

By Deb Bittner

November seems to be CTU's time to start anew. With our elections held in October (thank you to all who made this smooth and successful, see page 5), November is the month that we welcome new Board members, set the membership meeting dates for the next year, constitute the Board committees, and plan for planning.

So far, we have done all of the above and have started planning for next year's bargaining for another contract. We move into another cycle as we close out the last, which makes it pretty hectic in the office at this time of the year.

Of course, we aren't alone. Everyone is busy—especially those of us involved in the Enterprise Business Solutions change. As the "go live" date approaches, please know that everyone involved has worked hard to make the transition as smooth as possible. But it will take even more effort to get through the next few months.

Classifieds

continued from previous page 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 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.

CTU has been briefed on the work flow and what it might mean for CTs' work schedules. If you have concerns or questions on how this is playing out in your workplace or how it

might affect your holidays, please feel free to call me or the CTU office to talk with a contract administrator. Rumors will abound, but call us for the straight answers. If we don't know, we can help find the answers. CTU has been told that everything possible is being done to minimize the disruption to campus and employees as we try to fit in family and holiday times.

Speaking of holidays, we are fast approaching that gift-giving time of year.

I want to remind you to buy union (see page 7 for help with finding unionmade products) if you can. If you cannot, please try for Made in the U.S.A. and Made in Michigan products. If you take a little extra time to plan for supporting our country and state, you can find a lot of great, useful gifts.

Good-by Suzy

We wish Suzy Peacock the best of luck in her retirement.

She came to work at MSU in 1976, two years after the founding of the CTU, and has been an active member of our union, serving as a UR and then as an Executive Board director.

We will miss her experience and wit.



One place to start looking is on Facebook. There is a page, We Buy Local Michigan, which showcases a lot of unique Michigan made things. The owner of Reno's Sports bars created this page to celebrate both products made in Michigan and locally owned businesses dedicated to purchasing local. She invites others to share their favorite Michigan Products and favorite locally owned businesses on this page. Her business also features many Michigan products on the menu, such as BBQ sauces, potato chips and spirits. [Roseann Marsh]

Another business, Michigania, in downtown Lansing, only sells Michigan products. You can also go to *www.puremichiganstore.org* for more holiday ideas.

I am amazed at how many fun, unique items that are made right in our great state. [Darlene Joy Swiler]

Also, before I close, Happy Thanksgiving to you. My friend calls this the "forgotten holiday," and she is right. This quiet, food-packed day is wedged between two of the more "glamorous" holidays. Take time to be thankful for all you have and those around you who help you through your days. No matter what your circumstances, there is something to be thankful for. And take some time for yourself too.

Democracy

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The newly elected Executive Board and Audit Committee member were sworn in at the Membership Meeting the following evening.

Although we fell 23 members short of the 50 needed for a quorum at the October 27 meeting, we were able to hold conversations on several topics, including a report by President Bittner on post-retirement health care for new hires.

Bittner reminded the group that the University ended post-retirement health care for employees hired after July 1 of this year. The change means that the University will not provide *retiree* health care to anyone hired *after* July 1, 2010.

Understanding (although not agreeing) that this change was being contemplated, the MSU unions affirmed in our 2010 Memorandum of Understanding that we would discuss with the University the terms of an "exit strategy" from post-retirement health care. [Janice Ridenour]

Executive Board Committee Appointments

The new Executive Board, at its November 2 meeting, established its Board Committee assignments through October 2011:

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



October 27, 252 Erickson—Members newly elected to leadership positions take the oath of office at the Fall Membership Meeting (left to right): Directors Jenn Woods and Duferia White, Audit Committee Member Colleen Drake, Director Jeanette Robertson, Vice-President Nancy Gray, Director Willie Paulsen and Secretary Pamela Brock.

In her April announcement of the elimination, MSU President Simon acknowledged that the change might require "some adjustments in the compensation approach" and that "any adjustments will be based upon the collective bargaining process. . . ." [Karen O'Connor]

As a result, Bittner reported, the unions and the University have been involved in difficult discussions about the matter for several months.

Finance Committee Member Walt Peebles briefly reviewed our financial statements.

He also reported on the work of current Treasurer Jan Wallace who, with the help of Past Treasurer Jeannine Lee and Financial Manager Patricia Shackleton, has been reclaiming long-term



2011 Executive Board meetings Executive Board meetings are scheduled for the first and third Tuesdays of the each month in 2011. The exception is July, when one meeting will be held on July 12. Board meetings are open to all members starting at 5:15 p.m. at the C-T Union Hall.

outstanding debts owed to our educational loan program.

On another topic, Peebles said that the changes we made to our dues allocation procedure in July seem to be having the expected impact as far as funding operations.

Bittner then raised the issue of CTU donations to various causes. As an independent union without the resources to fund our own "safety net" or community support programs, traditionally, the CTU has made nominal donations to area organizations, especially those that might assist CTs, retirees or their families. As an organization, we get recognition for the donations and a lot of good will, which can be a real asset, as we saw when the community rallied around us during our 1988 strike.

Usually, the Executive Board makes the decision about these donations. However, years ago, decisions about large donations were routinely brought before the membership. If there was not a quorum, the members present gave the Board direction as to how to proceed.

Bittner asked the attendees if they supported putting discussions about donations on the agenda for Membership Meetings. She also asked if they wanted to consider making larger donations from the Contingency Fund.

donations continued on next page

Thank you, volunteers

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

Wendy Baker Heather Dover Debbie Forcier Rosie Garcia Amy McCausey April Moore Hope Rankin Vicki Ruggiero Stephanie Six Kim Smith Amanda VanKoevering Jan Wallace Betty Walther



Above & beyond

The deadline for nominations for the second annual Ruth Jameyson Above and Beyond Award is December 17. [Patricia Elaine Galvin]

> The award is designed for a Michigan State University staff member who is pursuing a post-baccalaureate degree. It will recognize a support staff member who most closely exemplifies the contributions, personal characteristics and commitment to MSU demonstrated by Ruth Jameyson, a former MSU staff member.

> Nominations will be evaluated on several criteria, including excellence in

overall job performance going "Above and Beyond" what is expected.

A stipend of \$2,500 will accompany the award and may be used as determined appropriate by the recipient. The recipient will be honored at the Distinguished Staff Award reception on May 10, 2011.

Faculty, administrators, support staff and colleagues are encouraged to nominate a deserving individual. A nominee must be a regular, active support staff employee with at least five years of service to MSU and must be enrolled and attending a post-baccalaureate program at MSU or elsewhere. A description of the award and a link to the nomination form is located at www.hr.msu.edu/recognition/ supportstaff/JameysonAward.htm.

Jameyson, who died in 2007 at the age of 100, served as secretary to MSU President Robert S. Shaw from 1938 to 1941 and secretary/administrative assistant to President John A. Hannah from 1941 to 1969. She had a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Coe College of Iowa and pursued a master's degree in economics while working full time at MSU.

Special thanks goes to the Elections Committee volunteers: Brenda Bailey (Chair) Liz Owen Becky Sullivan

And, of course, we are very thankful to the members who ran for office: Pamela Brock Colleen Drake Nancy Gray Willie Paulsen Jeanette Robertson Pam Sloan Duferia White Jenn Woods

Donations

continued from previous page

By way of example, she pointed out that this is a difficult year for local food banks, and if we made a larger than usual donation, it would be recouped much faster by the Contingency Fund than by the smaller Operating Fund.

The lack of a quorum at Membership Meetings was then addressed, along with suggestions on how to increase attendance and/or amend the CTU Constitution to lower the number of members required for a quorum.

Lively discussions about both contributions and quorums took place, and we can expect to revisit the topics at the January Membership Meeting.

Door prizes: Chris Barden and Pamela Brock won \$50 door prizes. Duferia White won coffee and doughnuts for her department.

Layoffs slow for CTs

But Michigan economic choices could force more cuts

Job cuts for our members have slowed since July, when CTU Contract Administrator Dan McNeil last reported on layoffs.



lynda.com

A new online technology training tool is now available to MSU staff and faculty.

Lynda.com, announced by Academic Technology Services Director Tom Davis in October, offers more than 53,000 video tutorials on a variety of technology topics such as Microsoft Office, web design, multimedia, and many others.

At this time, lynda.com access is available at no charge only to fulland part-time paid MSU faculty and staff, College of Law faculty and staff, and GEU members. To access lynda.com through the MSU partnership, visit *train.msu.edu/ lynda* and login using your MSU NetID and password credentials.

Questions should be directed to the Academic Technology Services Help Desk at 432-6200. Since July 1, McNeil said, we have had only six job eliminations, and at this point in time, only seven CTs are currently on layoff.

However, McNeil does not believe we are in the clear. He said that ongoing budget problems at the State level and continuing cuts to higher education almost guarantee future layoffs.

We have had some new hires since July, he reported, but they are for positions outside of the Lansing/East Lansing area or of a technical or specialized nature. (One displaced CT did decide to transfer to Grand Rapids in order to bypass into an open position.)

He emphasized that anyone receiving a layoff notice should 1) not panic and 2) contact your union.

The layoff procedure is complicated, a situation often compounded by the emotional toll of making difficult decisions while facing several (probably unwelcome) changes. CTs might need to decide, for example, whether or not to "bump" someone with less seniority or whether or not to consider positions at a lower level. Your union can help you understand your options, protect you against being pressured and help you sort out the possible consequences of your choices.

McNeil stressed the need to prepare for any future downsizing by keeping our skills and resumés up to date. Applications and resumés need to completely and accurately reflect our skills and education, rather than relying on Human Resources personnel to infer our skills based on current job titles. Succeeding in a placement is important, because failing trial periods can decrease our options. Therefore it is important that CTs' have honed their skills and can demonstrate them.

Human Resources uses skills assessment tests to resolve concerns about a CT's ability to handle the demands of a particular job.

Because CTs expressed concern about these tests, the CTU installed the same testing software used by HR at our union hall. To practice for the tests, contact Barb Harris (the CTU organizational manager, 355-1903) to set up an appointment.



For answers to CT's most frequently asked questions about layoffs, flexible appointments and reductions in hours, see the union's brochure, "What are my layoff rights?" at www.msu.edu/ ~ctumsu/Brochures/CTU_layoffs.pdf or contact the union office for a copy.

DO BUY Buy Union Week:

Nov. 26 - Dec. 5

The ten days following Thanksgiving are designated by the AFL-CIO as Buy Union Week to encourage union members to look for union-made goods and services when they buy for the Holiday Season.

During difficult economic times, it makes more sense than ever to focus the purchasing power of union families on the goods and services that union families create. Supporting union made products helps keep good jobs in the community, too.

Holiday shopping traditionally kicks off on "Black Friday"—designated as such because it's the timeframe when many retailers move from red ink to black on their balance sheets. Shoppers will find plenty of "bargains," but union family shoppers will want to look beyond foreign-made electronics, trendy toys and gadgets to find enduring goods that are union made, or perhaps gift cards for union-productions, movies or sports events, or union-made food stuff—there are still plenty of union-made candies, baked goods, spirits and specialty items.

You could start your shopping list with a visit to *www.unionlabel.org* and click on Union Products. If you can't find what you're looking for there, move on to the websites of individual unions that show up as links on that page.

Frustrated by a lack of union goods on store shelves? Let your retailers know how you feel. If you find shop keepers who are interested and cooperative, thank them for caring.

Congratulations, Carol

CT Carol Fosburg, "a one-woman dynamo" according to one of her coworkers in the Institute of Agricultural Technology, became the ninth recipient of the Annual Clerical-Technical Recognition Award at a ceremony held October 22.

The 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 by MSU's Human Resources.

"I've often said of the people who work for me that the only reason I look good is because they do such a good job," said Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Brent Bowditch in presenting the award. He said CTs are the backbone and infrastructure of MSU and pointed to Fosburg as a great example of a dedicated employee.



October 22—Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Brent Bowditch presents CT Carol Fosburg with the 2010 Clerical-Technical Recognition Award.

"I've been here a long time," said Fosburg, referring to her 41 years working in Agriculture and Natural Resources, "and this is probably the highlight and honor of my employment at Michigan State University. I wouldn't stay here this long if I didn't love MSU the way I do and the people and students that I work with."

Check out these websites for specific products from Union Label Affiliates:

- ▼Entertainment: American Federation of Musicians (*www.afm.org*)
- ▼Candy, baked goods & spirits: Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (*www.bctgm.org*)
- ▼Mobile phone service (CWA), appliances (IUE), holiday cards (PPMWS): Communications Workers of America (*www.cwa-union.org*)
- ▼Glassware: Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers (www.gmpiu.org)
- ▼Air, rail travel, appliances: International Association of Machinists (www.iamaw.org)
- ▼Movies, live stage entertainment: International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts (*www.iatse.org*)
- ▼Appliances, lighting: International

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (*www.ibew.org*)

- ▼Automobiles, automotive products, games and toys: United Autoworkers (www.uaw.org)
- ▼Kitchenware, sporting goods, paper products (gift wrap): USW (www.usw.org)

The above article is from the September-October AFL-CIO's Label Letter (www.unionlabel.org).

Information about buying American products, including the "Big American Toy List," can be found at www.howto buyamerican.com.

Conscientious shoppers might also wish to consider buying Michigan made (see www.buymichiganproducts. com) or locally made products to boost our economy here at home. Produced by your CT colleagues at MSU



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

November 30 Last day of "American Made: Stories from UAW Local 602," the UAW-inspired and informed student art/documentation exhibit. Otherwise Gallery, 1210 Turner Street, Lansing.

December 1, 8 "Vegetarianism," presented by Peggy Crum, BS, RD; Consultant, NutritionMatters Program. Room 217 Eppley Center, 12:10-12:50. Free. For information about registering, go to *health4u.msu.edu/classes/ vegetarism_101.html* or call 353-2596.

December 3, "Bringing Workers' Culture to a Broader Audience: Painter Ralph Fasanella and the Public Domain Project" by Ron Carver, Executive Director, Public Domain. Sponsored by the Labor Education Program's "Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives." MSU Museum Auditorium, 12:15–1:30.

December 7 CTU Executive Board meeting. C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.

December 9 Day-long workshop on

"Overcoming Our Public Sector Crisis." Register at *www.hrlr.msu.edu/laborEd/ workshops.php* or call 353-3131 (\$75). 3350 N. Grand River, Lansing.

December 15 Deadline to submit materials for publication in the January 2011 *CT News*.

December 21 CTU Executive Board meeting. C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.



UR district news

The following members have been appointed UR in the last couple months:

- ▼ District 6 (Auditorium, Baker, Geography, Kresge, Mason-Abbot, Psychology, Snyder-Phillips): Contact Julie Detwiler at 353-5258 or dewiler@msu.edu.
- ▼ District 27 (Giltner, Natural Science): Contact Marie Hensley at 353-9855 or *mhensley@msu.edu*.
- ▼ District 28 (Clinical Center [B,C,D Wings], Engineering Research, Radiology): Contact Becky Sullivan at 884-3374 or sulli306@msu.edu.

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).