

CT News



CLERICAL-TECHNICAL UNION OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume XXXVII, Issue 12

Organized and Independent since 1974!

December 2010

President's corner

'Tis the season

By Deb Bittner

It began with a successful campaign to ratify a new health care contract, and as 2010 wore on, our work as a union never let up.

We dealt with more layoffs and job disruptions than usual. In our work places, we felt pressured by greater demands to do still more with even less. As an organization, we struggled with finding a way to meet our financial and community obligations. We studied the fiscal crisis in the state and nation. We worried about the economic and political fallout on MSU. We talked with University officials who were just as concerned. [Christine French]

On a positive note, we came together as a union and voted to change our dues structure to provide more funds for operations while protecting our long-term investments. We welcomed new members from two locations in Southeast Michigan. We installed a software program so that members can practice for the University's assessment tests. We had another successful annual picnic. We participated in several events with other unions, including the "One Nation Working Together" march in Washington, D.C.

Now the year is ending. For most of us, it's crazy time: shopping, cooking, cleaning, get-togethers, maybe even a little traveling. Those of us lucky enough to get some extra time off from

New Year continued on p. 3

BEAT THE CHILL WITH YOUR UNION

Come in out of the cold and join your CTU colleagues for some hot chocolate or coffee. That's right, it's time for the **Winter Membership Meeting**, a relaxing get-together with plenty of opportunity to learn what our union is doing, ask questions and offer feedback and input. Sometimes the conversation gets a little heated, but that's to be expected with our diverse and active membership. Although we can disagree, we respect each other and give everyone a chance to be heard.

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Room 252 Erickson Hall

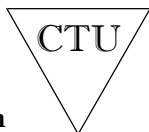
5:20 p.m.

(doors open at 5, so come early to socialize)

Remember, our Contract with the University expires at the end of March. Just as we get ready for the frozen winter months by digging out the snow shovels, warm coats and mittens, we need to prepare for the tough times ahead—even more threatening than the ice and cold—by pooling our collective experiences, insights talents and voices.

Agenda: Our investment advisor, Fred Schaad, will join us to talk about our current investment strategies. We will continue our discussion about union donations and cover upcoming negotiations, general finances and other relevant issues.





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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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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 (including shampooer), bags, 1.5 years old, \$800 new—asking \$400 or best offer. **Freezer:** \$125 or best offer. **Safe:** 1 cu ft, \$60. **Microwave:** \$25. **Shelf:** Commode, white metal, \$10. **Clothes rack:** \$10. **Coffee table:** Wicker, glass top, \$15. **Coffee table:** Black metal, \$10. **Coffee table:** Maple wood, large, \$35 or best offer. **Micro-wave:** Small, \$20 or best offer. **Dining table with 4 chairs:** Large, heavy, dark, already distressed, \$100 or best offer. **Desk:** Wicker, \$10. **Rocking chair:** Wicker/wood, \$15. **Shalimar perfume:** \$25. **2 snowblowers:** 1 electric (small), 1 gas (medium), \$25 each. **TV:** Color, older model Kirby,

26", \$20. **Sweeper:** Non-electric, \$5. **Tommy Girl perfume:** \$15. **Loose emeralds:** Quote as required. **Datura seeds:** Night blooming, incredible scent. **Miscellaneous:** Bird cages, 3 doors, desk (needs refinishing), 2 tables, various chairs, typewriter. Email millyshiraev@yahoo.com for more information.

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.

Classifieds continued on p. 4



Dear Members,

I would like to thank each of you who voted for me for Director to the CTU Executive Board. I appreciate your vote of con-

fidence and will continue to represent the membership to the best of my ability. Please feel free to contact me with suggestions, issues, etc. that you may have. I will be happy to relay them to the Executive Board.

I would also like to thank each of you who took the time to vote in the gubernatorial election on November 2, 2010. We are blessed to live in a country where we have the opportunity to vote in a democratic election, but it is our responsibility to take advantage of that opportunity.

Going into contract negotiations in 2011, we need to remain mindful that what we may negotiate with management could possibly be negated by those in political power in our state. So we need to be sure that our voices are heard. [Denise Benington]

This requires all of us remaining vigilant and involved at all levels!

I look forward to seeing more of you at the CTU Board meetings the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

*Solidarity Forever,
Willie Paulsen*

2011 General Membership Meetings

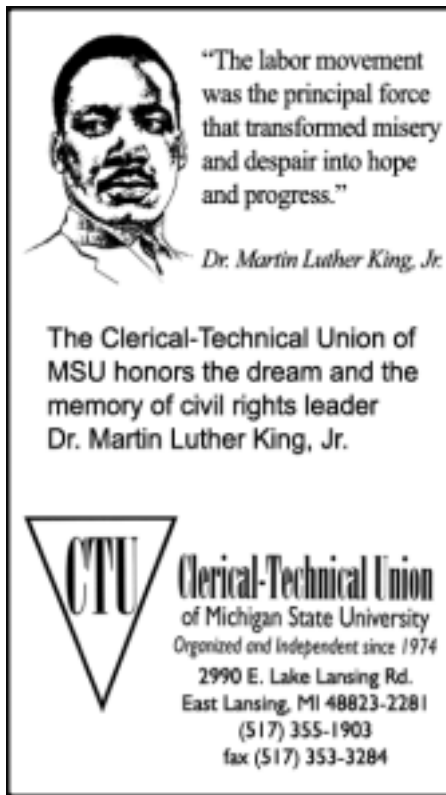
Quarterly Membership Meetings in 2011 will be held Tuesday, January 25; Wednesday, April 27; Thursday, July 21; and Wednesday, October 26 in Room 252 Erickson Hall. Meetings begin at 5:20, but doors open at 5, so come early to socialize. Membership meetings are for making decisions about the Union, asking questions and receiving updates about Union activities.

Executive Board Meetings

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 5:15
CTU Office

All members welcome.

“Global Voices for Justice”



The CTU ad that will appear in the special MLK edition of the State News in January.

Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Monday, January 17, 2011

Although MSU classes will be canceled on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 17 is *not* a paid holiday for MSU employees. [Susanne Korkoske]

CTU and MSU have a letter of agreement, however, that reiterates our mutual commitment to diversity and inclusion and encourages supervisors to be flexible in permitting employees to participate in events associated with commemorating Dr. King.

If you are denied a reasonable request to participate in an event associated with MLK Day, contact the CTU for support in working out a mutually agreeable arrangement.

This year's theme is "Global Voices for Justice," and we have several opportunities to participate.

One of the more popular events, especially for support staff members who need to stay on the job during the day, is the **Community Celebration Dinner**. This opportunity for staff, students, faculty and community members to share in the celebration of the legacy of Dr. King will be held Monday, January 17, from 4:45 until 6:30 p.m., in the Akers Hall Dining Cafe. Two free tickets are available to each MSU staff, student and faculty member. Guests must preregister.

Other MSU events include:

▼**Showtyme@MSU**, Saturday, January 15, The Food Court, International Center, 8 p.m. Showcase of MSU student talent.

▼**Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer & Protest**, Sunday, January 16, shows at 3 and 7 p.m., Pasant Theatre at the Wharton Center. This commemorative concert features the Earl Nelson Singers, The MSU Children's Choir, coordinated by Kristin Zaryski and MSU jazz musicians.

▼**Commemorative March**, hosted by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity on Monday, January 17. Begins at the Union Building first floor lobby at 3 p.m. with a brief presentation, "Voices of Our Ancestors, Voices of Our Future," and ends at Beaumont Tower.

▼**Museum Exhibit and Special Tour**, "Evolutionary Artifacts," created by MSU Art Professor James Lawton along with a performance by Acts for Justice, MSU Museum, Monday, January 17, 4 p.m.

For a frequently updated list of events associated with MSU's week of celebration and a link to the Community Celebration Dinner registration form, visit www.inclusion.msu.edu/mlk.

MLK continued on next page

New year

continued from p. 1

work probably added even more tasks to the "to do" list. [Nicki Walker]

And, just like with the jobs of many CTs, the work of the union isn't seasonal. We don't take much of a break during the holidays.

As part of the Coalition of Labor Organizations at MSU, CTU is still in the midst of negotiating an "exit strategy" to post-retirement health care for new hires, and we have embarked on Joint Health Care Committee talks with the University in order to keep costs down and quality up into the future.

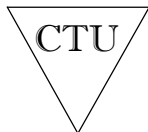
We are beginning the hard work of preparing for negotiations—the Contract between CTU and the University expires March 31, 2011.

All indications point to a new year that will be busier and more challenging than 2010. How should we handle all of these pressures? Although it may seem counterintuitive, I recommend setting aside some time to relax.

The members of CTU rely on one another. That is our strength. So, step back. Take a deep breath. Look for ways to truly reconnect with loved ones. And make sure to find some time for yourself—reflect on the past year and you'll see that you deserve it—so that you can return rested and refreshed.

Our Union depends on the ability of each of us to begin this upcoming year with renewed vigor and commitment.

Happy Holidays!



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

December 24, 27 Holidays.

December 31, January 3 Holidays.

January 4 CTU Executive Board

Classifieds

continued from p. 2

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 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.

meeting. C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome. [Elizabeth Casby]

January 17 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. University open. See article on p. 3 for commemorative events.

January 18 CTU Executive Board meeting. C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm.

MLK

continued from previous page

Off campus, the **26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon** starts at 11 a.m. on Monday, January 17, at the Lansing Center. The theme is "The Legacy Lives on Through Action" and the keynote speaker will be the Honorable Elijah H. Cummings, Congressman from Maryland's 7th District and former Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Tickets are \$25 per person online at www.lansingmi.gov/mayor/mlk/index.jsp or by calling 517-483-7637.

Members welcome.

January 21 "Mob Rituals and Workers Culture: Rethinking Anti-abolitionism on the Eve of the Civil War," Thomas Summerhill, MSU Department of History. MSU Museum Auditorium, 12:15–1:30. An "Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives" presentation by the Labor Education Program.

January 25 CTU Membership Meeting. See p. 1 for details.

