

Thank you to all who helped with ratification. CTU's president says the work isn't over, p. 3.



Know your contract

An answer to the question, "How many jobs can I apply for?" p. 5.



CTU Elections The schedule, committee and other information for the 2013 CTU elections, p. 7.



August 2013

TA passes!

he health care tentative agreement was resoundingly approved by the members of all eight unions covered under the health care Memorandum of Understanding.

CTU members ratified the agreement by 438 to 1.

The health care agreement between MSU and the unions covers almost 5,300 employees and their families.

Contract continued on p. 4



Originally from Switzerland, Britta Altinsel cast her first vote in the United States at our health care ratification on August 13.



It's a date! Married CT couple Cindy and John Stone walked to the polls together to vote on health care ratification.

Nominations Notice: Clerical-Technical Union of Michigan State University

ominations for the offices of President, Treasurer, three (3) Directors and two (2) members of the Audit Committee will be accepted September 3 through 10, 2013.

The President, Treasurer and Directors will be elected to serve a term of approximately two (2) years, specifically, from their date of installation through the installation date of their replacements elected in the union's regularly scheduled election to be conducted in October 2015.

One person elected to the Audit Committee will serve a term of approximately three (3) years, until the regularly scheduled election to be conducted in October 2016.

The second person elected to the Audit Committee will serve a term of one (1) year, until the regularly scheduled election to be conducted in October 2014.

Written nominations will be accepted by the Election Committee or their designees, including CTU Office Secretary Barb Harris, at the CTU office from September 3 through 10, 2013, by 5 p.m.

A nominations meeting will be held on September 10, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. at the CTU office, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823. Nominations can also be made from the floor of the nominations meeting if the nomination period will close upon the conclusion of the nominations meeting at 6:30 p.m.

In order to make a nomination, a member must be in good standing. Nominees have to have completed their probationary period and be in good standing at the close of the nominations period. Self-nominations are permitted; seconds are not required. No member shall be allowed to accept the nomination for more than one position.

Every nominee will be

required to indicate in writing, no later than the conclusion of the nomination period, whether s/he accepts or declines a specific nomination. The names of nominees who fail to accept their nominations will not appear on the ballot.

The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, as Amended, requires that unions use members' home addresses during the course of the election process. Members should ensure that their most recent home address is on file with the union. Any recent changes of address should be submitted as soon as possible.



The voice of the Clerical-Technical Union of Michigan State University

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Organized and independent since 1974!

CTU Executive Board

President: Deb Bittner Deb@ctumsu.org Vice President: Kim Smith Kim@ctumsu.org **Treasurer:** Jan Wallace wallac12@msu.edu Secretary: Tracy Rich richt@msu.edu **Directors:** Pamela Brock brockp@msu.edu Liz Owen owene@msu.edu 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

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Communications Specialist Cheryllee Finney Cheryl@ctumsu.org

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.

CTclassifieds

For sale:

▼Loft frames for dormitory lofts: Enough to build 2 lofts end to end, \$350. Free delivery! Call Dale at 517-627-3875 or email gupstein@hotmail.com.

▼ Top of the line water softener system: Dual tanks with salt container and all necessary tubing. Removes everything from your water including odor. Only used for 14 months and in great (almost new) condition. Paid \$4,500, asking \$1,000, which is a super deal if you need this appliance for your home. Email cath432@yahoo.com.

▼Great recreational cabin close to lake and state land: On quiet, private road, 1.3 acres (mostly woods), 2 miles north of Higgins Lake (close to N. Higgins State Park). Great for boaters, hunters and snowmobilers (marked trail about 1 mile west of cabin and boat launch not far away). 1 bedroom, 1 bath, loft up-stairs with pull down stairs; dry walled and finished with electric; sleeps 3-4. Cabin has gorgeous knotty pine interior, open kitchen, dining, and living area. Completely furnished. Berber carpet, vinyl windows, L.P. gas forced air heat, 40 gallon electric hot water heater, crawl space, conventional septic field (tank), approximately 330 sq. ft, 10'x12' shed. Assessed at \$34,500. Will consider any reasonable

Membership Meetings

The last meeting of 2013 will be held in 252 Erickson Hall on Wednesday, October 23. 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 The only Board Meeting in September will be held September 17 at 5:15.p.m.



offer. Also open to a land contract. Please contact Linda at baughman1981@gmail. com. Pictures available upon request.

Services:

▼ Steve's Professional Auto Repair: Oil changes, transmissions, clutch systems, brakes & more. 2401 W. Main Street, Lansing, MI 48917. Telephone: 517-484-2005.

For rent:

▼ Suite or individual office: 2990 East Lake Lansing Road in East Lansing. Will work to meet your specifications. Contact the CTU, 517-355-1903.

Wanted:

▼ Champagne bottles for recycling by home wine maker: Drop off at CTU (2990 E. Lake Lansing Rd., East Lansing) or picked up on campus. John@ ctumsu.org.

Free:

▼CTU Conference Room: Available free to members (with deposit). For non-members, \$25/hour plus deposit. For questions, reservations, etc., contact the CTU office at 355-1903.

▼ Advertise to your colleagues in the CT News and/or on our website. Send ads to Cheryllee Finney at Cheryl@ ctumsu.org. We accept ads from CTU members on items for sale and/or services provided by CTU members and/or their household family members. Indicate if you want the ad to be posted on the web instead of, or in addition to, the newsletter.

President's corner The work continues

Deb Bittner

hank you to everyone who helped make ratification a success: the poll workers, van drivers, ballot counters, and, especially, those of you who took the time to vote.

Just as important as autism coverage, a wellness stipend and quality, affordable health care, our new contract secures another four years for the Joint Health Care Committee. JHCC brings together representatives from the unions and the university to monitor health care throughout the term of the contract.

Which means, as always, that our work is not finished. Not only do our representatives need to continue working to maintain and strengthen health care coverage, but there is plenty for the rest of us to do in the next few years.

Ongoing vigilance

Health care at MSU has changed a lot since the days when I could go to Health Central (yes, I'm dating myself) for onestop health care shopping. I never saw a bill or statement, was never questioned about my expenses, and didn't even pay for an office visit.

Now, it is crucial that I am involved in all aspects of my family's health care, even the financial stuff. We all have to be educated and vigilant health care consumers.

A couple issues ago, CT Mary Metler

wrote of disputing a \$1,200 overcharge on her insurance statement. Her action saved the plan money and, ultimately, resulted in a little more in all our paychecks. Just think of the savings if we were all to show such diligence.

Other things we can do include consulting with Best Doctors about our medical care or decisions. Best Doctors is a service offered through MSU that saves health care dollars by helping us determine the appropriate medical treatment for our situations. Over 90% of MSU employees who have used the service have found it helpful. It truly is a great service that keeps costs down while giving us peace of mind as we care for ourselves and our families.

Choosing health

Also, we need to be very careful in choosing our health care insurance. As I've visited CTs across campus, I've heard a lot of misinformation about the plans. For example, many people think that the more economical plan, Blue Care Network, requires specialist referrals. That is incorrect. The plan doesn't, but some specialists do require a referral.

MSU union employees have switched to using generic drugs at a rate of over 81%, compared to the national average of about 72%. This is great. We can also save money to the plan—and to ourselves—by using the mail order process

Thank you

In addition to our hardworking staff, we owe a big "thank you" to the members who worked the polls, drove the vans, counted the votes, etc., during ratification of the health care tentative agreement:

Brenda Bailey	Rachel Iseler	Judy Redding	Kim Smith
Deb Bittner	Angel Loveall	Tracy Rich	Karen Spitz
Mary Canady-Hernandez	Liz Owen	Jeanette Robertson	Becky Sullivan
Rosie Garcia	Walt Peebles	Pam Sloan	Jan Wallace

And, of course, we thank everyone who took the time to vote. Because of you, ratification was a success.

for our maintenance drugs.

Please visit MSU's Benefits website at *www.hr.msu.edu/benefits* for information about and links to Best Doctors, the health care plans, Caremark, etc. to take advantage of the services our vendors provide at no additional charges to us. Be an active partner in your health.

Also, open enrollment for next year's health care coverage is in October. If you have any questions, or if you just want to check out what's available, visit the benefits fair on October 15, 16 and 17.

Using our resources

We have just approved a very good health care contract. It proves the value of unions and solidarity. Without the unions, MSU would have started shifting major health care costs (20% was the proposal) to employees decades ago, and we know where we would be today: paying a whole lot of money out of our paychecks each month.

While CTU had a fair turnout for ratification (438 to 1), it wasn't our best showing. Nor was it our worst. However, in light of all the challenges to our union these days, I felt a bit disappointed that more CTs didn't vote. I feel the need to address participation and ask you to think about how you can step up your involvement with our union.

Since right to work passed, I am asked frequently what will happen to CTU when our contract expires in 2015. Members ask what they can do to make sure the union survives and stays strong.

I think the vast majority of our members recognize the importance of the union, not only because of the benefits but for the protection it affords and the voice it gives us in our own work sites. I believe most of us will continue to pay our fair share to keep it strong. As to what we can do as individuals, my response is: Show up! Get involved! This union is its members.

We will have a CTU election in October for the leaders of our union. Consider running. Volunteer to help. Please vote!

One potential resource, one that we

Work continued on p. 7

Contract continued from p. 1 The MOU is a four-year agreement covering January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2017.

There are no concessions in this agreement and several improvements.

Raises will be based on a matrix that provides higher monetary compensation when increases in health care costs are kept down. The biggest raise could be 2.6% if health care costs are kept at 1% or below. However, if health care costs rise above 11%, employees will get no raise.

Raises will be staggered across the various unions because the unions all have different contract schedules. CTU will receive its final 2% general increase under the *current* health care agreement on April 1, 2014. Our first raise under the matrix is in April 2015.

We gained autism coverage for members' children through age 8.

In addition to fighting off some major cost-shifting to members, we actually secured some of the savings generated under our current health care contract and negotiated the disbursement of those savings to members in lump sum payments. The first disbursement—approximately \$7 million—will be divided amongst members on the payroll as of January 1, 2014. Additional savings, if any, will be determined and disbursed on January 1, 2015. [Teresa Riley]

One particularly important success of the new contract is the unions' continued ability to work with the university on an ongoing basis to keep health care quality high and costs low. For about 15 years, this process has benefited MSU employees and students as well as the taxpayers of Michigan.

Without the hard work of CTU and the other unions—if our employer had been able to merely shift health care costs to its workers—we would all be paying more now. This contract exemplifies the advantages of workers having an equal voice at the table through their unions.



July Membership Meeting

Several important union concerns were addressed at the July 16 membership meeting.

Members were unable to make official decisions because we fell 21 short of the 50 members required for a quorum under our constitution.

However, we did provide input to help the Executive Board in making decisions, received updates on union issues and discussed conditions in our work areas.

President Deb Bittner talked about our current finances.

We then voted to continue making a monthly contribution to the Michigan AFL-CIO for the fight against anti-labor legislation in Michigan.

Bittner reported on the difficulty of negotiating the new health care tentative agreement. Although the unions were able to fight off several harmful proposals on the part of the university and ended up giving no concessions, Bittner said she is convinced that we are in for a fight in the future. [Lucille Yurgelaitis]

"It was through union solidarity and strong membership support that we ended up with such a positive agreement," she said. "And if we are to keep this up going forward, we're going to need everyone pulling together."

Bittner said that most of the Solidarity Lunches have been well attended. The biggest topic of conversation at the lunches is right to work, she said, and misunderstandings are rampant.

Door prizes went to Cynthia Colling and Amber Feasal-Bartling (\$50 each), Linda Jacques (four Lugnuts tickets), Amy Peebles (two Lugnuts tickets), Norma VanKoevering (CTU t-shirt), and Pam Sloan (CTU computer bag).

October Open Enrollment

pen enrollment to select benefits for the 2014 calendar year will take place during the entire month of October. Enrollment is for all MSU benefits, including health, dental, life insurance, flexible spending accounts and voluntary benefits. A benefits fair will be held October 15, 16 and 17 that will provide information to help employees make their choices. Address questions to the HR Benefits Office at 517-353-4434 or *www.hr.msu.edu/benefits*.

Please note that this information does not apply to enrollment for the CLO sponsored MEBS vision care program. MEBs enrollment is March through May.





Make a difference in the world

ighty-two potential foreign exchange students from countries all over the world are waiting for host families, according to former CT Ann Eure.

Eure, who now works as an AP in Human Resources, said that hosting high school students through the Face the World exchange program has been so rewarding for her family that they are now International Exchange Student Spokespersons.

Host families provide room, board and a stable, secure, loving family to the students. The students cover their own personal expenses and health insurance.

Time is short to become a host family for the coming semester. If you are interested in helping fulfill the dreams of an international student now or in the future, email *sparklesuccess@yahoo.com* for an application and interview.



"We checked your references and you've been laid off from your last 5 jobs. Good preparation for this company."

Sometimes you gotta laugh

It's all in the name

guy is going duck hunting and needs a dog to retrieve the birds.

"I have just the dog for you, sir," says the gamekeeper. "He's called Worker and he is brilliant, as good as they come."

Sure enough, every time the hunter shoots a duck Worker runs off and immediately returns with the bird. The hunter couldn't have been happier.

The following year, looking to repeat the great experience, he goes back and again asks for Worker.

"Ah, I'm sorry, sir, but you wouldn't be happy with him," says the gamekeeper. Someone had the bright idea of changing his name to Boss, so now he just sits on his butt and barks all day."

—Union Communications Services

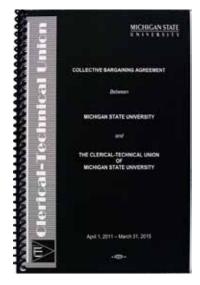
Know your contract Applying for MSU jobs

To help us monitor MSU's application process for contractual compliance, the CTU receives a report on every CT position posted. The report lists everyone who applied for a position according to seniority, why the individual was or was not interviewed, and who was hired.

Lately, we've noticed several CTs getting denied interviews because they applied for too many positions.

Please note that CTs are limited to applying for two vacancies per posting under our contract with MSU. "An employee shall be placed on the initial interview list for no more than two (2) vacancies per posting and shall prioritize the vacancies for which she/he wishes to be considered in that posting," according to Article 17.

When CTs apply for multiple vacancies, HR Staffing Services places the them on the interview list for the first two of the positions for which they apply. Therefore, CTs should limit their applications to the two positions that interest them the most.





Board actions

April through June 2013

he following CTU Executive Board discussions took place April through June 2013. All expenditure decisions are included, but the list does not represent meetings in their entirety. CTs can receive copies of complete minutes through the mail or email by contacting the CTU office at 355-1903.

April 2

Decided to provide lunches at district meetings and increase Membership Activity budget line item to cover the cost.

Turned down request to place a \$100 ad in the program of the Capital City Quilt Guild Quilt Show.

Agreed to place a \$25 ad in the Capital City Quilt Guild Quilt Show program.

Renewed annual \$240.02 subscription to the Detroit Free Press.

Transfered \$25,000 from Operating Savings to Operating Checking account.

Discussion included Union Training Leadership Series, health care bargaining, upcoming union picnic, new member orientations, CTU office staff calendaring system, CTU's participation in Michigan Progressive Summit, changes to facilitate the process of renting the conference room, GEU labor chorus.

April 16

Accepted 2013 Budget as Recommended by Finance Committee.

Purchased five \$10 tickets (\$50 total) to the Lansing Chapter of Latin-American Advancement (LCLAA) Scholarship Award Event Fund Raiser.

Donated five \$10 tickets back to LCLAA to be used by those who cannot afford to attend.

Received report from the Union Representative Coordinating Committee:

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UR Handbook update in final stages, Union Training Leadership Series underway, district meetings set, expectations of URs tightened.

Discussed the change from a fiscal- to a calendar-year based health care plan.

May 7

Received report from the picnic committee that this year's fund raiser will be for the Ingham County Pet Food Bank.

Donated \$50 to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Picnic/Golf Fundraiser in lieu of sending people.

Agreed to purchase two \$15 tickets for the United Way 12th Annual Women's Leadership Council Light the Path Luncheon.

Donated \$200 to the Tri-County office on Aging Meals on Wheels Program.

Agreed to send CTU Financial Manager to "How to Collect Accounts Receivables" for \$149.

In keeping with the consensus of members attending the April 25 Membership Meeting, agreed to continue paying 30 cents per member per month to help fight anti-labor legislation in Michigan.

Agreed to purchase up to two additional tickets at \$20 each to the Labor and Employee Relations Association May lunch meeting.

Received report on Worker's Memorial Day event in Lansing.

May 21

Renewed \$25 subscription to Labor Notes. [Renata Thompson]

Contributed \$50 to the Parent Action Committee for Minority Academic Concerns Spelling Bee.

Agreed to send up to 4 people at \$25/person to the Children's Miracle Network Labor's Breakfast for Kids and Community Service.

Agreed to provide \$300 for retirement party of CLO President Wayne Cass along with an additional \$200 toward his gift. Cass was instrumental in keeping fully funded health care for support staff personnel at MSU.

June 4

Decided to not renew subscription to *The Progressive* magazine.

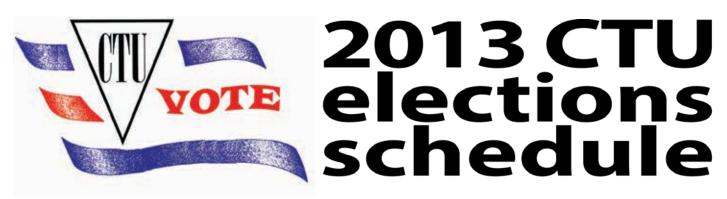
Donated \$50 to WKAR-TV. [Kimberly Baker]

Discussed arbitrary and punitive sick leave policy of Residential and Hospitality Services and decided to proceed with a special conference.

Discussed problem with University's background check policy and its affect on current employees.

June 18

Agreed to purchase laptop computer for Communication Specialist, amount not to exceed \$2,000.



August 2013. Nomination notice distributed through the CT News.

September 3 through September 10. Nomination period.

September 10. Deadline of 5 p.m. for written nominations. Submit written nominations to the CTU office secretary or a member of the Elections Committee. That night, nominations will be accepted from the floor during a nominations meeting at the CTU office from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The nominations period will close upon the conclusion of the meeting. Candidates will be given an opportunity to speak at this meeting. Upon submission of their nominations, candidates will be given a list of rules and guidelines for the election process.

September 17. Deadline of 5 p.m. for candidates to submit a campaign statement/biography (up to 500 words, electronic format preferred) to CTU Organizational Manager Barb Harris for publication in the CT News. Photo arrangements must also be made at this time by contacting Cheryllee Finney at 432-9580 or *Cheryl@ctumsu.org*.

October 4. Election notice will be mailed to the last known home address of all union members.

October 7–18. The membership list will be available for inspection by the candidates between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Arrangements to inspect the membership list must be made by contacting a member of the Elections Committee or CTU Organizational Manager Barb Harris. CTU of MSU 2990 E. Lake Lansing Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823



The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, as Amended, requires that unions use members' home addresses during the course of the election process. CTU-MSU members should ensure that their most recent home address is on file with the union. To verify and update your address, login at *http://ebs.msu.edu/*), click on the ESS Salary tab, select personal info and go to addresses. Direct questions to the EBS support office at 884-3000.

October 7. Week of publication for the special elections edition of CT News. [Yvonne Squiers]

October 14. Candidate forums begin.

October 17. Deadline to request absentee ballots from Barb Harris (355-1903, *Barb@ctumsu.org*) by 5 p.m.

October 21. Absentee ballots need to be at the Post Office box by the end of the day.

October 22. Polling from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Official vote count begins at 6 p.m.

October 23. Officers installed at the Membership Meeting.

November 1. Deadline for receipt of election protests.

November 12. If a runoff election is required, it will take place November 12. No absentee ballots will be available in the case of a runoff election.

Elections Committee

hree CTs have graciously stepped forward to run CTU's 2013 elections:

- ▼Liz Owen, Chairperson, *Liz@ctumsu. org*, 432-3674
- ▼ Brenda Bailey, *baileyb@msu.edu*, 884-1058
- ▼ Rosie Garcia, *garciar@msu.edu*, 884-0205
- ▼ Becky Sullivan, *sulli306@msu.edu*, 884-3374

Contact committee members to submit written nominations or with questions and concerns about the elections.

Work continued from p. 3

haven't tapped to any degree, is our pool of retirees. Many of our retirees were instrumental in developing the CTU and continue to take an interest in our continued success. So if you are a retiree reading this, I will be contacting you in the near future to see if you would like to join a CTU support committee. This would be another good way for us to continue to take advantage of our best resources: each other. I'll keep you posted.



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



September 2. Labor Day. Another union-secured, paid holiday.

September 6. "Being Flint: Life and Labor in the Shrinking City," Gordon Young. Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Brown Bag Series presented by the Labor Education Program. MSU Museum Auditorium, 12:15–1:30. Free.

September 17. This is the only CTU Executive Board meeting scheduled for September. C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.

September 19. "Life in Large Format: 25 Years of Worker Portraits," Gilles Perrin and Nicole Ewenczyk (held in conjunction with the two photographic exhibits by Gilles Perrin opening in September at the MSU Museum, "Detroit Resurgent" and "An Extraordinary Document of the World"). Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Brown Bag Series presented by the Labor Education Program. MSU Museum Auditorium, 12:15–1:30. Free.

September 26. "Working in Thin Air: Labor, Migration and the Imperial Himalaya." Jayeeta Sharma; History

URdistricts

he following members have been appointed to UR positions:

- ▼ District 2 (Admin. Building [Floors 2,3,4]): Reach Stacey Patton at 432-0127 or *pattons2@msu.edu*.
- ▼ District 8 (MSU Grand Rapids Campus): Amber Feasal-Bartling can be contacted at 884-2769 or *amber.feasal@hc.msu.edu*.
- ▼ District 13 (Anthony, Meats Lab, Engineering): Contact Mary Mroz at 355-5107 or mroz@egr.msu.edu.

District 16 (University Housing, Old

Department University of Toronto. Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Brown Bag Series presented by the Labor Education Program. MSU Museum Auditorium, 12:15–1:30. Free.

Purchasing, Food Stores, Laundry, University Services, Power Plant, Angell Building, Surplus and Recycling): **Angel Lovell** has requested reappointment to the Union Representative position. If no other CTs in the district express interest in the position before September 12, she will be appointed.

If you are interested in becoming a UR, contact URCC Chairperson **Becky Sullivan** (884-3374 or *sulli306@msu.edu*) or CTU Vice President **Kim Smith** (355-3784 or *Kim@ctumsu.org*).