

Be a Union Rep! CTU VP Kim Smith explains how our URs strengthen our union, p. 3.



New volunteer opportunity Mentor a young girl in reading on line, p. 4.



Choose your benefits MSU Benefits Open Enrollment is October 1–31,

p. 5.

WW CZ DEVS The voice of the Clerical-Technical Union of Michigan State University

September 2013

Preparing for the CTU vote

At the close of the September 10 nominations meeting, CTU's Election Committee announced the candidates in our upcoming election:

President, two-year Deb Bittner Treasurer, two-year Jan Wallace

Elections continued on p. 5



Liz Owen, Chair Liz@ctumsu.org *432-3674*



Rosie Garcia garciar@msu.edu 884-0205



Brenda Bailey baileyb@msu.edu 884-1058



Becky Sullivan sulli306@msu.edu 884-3374



Wikimedia Commons—A stone sculpture created by Jacek Tylicki "Give if you can - Take if you have to." Palolem Island, Goa, India.

The power of we

ach year, members of our union join other MSU employees, retirees, and students in contributing generously to MSU's Annual Community Charitable Campaign. In 2012-13, CTs gave \$12,096 of the \$145,864 donated by members in the 10 MSU unions.

In keeping with overall campus contributions, CTs' donations were down last year compared with the previous two years. Several factors may be contributing to the decline including the economy and the campaign's move to an online fundraising model that eliminated paper promotions.

The CTU, well known for our commitment to the community, supports and encourages members to participate in the campaign. Because of these tough economic times, a gift to the campaign can make a huge difference in someone's life—perhaps a relative, a friend, a neighbor or even a coworker.

When contributing to the campaign, donors can choose to give a general donation, support specific service areas featured by the United Way or direct contributions to individual programs and charities.

By making a contribution, we help make sure the community we live and work in is the best it can be, for everyone. Some of us can only contribute a little, **Campaign** *continued* on *p. 4*

Becky Sullivan



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 Janet Hershberger jroe@msu.edu Liz Owen owene@msu.edu Willie Paulsen paulsenw@msu.edu Walt Peebles peeblesw@msu.edu Jeanette Robertson robertso@msu.edu Norma Teague teaguen@msu.edu

CTU Staff

Contract Administrators John Klusinske John@ctumsu.org Dan McNeil Dan@ctumsu.org Financial Manager

Patricia Shackleton Patricia@ctumsu.org Organizational Manager

Barb Harris *Barb@ctumsu.org* 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:

▼ Classical beginner's guitar: Yamaha, good sound, excellent condition. Used only for two months. Paid \$300, will sell for \$150. Includes hard case. Email *ccrew407@comcast.net*.

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.

Services:

▼ Steve's Professional Auto Repair: Oil changes, transmissions, clutch sys-

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 *Members welcome!* tems, brakes & more. 2401 W. Main Street, Lansing, MI 48917. Telephone: 517-484-2005.

▼ 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 on the web (*www.cata. org/cleancommute/index.html*).

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 and retirees 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.

Vice President's corner Join CTU's Front Line

By Kim Smith

s Vice President of the CTU, one of my responsibilities is to act as liaison between the Union Representatives and the Executive Board.

I work with the Union Representative Coordinating Committee to help arrange for union training, meet with perspective URs to discuss their responsibilities and work with URs to help them succeed in their roles.

First, a little about our union's governing structure—

Want to work on the front lines?

ur URs are a group of very special, very hard-working CTU members. If you would like to join them, we have 18 disctricts without a UR at this time. See the vacancies on the UR District List on page 6.

If you are interested in being a UR, contact Kim Smith at 355-3784 or *Kim@ctumsu.org*. As Vice President, I am a member of the CTU Executive Board, the body elected by the entire membership to make governing decisions and set policy for the union. The membership makes decisions directly during a membership meeting when there is a quorum, and the Executive Board has the responsibility for doing so on a dayto-day basis. With the exception of the President, all Executive Board members are on-the-job CTs, just like you.

URs are elected by the members in their district. (If there is only one candidate, the UR is appointed to the position by the President and Vice President).

URs: CTU's front line

The URs are the "face" of CTU in the work place. They work alongside us, engaging us in conversations so that they can learn our concerns, informing us of our rights and encouraging us to play an active part in the union. They serve as a conduit for information between the Executive Board and the members, as our



Union membership is like a gym membership. Dues are necessary to operate. And just like a gym, if you do not show up and participate, you do not become stronger.



confidantes and as our front-line advocates. URs help put policy into practice.

This is a big, diverse campus, and our network of on-the-job union-trained URs insures that the union is always with us on the work site. Make sure you get to know your UR. Make her or him your ally. Offer your support and assistance. This is one of the ways we make our union work.

Serving as a UR

Being a UR can be a difficult job, and it's not one for which everyone is ideally suited. URs can be called on to offer comfort, provide information and support to coworkers, possibly in times of stress, fear or injury. The role requires patience and determination in the face of setbacks. And anyone who takes on the responsibility must be able to maintain confidentiality. A UR must always remember that she or he is an advocate for the members of the Clerical-Technical Union, not for supervisors or managers.

Being a UR requires a commitment of time which varies from day to day as well as a commitment to the principles of the CTU. A UR should be the example of a dedicated employee willing to go the extra distance to improve the working environment for everyone.

Not "sink or swim"

If it sounds a bit rough, remember that URs have the backing of the approximately 1,500 members of the Cleri-



Donating online

aking donations to the Community Charitable Campaign through the EBS system is easy.

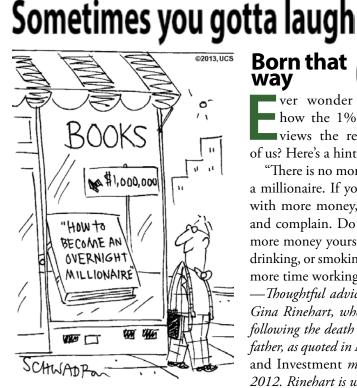
- 1. Login to EBS
- 2. Click on ESS Clerical-Tech
- 3. Click on University Information
- 4. Click on MSU CCC Pledge Form
- 5. Fill out the form
- 6. Click on "Submit Form"

To contribute off-line, print your form and then mail it in. Instructions and the form are available at http://www. msuccc.msu.edu/pledgeform.htm.

Campaign continued from p. 1 but the campaign provides a way for us to pool our resources to support our community.

The gift may be given in one lump sum or increments through payroll deduction (taken from paychecks every month).

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Jeff Brodie, Human Resources, 884-0136, brodie@hr.msu.edu.



No paid vacation? You must be an American

njoy your summer? A report from the Center for Economic and Pol-■ icy Research shows that the U.S. is the only well-off country not to mandate paid holidays or vacation. Workers here are legally entitled to zero of each. Germany, considered the most prosperous country in Europe, requires 24 vacation days and 10 paid holidays. Even workaholic Japan orders 10 days of vacation and nine holidays



he Capital Area United Way Women's Leadership Council's Committee has announced a new volunteer opportunity called In2Books.

The Capital Area In2Books program matches female students in 6th grade with carefully screened adult volunteers serving as online pen pals/eMentors. Throughout the school year students select five books to read and discuss with their online eMentors. Lead volunteers reinforce and extend their learning during the after school program discussions and literacy instruction.

If serving as an eMentor sounds like your kind of volunteer activity, get information or sign up at www.micauw. org/in2books-program-seeking-volunteers.

Born that way

ver wonder how the 1% views the rest of us? Here's a hint:

"There is no monopoly on becoming a millionaire. If you're jealous of those with more money, don't just sit there and complain. Do something to make more money yourself-spend less time drinking, or smoking and socializing and more time working."

—Thoughtful advice to us slackers from Gina Rinehart, who inherited a fortune following the death of her mining tycoon father, as quoted in Australian Resources and Investment magazine, August 30, 2012. Rinehart is worth \$19 billion.



Make us laugh!

o you have a funny workplace story? Have you received a humorous work-related email? If something at work makes you laugh out loud, consider sharing it with other CTs. Send your labor-related, humorous stories, emails, photos or graphics to Cheryl@ctumsu.org.

uote: "Belonging to a union means you have to participate and join together to win the battles being fought. Otherwise, it's like joining the army and expecting only the officers to engage in combat. You don't win many battles that way."

—William De Vore, Unions 4 Workers



October 1 – 31, 2013 Benefits open enrollment

fter successfully ratifying our new health care agreement in August, now each of us must prepare to put it into action by choosing our health care options for the coming year.

Starting this year, Open Enrollment will be held in the fall for a calendar-based plan year (January through December). This year's Open Enrollment will be October 1 through 31.

In addition to health care, employees will be able to select and change their other MSU benefits, including employee paid MSU Benefits Plus programs.

BCN remains low-cost plan

Community Blue (CB) and Blue Care Network (BCN) continue to be the two choices for health care insurance in 2014, with BCN remaining the lowest cost "base" plan. Therefore, members choosing BCN will pay nothing in premiums.

On the other hand, CB premiums have increased significantly. Employees choosing this option will pay:

Single rate	\$202.70/month
2-person	\$425.64/month
Family	\$496.53/month

Who needs to participate?

Anyone making changes in coverage which includes adding or removing a dependent, switching health or dental care plans, or changing life insurance options —must participate in Open Enrollment.

Staff members who wish to continue coverage for a spouse or OEI must participate by filling out the affidavit.

More information

Information about open enrollment will be distributed through email to current employees. (Retirees will continue to receive their Open Enrollment packet through the mail.)

For the most up-to-date Open Enrollment information, including the Open Enrollment guide, please visit *hr.msu. edu/openenrollment*.

Benefits fairs

Wondering if a switch in insurance plans would benefit you? Have questions about how to take advantage of Best Doctors or Health Advocates? Need information about your retirement accounts? [Sally Butler Gatlin]

If you are curious about your options need answers about your coverage, or could use some assistance with the online enrollment system, this might be a good year to attend one of the Benefit Fairs offered by the University.

This year's Benefits Fairs will all be held in the Breslin Center.

Benefits vendors, including health, dental, life, flexible spending accounts, retirement and voluntary benefits vendors, will be available along with computers and HR Benefits staff members to assist with the online open enrollment process. [Lisa Reichstetter]

The Benefits Fairs will take place at the Breslin Center:

Tue., Oct. 15, Noon to 7 p.m. Wed., Oct. 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thu., Oct. 17, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CTcomments

Voting easy with CTU!

I just wanted to thank you for all the hard work everyone at the CTU puts in. It was my first year voting and I was nervous about the process, but it was quick and painless. Thank you for facilitating my ride to the vote. I want to commend everyone involved for their good work. Now I wish that voting for government offices went as smoothly as voting with the CTU!

> —Christina Mitchell Member, CTU

Editor's Note: Remember, CTU works because we do. Volunteer to help with our upcoming elections by contacting the Elections Committee (p. 1).

Elections continued from p. 1

Three directors, two year: Walt Peebles Pamela Sloan Norma Teague Sierra Vandenhuevel Audit Committee, one-year Heather Dover Audit Committee, three-year Stephen Stofflet

The election will be Tuesday, October 22, from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the MSU Auditorium on the corner of Farm Lane and Auditorium Roads. Absentee ballots are available by contacting CTU Organizational Manager Barb Harris at 355-1903 or *Barb@ctumsu.org*.

The October edition of *CT News* will feature statements by the candidates and more information about the elections.

Direct questions or concerns about the elections to one of the Elections Committee members (p. 1).

Please Note: Open Enrollment for the MEBS vision care plan that is administered by the Coalition of Labor Organizations (not MSU) takes place March through May of each year.

CTunion representatives

- 1. Administration Bldg. (Floors B, 1)
- 2. Administration Bldg. (Floors 2, 3, 4)
- 3. Diag. Center for Population & Animal Health, Basell Bldg (MBI), Henry Center, Alliance Dr.
- 4. Biomed Phys Sci, Planetarium
- 5. MSU Detroit Medical Center Campus
- 6. Baker, Geography, Snyder-Phillips, Mason-Abbot, Psychology Bldg, Kresge, Auditorium
- 7. E and W Fee, Hannah Tech Bldg
- 8. MSU Grand Rapids Campus
- 9. Life Sciences
- 10. Farrall, Chem, Biochem, Cyclotron
- 11. Plant Biology Lab, Pesticide Rsch, Biology Rsch, Food Safety & Toxicology
- 12. Natural Resources, Packaging, Trout Bldg
- 13. Anthony, Meats Lab, Engineering
- 14. Instr Media Ctr, Urban Plan & Landscape Arch, Audiology & Speech Science, Public Safety
- 15. Nisbet, Manly Miles, Univ Printing, Spartan Village Community Center
- 16. U Housing, Old Purchasing, Food Stores, Laundry, U Serv, Power Plant, Angell Bldg, Surplus & Recycling
- 17. Grounds, Physical Plant, Wilson, Holden, Case, Wonders, Duffy Daugherty Football Bldg
- 18. Kellogg Center, Brody Complex
- 19. MSU Macomb University Center Campus
- 20. Eppley, Owen, Shaw, N Bus Col Comp
- Holmes, McDonel, Hubbard, Akers, Conrad, IM East
 Erickson
- 23. Plant & Soil Science, Wharton Center
- 24. Int'l Ctr., Wells, Central Services
- 25. Spartan Way, IM West, Dem Hall, Jenison, Circle IM, Breslin, Munn Ice Arena
- 26. Student Services, Horticulture
- 27. Giltner, Natural Science
- 28. Clinical Ctr (B,C,D Wings), Engn Res, Radiology
- 29. Olin Health Center, Berkey
- 30. Campbell, Central School, Gilchrist, Landon, Mayo, Human Ecol, Union, Williams, Yakeley, Wills House
- 31. N and S Kedzie, Bessey, Computer Center
 32. Library
 33. Vet Medical Center-1
 34. Agriculture Hall, Cook Hall
 35. Olds. Museum, Music
- 35. Olds, Museum, Music
- 36. Linton, Eustace, Chittendon, Marshall
- 37. Clinical Center (A-Wing)38. Vet Medical Center-2
- 39. Communication Arts
- 40. Sparrow Bldg, Breslin Cancer Center, Lansing Medical Office Center, Downtown/Misc

April Moore (12/13), 2-3956, *mooreap@msu.edu* Stacey Patton (8/15), 2-0127, *pattons2@msu.edu* **No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903**

No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 Wendi Winston (4/14), 313-578-9624, *winst106@msu.edu* Julie Detwiler (12/14), 3-5258, *detwiler@msu.edu*

Stephanie Six (6/15), 3-1998, six@msu.edu Amber Feasal-Bartling (8/15), 4-2769, feasalam@msu.edu Stephen Stofflet (1/14), 4-0409, stoffle1@msu.edu **No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903**

No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903

No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 Mary Mroz (8/15), 5-5107, mroz@msu.edu

Linda Blodgett (10/13), 2-0589, blodgett@msu.edu

Rosario Garcia (12/13), 4-0205, garciar@msu.edu

Angel Loveall (9/15), 4-3583, loveall@msu.edu

Karen Spitz (4/15), 4-5483, jakuska@msu.edu

No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 Linda Brandau (8/13), 2-7705, *lbrandau@msu.edu* No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 Lori Thomas (6/15), 2-4347, *thoma657@msu.edu* Brenda Bailey (8/14), 4-1058, *baileyb@msu.edu*

No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 Becky Sullivan (1/15), 884-3374, *sulli306@msu.edu* Mary Canady-Hernandez (2/14), 4-6503, *canadyhe@msu.edu* Pam Sloan (2/14), 3-8670, *pamsloan@msu.edu*

No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 Judy Redding (1/15), 4-0811, redding5@msu.edu No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 Amanda VanKoevering (10/13), 5-5030, vankoeve@msu.edu No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 Kimberly Baker (8/14), 2-7055, bakerk@msu.edu No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903 Rachel Iseler (3/14), 2-3676, rachel@msu.edu No UR, contact the Union office at 5-1903

Front line continued from p. 3

cal-Technical Union. We want our representatives knowledgeable and skilled, so we provide a great deal of training. No one is thrown into a UR position to sink or swim.

Additionally, URs work with our hired Contract Administrators (CAs) who provide assistance, training, and a wealth of knowledge and skills. The CTU sets the highest standards when it comes to representing members, and the CAs work side-by-side with URs to make sure we provide the best.

The rewards

Okay, nobody's in it for the money, but I have been a UR myself, and I can tell you that it does offer its rewards:

- ▼ URs are usually the first to know of developments with the CTU.
- ▼ URs are frequently asked to help the Executive Board strategize about the direction of the Union.
- ▼ Much of the training and experi-

URdistricts

The following members have been appointed to UR positions:

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

District 22 (Erickson): **Linda Brandau** has petitioned to be reappointed UR. If no other CTs in her district express interest in the position before October 11, 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*).

ence URs receive can also be applied to other areas of their lives. [Melinda Nienhouse]

- ▼ URs provide a network for CTs to tap into regarding workplace and personal issues.
- ▼ URs find great satisfaction in knowing they've helped coworkers and built a better future for themselves and all CTs.

I urge every member to consider becoming a UR, especially if you are in a district without one.

Remember that MSU's Benefits Open Enrollment is the entire month of October. Our union has worked hard for our benefits and it's important that you educate yourself and choose the options that work best for you. Benefits Open Enrollment will now be held each Fall rather than Spring, which coincides with the IRS requirement for Health Care

Distinguished Staff Award nominations due Oct. 28

The Jack Breslin Distinguished Staff Award is a \$2,500 award presented annually to six University support staff members. The award is named in honor of the late Jack Breslin, a student leader, honored athlete, former University Vice President, and steadfast advocate of MSU.

Criteria for selection of recipients are overall excellence in job performance, supportive attitude, and contributions to the unit or University that lead to improved efficiency or effectiveness, and valuable service to the University. Nomination forms for the 2013-14 awards are due on October 28, 2013. Contact Human Resources at 517-353-3720 with questions about this award.

Find the nomination form at *http://www.hr.msu.edu/recognition/supportstaff/DistStaffNominationForm.pdf*.



and Dependent Care Spending Account enrollment.

Also mark your calendars for the CTU election on October 22. Statements from the candidates will be in the October issue of the CT News. Putting in the time to wisely choose our leaders on the Executive Board and Audit Committee is another way that we make sure our union is a success.

And, if you're able, contact someone on the Elections Committee to volunteer to count ballots on election night or volunteer in some other way. Everything that each of us does, whether a little or a lot, helps make us stronger.

It is very important to attend the quarterly membership meetings, the next being on October 23. Your attendance at union meetings shows management that CTs are educated, engaged and stand together. [Elvira Shaw]

Find your name in brackets?

If you find your name [bracketed] in the pages of the CT News, congratulations! To claim your prize, call 355-1903.



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

CTcalendar

October 1–31. Open Enrollment for MSU Benefits (p. 5).

October 11. "Songs that Work: Music from the Workplace to the Workhouse," Andy Cohen and Noah Shull. (Run in conjunction with their folk and ragtime blues concert at Ten Pound Fiddle in the evening.) Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives brown bag lunch. MSU Library, Room 449W, 12:15–1:30 p.m.

October 13. Vegan Potluck. Sponsored by CTU and EVERYbody Reads Book Store. Bring a dish to pass and some copies of the recipe. Dinnerware provided. C-T Union Hall, 6–7:30 p.m. Meets every second Sunday of the month. Contact *marian.erickson@yahoo. com* for information.

October 15. Executive Board meeting, C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome. [Julie Reynolds]

October 16. Men's Health, Wellness

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and Fitness Expo. What women want to know—what men need to know. For men and the women who care about the men in their lives. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center. 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. MSU Union, 2nd Floor Ballroom.

October 16. "Recipes for Health: Pumpkin." Buy lunch at Brody Square and attend a cooking demonstration. 12:10–12:50 p.m. Information and registration at *http://health4u.msu.edu/ classes/rfh_cooking_series.html.*

October 17. Deadline to request absentee ballots (355-1903 or *Barb@ ctumsu.org*) for the CTU elections.

October 22. CTU members vote. MSU Auditorium. 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

October 23. CTU Membership Meeting, 252 Erickson, 5:20 p.m.

October 28. Deadline to submit nominations for the Jack Breslin Distinguished Saff Award (p. 7).



Interesting labor link

http://www.laborheritage.org/

he Labor Heritage Foundation exists to strengthen the labor movement through the use of music and art.

The site features history, art, poetry, theatre, and written works of the American worker.

There is also an on-line store that offers labor-related books, posters, buttons, cards and more.