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### Membership meeting

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# CT news

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

June 2014

## President's corner

# June 26 picnic: a time to celebrate!

President Deb Bittner

**N**ineteen seventy-four: The Watergate scandal raged, President Nixon resigned, the United States was still at war in Vietnam and would be there until the following spring. "The Way We Were" by Barbara Streisand and "Seasons in the Sun" by Terry Jacks topped the musical charts, and we were obsessed with television comedies. "All in the Family," "Sanford and Son," "Chico and the Man," "The Jeffersons,"

and "M\*A\*S\*H" were our favorite shows.

The year saw the invention of the post-it note, not as revolutionary as computers, perhaps, but the cheerful little stickies certainly had an impact on our office communications.

Two Supreme Court decisions made a big difference for working women: *Cleveland Board of Education v. LaFleur* declared mandatory maternity leave policies unconstitutional, and in *Corning Glass Works v. Brennan* the Court said that

**Picnic** continued on p. 3

Join other CTs, our families, our friends  
and our colleagues for CTU's

## Annual Member Picnic and 40th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, June 26, 2014  
4-7 p.m.  
C-T Union Hall  
2990 East Lake Lansing Rd.  
(Corner of Lake Lansing & Hagadorn.  
Look for the big Sparty.)

Handicap parking only in the  
CTU parking lot. Others  
please park in nearby lots.

Friends and family welcome.  
CTU provides the food and softdrinks.  
Games! Prizes! Activities for the kids!  
Get down & dress for the '70s if you're so inclined.  
CTs, please check in at the welcome tent.

Representing clerical & technical workers at MSU since 1974

# CTnews

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](mailto:Deb@ctumsu.org)

### Vice President:

Kim Smith [Kim@ctumsu.org](mailto:Kim@ctumsu.org)

### Treasurer:

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### Secretary:

Tracy Rich [richt@msu.edu](mailto:richt@msu.edu)

### Directors:

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Norma Teague [teaguen@msu.edu](mailto:teaguen@msu.edu)

## CTU Staff

### Contract Administrators

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Dan McNeil [Dan@ctumsu.org](mailto:Dan@ctumsu.org)

### Financial Manager

Patricia Shackleton [Patricia@ctumsu.org](mailto:Patricia@ctumsu.org)

### Organizational Manager

Barb Harris [Barb@ctumsu.org](mailto:Barb@ctumsu.org)

### Communications Specialist

Cherylee Finney [Cheryl@ctumsu.org](mailto: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 Cherylee Finney.

# Members take care of business

With 53 CTs in attendance, we had a quorum for our April 29 Membership Meeting.

Our Executive Board is required to govern the union according to our constitution *except* when we have a quorum of members at a regular or special meeting. In that case, the members govern. [Kristen Rule]

At the April 29 meeting, the members passed a resolution in support of a minimum wage increase in Michigan (see page 4) as well as approving \$44,600 to replace the parking lot and drain basins at our union hall. The members also voted



CT Union Representative Rosie Garcia at the April Membership Meeting with one of the carnations distributed to acknowledge Administrative Professionals Day.

to replace the curbs for the parking lot landscaping that is required by Meridian

Meeting continued on p. 4

# CTclassifieds

**For sale:** House. Two story home with full basement, E. Lansing. Pictures can be checked out on line. Home is currently listed with a realtor, but contact owner directly for better price.

Within easy driving, walking, or biking distance from MSU. House is one block off Hagadorn and five blocks from Grand River at 515

Lexington Ave. New furnace and windows. Newly refinished hardwood floors. Contact Justin at 517-643-0733 or Jim at 517-281-6968.



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## Wanted:

Stationary exercise bike with leg and arm movement. No fancy attachments needed. Call 989-640-1037.

## Membership Meetings

Meetings for the rest of 2014 will be held in 252 Erickson Hall on Thursday, July 17, and Wednesday, October 29. 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!

**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. [Rebecca Mansel]

## 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. Contact Cherylee Finney at [Cheryl@ctumsu.org](mailto:Cheryl@ctumsu.org). 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.



# Picnic continued from p. 1

companies couldn't justify paying women less based on the argument that women traditionally earn less under the "going market rate," effectively wiping out the claim that a wage differential was justified "simply because men would not work at the low rates paid women."



**H**ere at home, 1974 was the year that MSU clerical and technical workers were recognized as a bargaining union. [Denise Rabi]

We called ourselves Michigan State University Employees Association back then, and we went directly to work fighting for a contract.

And what a contract it was. It provided substantial raises and benefit increases, a fully developed grievance procedure ending in binding arbitration, an excellent layoff mechanism, a union shop that would secure our financial concerns, and a provision for a classification system.

I think a lot of people forget—or don't realize—that, without a union and without a contract, workers are not entitled to negotiate wages and benefits or defend ourselves against arbitrary, capricious or malicious managers and decisions.

That's why those CTs in 1974 rallied in support of a union—after the employer decided to withhold a scheduled \$60 per year raise.



**Our union's first logo:** Originally called Michigan State University Employees Association, we changed our name to Clerical-Technical Union of MSU in 1982.

**I**n the years since 1974, we have faced many challenges and learned from both our mistakes and our successes. We continue to build on the foundation laid by the CTs in 1974.

And now, after 40 years of sacrifice, hard work, solidarity and triumph, it is time to take a short break, have a good time and enjoy each other's company!

CTs—along with our families, friends and colleagues—will celebrate with a big picnic and anniversary bash on Thursday, June 26, from 4 to 7 p.m.

This is a family friendly event, so definitely bring the kids and grandkids!

In acknowledgment of our 40th anniversary, this picnic will be bigger and better than those of previous years. We are planning some great food (with Chef Dan at the hotdog station once again), a face-painting clown, door prizes and games (including our famous cake walk).

We encourage everyone to get down and dress in '70s attire. The decade spans many styles, so choose one (or more) and come boogie. We will do our best to provide the proper atmosphere.



**Y**ou'll notice some changes in the parking lot this year. The asphalt, which has looked worse and worse after each winter, didn't make it through this year's polar vortex. Our drainage basins and island curbs were also collapsing. We found a union company, Reith-Riley Construction in Lansing, to replace the asphalt and make the other repairs.

All of these repairs will be completed before the picnic, so it will be nice and shiny. [Scarlett Doyle]

Because of the tents, vendors and games, however, we are asking people to park in nearby lots. There is a lot just north of the CTU building, and you can also park in the lots of the school and

shopping center. Only handicap parking will be allowed in the CTU lot.



**T**he coming year will bring the challenges and changes we have come to expect after 40 years. We will be negotiating our contract, dealing with right to work, defending our rights in the workplace, shining in our day jobs. . . .

It's a fight worth waging and we are up to the challenge, but let's take this one day out to get together with our colleagues, families and friends, put our feet up, let our hair down and get our groove on.

"Catch you on the flip side!"



April 24, 2014—UR Angel Loveall (left) participated with her daughter in "Take Your Child to Work Day." Because this year's theme was "Plant a Seed: Grow a Future," CTU contributed to the event by providing seed packets to attendees.



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

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Meeting continued from p. 2

Township, leaving the dollar amount subject to the approval of the Executive Board. The members directed the Board to fund the parking lot projects from the contingency fund. [Audrey Smith]

The meeting focused on CTU's finances. Certified Public Accountant Jim Nyquist presented the audit for 2013 and said we had, once again, received a "clean opinion" of our financial statements, meaning that our finances are presented fairly and conform to generally accepted accounting principles. CTU Treasurer Jan Wallace presented the 2013 budget.

President Deb Bittner discussed several issues including our upcoming picnic and CTs' participation in Project 60/50+40.

Winners of the door prizes: Jan Wallace and Jean Lepard each won \$50, Julie Stoner won a CTU laptop bag, Sierra VanDenHeuvel won a CTU lunch bag, and Walt Peebles won a special Workers Memorial Day Prize.

### **CTU resolution in support of increasing the minimum wage:**

- ◆Whereas a decent minimum wage is essential to a healthy society and economy, and
- ◆Whereas, when adjusted for inflation, today's minimum wage is worth \$2 less than in 1968, and
- ◆Whereas every worker deserves the right to a living wage and a voice on the job, and
- ◆Whereas poverty wages are exploitation that damages the economic and social well being of all who work, produce and benefit from a healthy society, and
- ◆Whereas historically the CTU has supported raising the minimum wage to a level that moves working families out of poverty, therefore
- ◆Be it resolved that the CTU will support efforts to raise the minimum wage and tie future increases to at least the level of inflation.

*—As passed by CTU members,  
April 29, 2014*



### **July Membership Meeting**

July promises to be hot! Get to the Membership Meeting early to share some ice cream and socialize with your CT colleagues. We will be discussing issues of interest to our members, including union finances. Several door prizes will be awarded.

**Thursday, July 17**  
**252 Erickson**  
**5:20 p.m.** (arrive early for socializing)

