



Working to relax

President Bittner advises us to take advantage of the summer, p. 3.



Goodbye Barb

After 18 years at the CTU, Barb Harris is moving on, p. 3.



Check out the calendar

Attend some interesting events—the work isn't going anywhere, p. 4.



CT news

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

May 2018

CTU members meet

Certified Public Accountant Jim Nyquist presented the results of the 2017 audit at our April Membership Meeting.

CTU had a “clean” audit, Nyquist said, because the financial statements “present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Clerical-Technical Union of Michigan State University

as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

Nyquist said that, financially, this was a good year for the union because the market is up. [Kristine Mikek]

Meeting continued on p. 2



April 27, 2018—Members socialize prior to the meeting.



The CTU Annual Picnic

Come as you are! Friends & family welcome!
CTU Provides the food and soft drinks!



Thursday, June 7, 2018

4–7 p.m.

**Patriarche Park
East Lansing**

Fun! Games! Prizes! Cakewalk!
Activities for the kids!

CTnews

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

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Organized and
independent
since 1974!

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To be announced

Organizational Manager

Barb Harris *Barb@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.

CTclassifieds

For sale:

▼ **Attention quilters:** Unit holds 60 slots of Fat quarters material. Would like to sell for for \$60. If interested, leave message at 517-980-0832 or email *ncailloeu@hotmail.com*.

Employment:

▼ **Companion:** Need male person (19 to 30) from the Lansing/East Lansing area who will spend 2 or 3 hours with an older man on Tuesdays for the summer. Must be flexible enough for kayaking or bicycling with him, and transporting him to a senior place. Email *ncailloeu@hotmail.com* or reach me by phone at 517-980-0832 (leave a message). I will respond after 7 p.m. (I work during the day). Wage is \$10 per hour.

Free:

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

Membership Meetings

The remaining 2018 CTU Membership Meetings will take place in Room 1310 Anthony Hall on Thursday, July 12 and Wednesday, October 24. Meetings start at 5:20 p.m., but doors open at 5 p.m. 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

Although the constitution requires at least one executive board meeting per month, they usually are held twice a month on first and third Tuesdays.

**CTU Office
5:15 p.m.**

Members welcome!

NOTE—only one meeting in July (July 17) due to the holiday.

Meeting continued from p. 1

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Treasurer Tracy Rich presented the budget for 2018.

Civility

The stress may be getting to us, according to Contract Administrator Meredith Place.

In the last couple months, she said, there has been an increase in the number of minor issues causing conflicts between coworkers and with management.

Place discussed Article 4 of our contract, the “Fair Employment Practices” clause, which commits both CTs and management “to promoting respect, civility, teamwork and empowerment in the work place.”

Place recommended that CTs call the union about issues before they get out of hand. She is available to help talk through the problem, give advice, or take other steps as required by the situation. [John Shutt]

Member input and questions

“What should we do if our department says our job might become an AP position?” asked a member.

Bittner replied that anyone who hears that a CT job will be moved out of the bargaining unit should call the CTU.

Another CT asked how members can provide input prior to negotiations. (Our contract expires in 2019.) Bittner said that the negotiating team always welcomes support and input from members. In the past, the union has utilized questionnaires and meetings to get input. CTs also can call or email anyone on the negotiating team when it is established. We have also held rallies to support the team. Bittner asked anyone with additional suggestions to contact her.

Another CT reported that MSU medical doctors are requiring that patients sign new forms authorizing treatment.

Door prize winners: Carmen Elliott won \$50; Rebecca Ives won a CT Professional Day Prize (\$60); Michelle Jenkins

Winners continued on next page

When relaxation becomes work!

President Deb Bittner

Our union office sits across the street from an elementary school at the corner of Lake Lansing Road and Hagadorn, so we witness, every year, the wild abandon that some young students demonstrate when school days give way to summer vacation.

I'm sure I'm not alone in feeling a little jealous. Summer still brings us the *promise* of vacations, relaxation, hanging out with family and friends, but now we usually need to *work* to make sure those things happen. We work at our jobs and then we work to plan what we'll do when we take time away from our jobs. And we feel the pressure to work harder before and after we go on vacation to make up for "lost time." [Nancy Risdon]

But the socializing, the unplugging, the relaxation, the fun! This is the part of life that helps us be more productive in all of our endeavors, including work.

The endless winter is over, and that is something to celebrate.

Organizational Manager Barb Harris says goodbye

It's time, according to CTU Organizational Manager Barb Harris, to *light a shuck*. That's an old Texan phrase for goodbye, and Texas is where Barb and her husband Rich are relocating. They want to live closer to their daughters, both of whom reside in the Lone Star State.

"I have truly enjoyed my 18 years at CTU," Harris said. "Thank you to everyone for making my time here very rewarding and fun! I have made many friends, who I will miss."

"CTU has taught me so much about unions, social awareness, and how to be

Another thing to celebrate is that we get *paid* vacation. The law does not mandate paid vacation, but CTU members have formalized it in our union contract.

At the CTU office

We've had a few stressful changes here at the office. You'll see on this page that we are losing our organizational manager, Barb Harris, after 18 years. Barb has grown in her job to the point that we rely on her to keep us organized and on track on a daily basis. We understand why she wants to move closer to her family and we're happy that she is fulfilling that goal. But we will miss her.

Barb's loss is even more difficult since it comes on the heels of our financial manager's retirement in February. The Personnel Committee is in the process of filling that position and now must turn our attention to filling Barb's position also.

We are, however, meeting the challenges and keeping the chaos to a minimum. And everyone who works here

a better citizen," she added. [Mary Pease]

You might know Barb as the pleasant, helpful voice you hear when you call your union office or as the person who assists with check-in at Membership Meetings. As organizational manager, she does a lot to keep us all organized, and we will miss her.

Barb's last day will be June 8, so stop by CTU's picnic on June 7 to thank her for her service and wish her well.



"Without a union, this is the closest to the beach I can get for a paid vacation."

in the office is getting in some vacation time. Without that, I think it would be much harder to provide the excellent representation and work that we have all come to expect, and demand.

Time to party!

Here's one relaxing and fun event that you don't need to plan or work to enjoy: The annual CTU picnic on June 7. We'll be at East Lansing's Patriarche Park from 4 until 7 p.m. with food, soft drinks, door prizes, family entertainment, and opportunities to just sit and talk with old friends and new ones.

What better opportunity to put your feet up and relieve some stress? Bring the family and let CTU handle dinner this one night. [Michelle Church]

Now, a warning about those children running out of our schools to embrace the summer: Be very careful on the roads! These kids are working off lots of excess and unpredictable energy. Remember those days?

Winners

continued from previous page
won two Lugnuts game tickets (\$52); and Brenda Bailey, Barbara Christian, Cynthia Collings, Brenda Franklin, Mary Firdawsi, Adam Harper, Rita Jenkins, Cammy Nelson, Debra Melony Peabody, Andrea Rafferty, Judy Redding, and Audrey Smith won assorted CTU promotional items—CTU "swag."



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Take time for fun and interesting events. At home or on the job, the work will still be there when you return.

CTcalendar

June 7. CTU Annual Picnic. See page 1.

June 13. Recipe for Health Cooking Series: Lentils. Brody Square Demonstration Kitchen, 12:10–12:50 p.m. Fee: \$10.50 entrance fee to Brody Square buys your lunch with cash or a meal plan. Register at <http://health4u.msu.edu>.

June 13. 2018 Elder Abuse Symposium, 1:30–4:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. Check-in begins at 1 p.m. To register (not required) call 517-887-1467 or email daviss@tcoa.org.

June 19. Executive Board meets. 5:15 p.m. CTU Conference Room. Members welcome.

Register now for the pre-enrollment information session of MSU's Breathe Easy Program, which takes place on Wednesday, **September 19**, from 1:30–3 p.m. Register also for the actual sessions, which take place on Wednesdays from **September 26 through December 12**, 1:30–3 p.m. This free tobacco and nicotine cessation program features behavioral support and medical evaluation. Registration and more information at <http://health4u.msu.edu>.

URdistricts

The following members have been appointed or reappointed to the UR position in their respective districts:

▼ **District 1** (Administration Bldg. [Floors B, 1]: Reach **April Moore** at 432-3956 or mooreap@msu.edu.

▼ **District 3** (Diagnostic Center for Population & Animal Health, Basell Bldg. (MBI), Henry Ctr., Alliance Dr., 4000 Collins Rd.): **Jeremy Herring** can be contacted at 432-5837 or herrin59@msu.edu.

▼ **District 23** (Plant & Soil Sci., Wharton Ctr.): Reach **Lisa Goforth** at 353-0364 or goforth@msu.edu.

Interested in becoming a Union Rep? Contact Vice President **Rosie Garcia** at 355-9672x273 or garciar@msu.edu for more information.