

Upcoming Events!

Labor Walk for Ed Markey
 Saturday, June 15
 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
 Pioneer Valley Central Labor
 Council, 640 Page Blvd.,
 Springfield, MA

**UAW 2322 Solidarity and
 Education Committee Meeting**
 Monday, June 24
 3:00—5:00 PM
 UAW 2322 Office, 4 Open
 Square Way #406,
 Holyoke, MA

**Strength and Unity**

By Jocelyn Silverlight, President

Dear UAW 2322 Members,

I am very excited to introduce myself to those of you I have not met yet. Just a few weeks ago I was elected to serve as your president for a three year term. Prior to the election, I was able to meet and talk with many of you and learn about your interests, your jobs, and your lives. In the upcoming weeks I will be contacting all of you so we can get to know each other and so I can serve and represent you best.

I come from the Graduate Employee Organization where I served as a Co-Chair for two years. During my time as GEO Chair, I worked to increase member involvement, fight against negative changes to our health insurance, bargain our new contract, create spaces for

those not traditionally represented, hold trainings on the diversity of our members, and so on.

Before that, I taught courses for the Office of Community Service Learning on leadership and civic engagement. I just recently graduated with my Masters in Social Justice Education, where I studied systems of oppression and privilege with an emphasis on gender. I facilitated courses in Intergroup Dialogue and am especially interested in communication through and across identity. I plan to bring much of what I studied into my role as president of UAW 2322. I realize that we are not just workers, we are people with lives and experiences that are affected by our many and varying identities. Because we are an amalgamated local representing

workers from many different lines of work, our identities will be shared and also different. It is within those differences that we can find strength and unity. I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you to represent a variety of identities.

I am so honored to have been elected to represent you and lead UAW 2322 to a brighter future. Our local has such a strong history of creating positive change for our members and communities, and I am excited to continue to do so. Please feel free to contact me at jocelyn@uaw2322.org or call me at 413-534-7600.

In solidarity,

Jocelyn Silverlight
 President UAW 2322

Brooks' Brief**ServiceNet HomeCare Nurses**

The struggle for a fair contract continues. After 14 months we have resolved many of the language articles, but we are still far apart on wages and other economic issues. Kelly Covey, Jeffrey Sullivan and Wendy Delaney wrote a great letter to the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Check it out!

In addition to Kelly, Jeffrey, and Wendy, the following members have all been active participants in the bargaining sessions: Shirley Markham, Maya Jensen, Sara Fishburn, Linda Boulanger and Judith Fritz. Special thanks to Shirley for her exhaustive work writing and editing proposals and advocating for a quality HomeCare nursing program.

**Joint Council: Democracy In Action**

By Court Cline, Servicing Rep.

Our union, UAW 2322, is an amalgamated local, which means that it is a union comprised of 18 shops that have joined together for mutual benefit, solidarity, and strength. The shops in UAW 2322 vary in size from as few as three members to more than 1,700 members. In order to prevent the largest shop in the union from overwhelming the democratic decision-making process of the Local, the UAW constitution calls for the creation of a Joint Council.

The number of members in Joint Council is proportional to the amount of dues paid to the

Local, with every shop having at least two representatives. This means that our smallest shop of three members has two seats on the Joint Council, and our largest shop of 1,700+ members has six seats on the Joint Council. Members of the Executive Board (E-Board) are also members of the Joint Council, but they are required to act in E-Board (and on Joint Council) on behalf of the good of the whole union, and not solely as representatives of their home shops. If every shop sent a full amount of Joint Council members to the monthly meetings, our council would have almost 50 members. Recently, Joint Council meet-

ings have been as small as 10 members.

It is vital for all of the 18 shops in UAW 2322 to participate in Joint Council. The meetings are currently held on the 4th Wednesday of every month (except August) from 6:00-7:30 PM at 4 Open Square Way, #406 in Holyoke. Joint Council is democracy in action, and these meetings give you a way to participate in the decision-making process of the union. If you have any questions about how to get involved with Joint Council, please contact a UAW staff member or your servicing representative at (413) 534-7600.



“Look Beneath the Shine”: UAW Organizing at Nissan Plants

By Ryan Quinn, Servicing Rep.

When Nissan first announced that it would build an auto plant in Canton, Mississippi in 2000, it marked the end of a race to the bottom between that state and Alabama. Mississippi won after offering some \$295 million dollars in subsidies to the Japanese auto manufacturer, and estimated that the plant would create about 4,000 jobs directly, with a number of additional jobs

created locally by suppliers and parts manufacturers.

A May 2013 report by Good Jobs First commissioned by the UAW found that subsidies to Nissan from Mississippi and Canton amount to more than \$1.3 billion dollars – more than four times what Mississippi had initially offered. Good Jobs First further found that many of the jobs promised by Nissan back in 2000 have

been temporary positions, hired through employment agencies.

Workers at Nissan have been organizing with the UAW in order to improve their working conditions and get a voice at work. The campaign has extended beyond the plant walls and into the community, with workers addressing church pastors, civic leaders, and students. The UAW has sup-

ported this effort by publicizing the campaign outside auto shows around the world, including the New York International Auto Show where members of UAW Region 9A and UAW Local 2322 leafleted outside the Jacob Javits Center in the first week of April. UAW 2322 members can learn about other ways to support these workers and read the Good Jobs First Report by going to www.dobetternissan.org.



Member Profile: Erin Wilson

By Nancy Fish, Servicing Rep.

Shop: Cutchins Residential Unit

When Erin Wilson graduated from WNEC in 2004 with a Bachelor of Social Work, she knew she wanted to work with adolescents in the field of mental health. She had never been part of a union shop and knew almost nothing about collective bargaining. She felt nervous at her job interview with the Cutchins Residential Program when the Steward asked her how she felt about working in a union shop. She was embarrassed to admit that she had no experience with unions. The Steward had the contract with her and took it out to share with Erin. From that first interaction on, Erin always felt like a part of the union community. After Erin had been at Cutchins for four months, it was time to bargain a new contract, and the bargaining committee was looking for members to join. Erin was worried that she wouldn't be able to contribute after such a short time at Cutchins, but she was welcomed onto the committee and felt like she was a part of the team and a community with a voice at the table. There were real possibilities to make a difference. She has been on every

ence. She has been on every bargaining committee campaign since she started working at Cutchins in 2004, and took on the leadership role of chief negotiator for the last two.

current position helping troubled youth. But she developed a passion for activism and advocacy, and chose instead to study law, focusing on Public Interest Law. Erin studied, worked hard

how tough the job market was, even for attorneys, Erin took a full time position at Cutchins. On her very first day as a full-time employee, Erin proudly filled in her union card once again and resumed her position as Steward soon after.



Erin is grateful for all of the opportunities that have been afforded her through being involved with the Local. She attended Joint Council (JC) for a year and a half and was excited to be a part of the larger union community. Being on JC expanded her view of unions and her Local. Erin enjoyed learning about other shops at JC; hearing about the experiences of members at other workplaces made her a better Steward.

Erin always thought that she would pursue a career as a therapist, which seemed like a natural extension of her undergraduate work and her

(including relief hours at Cutchins), graduated from WNEC Law in 2011, and passed the bar that summer. After graduating and realizing

Erin always felt encouraged to attend trainings, meetings, and events, and has attended an AFL-CIO training in Springfield, several UMASS Labor Center trainings, and has even spent a week at the UAW Family Education Center in Michigan at Black Lake. She hopes to encourage other union members to take advantage of trainings and classes like these to expand their education about union involvement.