

Upcoming Events!

UAW 2322 Women's Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 18
(Please call our office for time and location)

UAW 2322 Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, March 13
6:00—8:00 PM
UAW 2322 Holyoke Office
4 Open Square Way
Holyoke, MA 01040

UAW 2322

Joint Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 19
5:00—6:00 PM
UAW 2322 Holyoke Office

UAW 2322 Skating Party

Sunday, April 13
12:00—1:50 PM
Mullins Center, UMass Amherst



The Potential to Grow Stronger

By Jocelyn Silverlight, President

Please take a minute to read through this newsletter and learn about all the amazing things your fellow workers have been up to over the past few months. UAW 2322 Members have attended a Civil Rights dinner and a breakfast with legislators, lobbied at the Statehouse on behalf of workers across Massachusetts with the UAW 9A CAP Council, started a Women's Committee, rallied outside the courthouse in Springfield alongside Springfield No One Leaves, and more! But please don't worry: if you missed any of these events, Region and Local staff, leadership, and members are constantly coming up with new

opportunities for all of us to be involved in creating a powerful movement of workers in our individual shops, across this region, and nationwide. Be sure to check your email and the website with opportunities for trainings, Local events, committee meetings, and actions. Over the next few months, we as a Local will embark on some structured planning for the future with the guidance of the UAW International. I believe we have the potential to grow even stronger and more unified as a Local through the process of collaboratively developing a vision for UAW 2322's future. We will begin by setting goals for fully mobilizing all eighteen of our existing units. As you

know, our union has a strong history of standing up for workers' rights in a range of ways including political activism, civil rights work, contract negotiations, education, coalition-building, and direct action. The coming months will be an important chance to reflect on that amazing history and shape our collective future as UAW 2322 members. Please feel free to get in touch with me at any time for ways to get involved in this process!

I wish you the best with making it through this long winter, and look forward to working with all of you as we continue building a fully empowered and ever-stronger UAW 2322 together.

UAW Region 9A Civil Rights Dinner an Inspiration to All

By Enku Ide, GEO Member

The UAW has historically stood shoulder to shoulder with some of the nation's most ardent civil rights defenders. This is one reason many bosses, committed to racial domination as a strategy to divide workers, are fighting against our union's efforts in Tennessee and Mississippi today. On 1/24, nine members and leaders from UAW 2322 were inspired by the testimonials of civil rights activists honored during the Region 9A civil rights dinner. Wendy Fields Jacobs, who cut her teeth in 9A and now serves as Executive Assistant to UAW President Bob King, implored the crowd to take an anti-poverty agenda seriously. We have to walk the walk and "move capital," to build a

movement for more equitable distribution of wealth, she reminded us. Derrick Johnston, the Mississippi NAACP President, was also honored. According to Allyce Belton (2322 Member, SPCA-New Beginnings), this strong

supporter of the Nissan Workers organizing their plant in Canton, MS, "inspired me to want to work harder and do better for my students so they don't have to go through what I went through in school. Whether it be putting a

stop to bullying or providing more one on one learning time, or even just being the positive, consistent role model or them when they don't have that at home." One thing that unites UAW Local 2322 members across our shops is our commitment to serving local communities, and improving the lives of those we work with. We are a civil rights local. Another civil rights local, 2320, the Legal Services Staff Association was honored for their recent strike. 2320 provides legal services to those most in need, and most likely to be abused by the classist/racist legal justice system. Their six week strike provided a contract for the workers to better protect the civil rights of all New York City residents.



2322 members with leadership (left to right): Danielle Alessio, Kevin Felton, Enku Ide, Essie Ablavsky, Wendy Fields Jacobs (Executive Assistant to Bob King), Anders Van Minter, Julie Kushner (UAW 9A Director), Allyce Belton, Karmen Green, Bob King (UAW International President), Jocelyn Silverlight (UAW 2322 President)



UAW Community Action Program Conference

By Jocelyn Silverlight, UAW 2322 President

Recently UAW 2322 President Jocelyn Silverlight and Trustee Luke Pretz attended the UAW CAP (Community Action Program) Conference in Washington, DC. Silverlight and Pretz joined other members of our UAW Region 9A and members from all over the country to learn and participate in political programs that effect our membership. Silverlight and Pretz spent three days hearing from speakers such as Representative Marcia Fudge from Ohio, U.S. Secretary of Labor, Thomas Perez, House Democratic Leader, Nancy Pelosi, Representative Joseph Kennedy III from Massachusetts and Vice President Joe Biden.

Silverlight was interviewed by the UAW and spoke of the impact of hearing Representative Fudge speak. The article wrote, "She said it was encouraging

seeing a woman in such a powerful position of leadership in Congress. 'To have such a powerful woman of color leading us

is inspiring. She is breaking the mold,' said Silverlight." You can read the whole article at: <http://www.uaw.org/articles/bo>

b-king-'are-you-ready-fight'

Attendees of the CAP Conference also spent a day holding our elected officials accountable by meeting with them in person. Pretz met with Massachusetts Legislators and spoke with them about the need for funding higher education, increasing minimum wage, earned paid sick time and spoke on the need to stop a fast track of the Trans Pacific Partnership.

Silverlight met with legislators from Vermont to speak on the same issues, but also pressed them to contact the Goddard College acting President to urge the administration to come back to the table and bargain with the Goddard College Faculty and Staff units represented by our Local.



Left to right: Maida Rosenstein (President UAW 2110), Bob King (UAW International President), Jocelyn Silverlight (UAW 2322 President), Luke Pretz (Trustee 2322), Wendy Fields Jacobs (Executive Asst. to Bob King)

Advocating for Workers at UAW Region 9A Lobby Day

By Anna Waltman, Graduate Employee Organization Co-Chair

Six GEO-UAW members and nine of our UAW Local 2322 brothers and sisters joined workers from all over Massachusetts today at the state house in Boston for UAW Region 9A Lobby Day! Along with representatives from a domestic workers' rights organization and Brazilian Immigrant Center/Centro do Imigrante Brasileiro, we met with Representatives and Senators from all over the state to discuss the urgent need for increased funding to higher education, legal aid services, and early childhood education, as well as the need for a Domestic Workers'

Rights Bill that will grant over 100,000 workers in Massachusetts the basic right to a safe, harassment-and-assault-free working environment (among other important protections). We also encouraged legislators to move a bill providing for earned paid sick leave out of committee, and discussed the importance of raising the minimum wage with Representatives (that bill has already passed in the Senate!). It was great to meet and talk with so many of our fellow workers from the Region, and to stand up together to demand action on these important issues.

