

UAW Local 2322

Working News

Volume 2, Issue 2

Winter 2006

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Local 2322 Summer Family Picnic



Ann Lafreniere of Springfield Day Nursery receives a Bread & Roses award from 2322's Vice President, John McGrath, and Union Rep/Organizer Leslie Edwards.

At the end of the meeting Bread and Roses awards were given to members in recognition of their valuable contributions to the UAW Local 2322 and for their support of workers rights.

You can view more picnic photos online at www.uaw2322.org (click on the image galleries). Watch our website for upcoming events and if you wish to help plan one or more of the events, consider joining the Social Committee.

Over 50 members were able to join us on a cool September afternoon for our annual family picnic. The grill was steaming and a table of goodies from the potluck were at hand. Most of our shops were represented throughout the day which allowed members to meet those from other areas of our Union and the work force.

A brief membership meeting was held with Srinivas Lankala, President of the Graduate Employee Organization, being accepted as the Executive Board's newest Guide.



UAW Local 2322 members sit under the pavilion at Nonotuck Park in Easthampton during the Bread & Roses award ceremony.



Cingular Wireless: A partner with its unions

- Local Union Press Association

So often you hear about companies that fight their own workers with anti-union policies. In the telecommunications industry, Verizon is one such company.

But did you know that there is one company that actually values its workers by rejecting bad business and anti-union practices? That company is Cingular and it is the nation's top wireless carrier.

About 38,000 Communications Workers of America members work at Cingular, and the union reports that the company engages in fair labor negotiations.

Cingular proves that even in a highly competitive industry like telecommunications, sound labor policies and financial success can go hand-in-hand. Like a growing number of employers, Cingular respects its workers and their rights, including the right to join a union. And that's something to think about the next time an anti-union company like Verizon asks you to re-up your contract. For a union-friendly choice and a 5 percent discount, visit <http://www.cingularswitch.com/union-discount>

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On November 7, 2006 Massachusetts made history by electing the first African American Governor in state history. This was accomplished in large part because of the incredible work of a dedicated grassroots movement and a flawlessly focused strategy on the part of the Patrick/Murray campaign.

In addition to taking back the corner office for the first time in 16 years; we elected Martha Coakley as our new Attorney General, reelected Tim Cahill as our Treasurer, Bill Galvin as our Secretary of State, and Joe DeNucci as our Auditor. The difference Unions made in this election can't be ignored. The UAW was one of the first Unions to endorse Deval Patrick believing he was the best choice and would be an effective leader who understood the needs of our members.

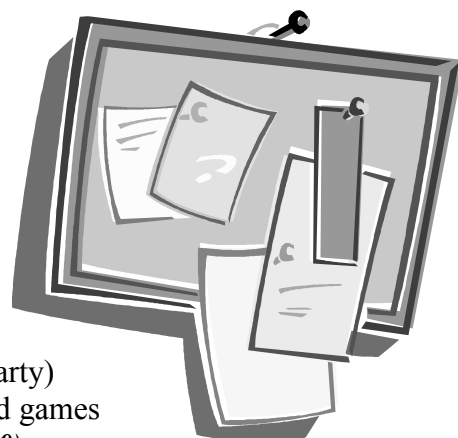
I'd like to personally thank all of our members, all other Union members, and the many activists who got involved to help accomplish what many thought was impossible. However, I'd also like to remind everyone that the job is not done. Too often our political leaders forget who they were elected to serve, that they have a responsibility to do what is best for ALL the people of Massachusetts not just those who have contributed the most to their campaign or have access due to their position in the community.

We need to hold our public servants accountable by keeping in touch to remind them what the needs and priorities of the average citizen are. Now is not the time to quit and think we are done because we finally have a Democrat back in the Governor's office. I hope all of you who were involved will stay active in the political process and those who have not yet begun will discover that their voice is important. We can all make a difference when we participate in our democratic process.

In Solidarity,

Ronald R. Patenaude

President UAW Local 2322



Upcoming Events

Ice Skating Party- for UAW 2322 members, friends, and family

WHEN: 2/17/07 Saturday 2-4 pm

WHERE: Mullins Center UMASS (free parking)

No cost to members and their guests

Bring your skates or use the Mullins Center Ice skates (kids sizes are limited) - no charge

Light refreshments served and music to skate to.

All are welcome (skating is not required for this Union Party)

Private room for coats, shoes, food, soft drinks, music and games

For more info Call Mimi (545.0705) or Nancy (534.7600)

Pride Day March - Beginning of May 2007 (date to be announced)

Summer Picnic - September 2007 (date to be announced)

Please watch your union bulletin board for more information as plans are solidified.

We will also post on our website and send you updates through our email group

(if you aren't receiving these emails please make sure we have your correct email address)

If you would like to help with any of the events listed above contact our office to join the Social Committee. You can help plan a day for all our members to enjoy.



Cutchins Residential Unit: A special thanks to the Stewards and Union contacts at the Cutchins programs in Northampton and Springfield; **Artie Graham, Patty Connors, Nate Harrison, Rebecca Loveman Pierce, and Erin Wilson.** Erin has recently accepted a position on Joint Council. The Council is the second highest decision making body for the Local. We are proud to have Erin join us. One Joint Council seat is still open for the Cutchins Residential Unit. *(you can see what seats are available at your shop on page 6)*

Cutchins School Teacher and Teaching Assistant Unit: A special thanks and shout out to the two Stewards over at the School Unit; **Chris Munson and Cindy Rauch.** Chris and Cindy are dedicated Teachers and Union activists. With the support of others they have maintained a strong Union team. Keep up the good work!

GEO: We're beginning contract negotiations for our seventh contract with the University on January 19th and we have a strong, diverse negotiating committee consisting of; **Swati Birla** (Sociology dept.), **Anna Curtis** (Sociology dept.), **Will Fischer** (Astronomy dept.), **Perry Irwin** (Communications), **Nate Johnson** (Labor Center), **Boone Shear** (Anthropology dept.), **Jen Turner** (co-chief negotiator/History dept), **Eesha Williams** (History dept), **Jeremy Wolf** (co-chief negotiator/Political Science dept.), and **Mike Zhan** (School of Management).



- ◆ Change your contact info
- ◆ See the photo galleries
- ◆ Review your contract
- ◆ Find your Rep or Steward
- ◆ View our newsletters
- ◆ View calendar of events
- ◆ Read local labor news
- ◆ See member discounts
See page 9 for new discounts
- ◆ See shop information

Would you like to support your fellow UAW workers?

You can by visiting:

www.uaw.org/uawmade/index.cfm

Where you'll find UAW made items such as:

Toys
Music
Sports
Publications
Automobiles
Appliances
Footwear
Beer
Lawn care
Housewares
Office items
Food
Homes
Medical supplies
Home repair
Auto parts

Help keep the UAW strong,
buy UAW made!

Goddard College: The faculty unit has been working on the following issues: we have a union-management team working on improving the faculty evaluation process; a side-letter agreement on this is close to being signed and implemented. We have been working with several faculty members to make sure they are getting compensated for all the work they are doing; one faculty person has requested help with clarifying a job description. The union, in conjunction with the faculty council, is in the process of submitting a formal request to the college for better communication between management and faculty regarding last minute hiring and student admissions. We have been working with another faculty member on a disability issue. Special thanks to Karen Werner, whose term as President of the unit has expired, for your contributions to the faculty union and the Local. Elections for President and Vice President are currently being held.

(continued on page 5)

60 Second Interview - Beatrix Gates, MFW Writing Faculty/Goddard College

Why are you a writer? I've always loved the sound of words, and there was a lot of arguing at the dinner table in my family, it was difficult to get a word in edgewise. Once I discovered the blank page and that I could own what I said, I was off to the races. In my family, we would write occasional poems. They were supposed to be rhyming, stupid and fun. I was really bad at them, even though I'm the poet.

Tell me about the opera you wrote. The opera is called "The Singing Bridge," and it was produced in 2005, at the Stonington Opera House in Stonington, Maine. The story was partly pulled from my own experience and partly invented. It's a lot about class conflict in the 1950s and 1960s. There's a whole chorus of women in the opera from the fish packing factories. I did a lot of oral histories with local working people and then there are the 'summer people,' who come for the summer and have a lot of money. It's a gory family tale--but class underscores a lot of the trouble. It's really the story of a girl who gets adopted away--the daughter of a 'summer person' and a girl from the community. And the daughter goes away and comes back and all hell breaks loose. The opera has a lot of sea lore and is set in New England. There's a sea captain who goes back in time, the presence of the sea and the working people of the coast all relate to the past in a very present way.

(continued on page 4)

60 Second Interview (continued from page 3)

In doing the oral histories, I loved hearing people talk about what it was like to be a woman growing up in Maine in a certain period—how news spread, how people got together, about community and how they dealt with things as they came up. Especially some of the older people I interviewed, in their 80s, who spent time working on the last of the coastal schooners. I loved hearing about that—there's also a lot of care in the language, the language of the place that relates to previous generations and to work.

People in the area loved the opera, they flipped, the line was out the door, the villain from the piece was booed in a local grocery store. The stories were familiar but they aren't seen on the stage very often.



Beatrix Gates of Goddard College.

Where are you from? Grew up in Cambridge, MA, but grandparents bought a house in Maine and I spent time there (Hancock, Maine) and then went back and lived there full time and I have a house there now. I have long ties to Maine. I haven't lived in Cambridge since I was 18. I've lived in NYC, California and Maine.

What do you like about teaching? I've been teaching writing and literature for about twenty years. I like turning people on to literature whether they're going to be writers or not. It *is* possible for a book to change your life, I believe that; they can find stories like theirs, or stories unlike theirs, so they can learn about the world. I always teach writing in conjunction with reading. They just have to be reading to see all the ways people have done things—it's such a wealth. I like teaching older students because they're committed but able to be surprised, by themselves and others. I like teenagers for the same reasons. I like their vulnerability—they may

act like they're closed but they're just trying to learn stuff in their own way. I like it when people get excited about not just expressing themselves, but also seeing the world is larger than themselves

What books are on your nightstand right now? What's on the pile...“Black Milk” poems by Tory Dent, who died last year...incredible poet, she died of AIDS and wrote amazing poems, ironic and raw poems and beautiful poems about illness and hospital experiences, it's not an easy book. I have that on my bedside. Also “Up in the Old Hotel,” by Joseph Mitchell—amazing essays about New York, wonderful book, full of surprises. Some of the essays were published in the 1930s and 40s. Then I've got a book called “Defining the Wind: The Beaufort Scale, and How a 19th-Century Admiral Turned Science into Poetry,” about the invention of the Beaufort Scale, which is used to measure wind. They're eclectic books...Also, “Memory Mambo,” by Achy Obejas, a novel about Cubans, she's a Cuban dike and “Ma Rainey's Black Bottom,” a play by August Wilson.

Tell us about your latest book: My new book of poems is called “Ten Minutes.” I hope the poems, in different ways are having a conversation with the world. The other thing I'm interested in is the mix of imagery within narrative and jumping back and forth and how that can carry the message.

How did you get interested in Union activities? In some ways, it's totally obvious. I've been working as an adjunct piecing together my livelihood for twenty years, so it's a no-brainer. The importance of having decent wages, health care, which would be my priority, and acknowledgement of the huge role we've played in people's lives—we're entrusted with the literacy of people in this country—the kind of work we've all done, is not small, it's really important. Having that experience of dealing with huge class size, with kids from all over the world who are dying to get it but how could I possibly reach that many people. Given that, it's insane that we aren't paid better and have to cobble together 5-6 things, which amount in total to a full-time position and a half and get no benefits, and are used to mop the floors, it's really hideous.

I remember the beginnings of getting a union together at Goddard, it really wasn't until we trusted ourselves to the UAW that things started to take off. I'm excited about what has happened, and I know more can happen. The more ground we have to stand on, the more we can stand with other people. The more we get a toe hold the easier it will be to acknowledge other people's struggles and reach out and become part of something larger. So I teach at Goddard in two programs and work as a free lance editor, editing anything from anthropology papers for professors that are going to a conference to people's novels, etc.

Any advice for aspiring writers? Keep a low overhead—I stole that one from Grace Paley. Make sure you make the time to do your work—whether that means with the door shut in the bathroom at 4 am, whatever it takes. You have to keep working and you don't want to be so hung up with the money stuff that you can't open your mind.

Would you like to be featured in our next 60 second interview? If so please contact your Union Representative/Organizer.



(continued from page 3)

Hampshire Educational Collaborative: Contracts are being printed as this newsletter goes to press. Copies will be sent out to HEC members as soon as they come in so please contact our office to verify we have your current mailing address. We would like to thank **Bob Simons** and **Jim Wakefield** for all their hard work in bargaining for your contract.

Mount Holyoke College Housekeeping Unit: There is no denying that women are strong and capable. Well, this is without a doubt a group of hard working proud Union members! I am honored to work with Union activists that time and time again show their solidarity and commitment to make a difference in their workplace. A special shout out and thanks to the Stewards, activists and Labor management committee members; **Eunice Coutinho** (activists, back up Steward and L/M), **Lana Guz** (activist and L/M), **Rhea Hastings** (activist and L/M), **Cheryl Lane** (activist, Steward, and L/M), **Mary Roco** (Activist, Steward, L/M and Executive Board Recording Secretary) and **Celia Stansko** (activist and L/M).

Nonotuck: We're gearing up for contract negotiations in 2007.

Northeast Center for Youth and Families (NCYF) Residential Unit: The Labor/Management Committee; **Paul Bailey** (Steward and Executive Board officer from the Maple program), **Dennis Manley** (Steward from the Grove program) and **Natalie Negron** (new steward from the Grayson program) invite all NCYF Residential Counselors to get involved. We don't need to start preparing for negotiations until Spring 2009 but that doesn't mean that there isn't good ole Union work to do. We are still looking for a Steward and L/M member from the Macomber program. Join us and make a Union difference.

RA Union: We're getting strong responses to a union survey about how we can further improve wages and working conditions and we have several new stewards including the two newest: **Kim Laycox** and **Edward McCorkindale III**.

Springfield Day Nursery: Union Members at Springfield Day Nursery won a great victory this summer. We began bargaining a new contract in early May and all management had to propose was; higher health insurance premiums, no guaranteed raises for the next 3 years, and mandatory work on snow days (or loss of personal time).

After 3 months of intense negotiations, the members voted unanimously to prepare for a strike. Several unfair labor practices were filed. Teachers, cooks and van drivers wore Union buttons and alerted parents to our struggle. Many parents sent postcards to management in support of the teachers. The press began contacting SDN executives. Finally, management, hoping to avoid an ugly strike, began proposing guaranteed raises. We ended up winning a 3 year contract with; 3% raises each year, improved health insurance contributions, one more holiday each year, agreement to write a joint Union-Management policy on Dignity and Respect, reimbursement for \$11,000 underpayment from last year's health insurance, Union meeting time at each staff day or training, and also improvements to Funeral Leave, Paid Time off, the vacation request process and course reimbursements.

Special Thanks to our courageous Bargaining Team; **Marie Belden, Pam Curto, Jen Jasmin, Ann LaFreniere, and Nora Robinson**.

ServiceNet: We have begun writing proposals for a new contract. Thanks for all your thoughtful responses to the Contract Survey. If you would like to help work for better wages and working conditions at ServiceNet, please contact Brooks at the UAW 534-7600. Thank you to our enthusiastic stewards and activists **Marie Amato, Ben Blohowiak, Sean Clarke, Bill Flaherty, Joseph Frimpong, Ashley Graves, Bill Harrison, Molly Harrison, Mary Hynes, Jon King, Martin Kline, Kendra Kuhn, Dan MacLeod, Danielle Martin, Rodney McCrae, Alan Prest, Joel Schulman, Barbara Stern, Judith Suriner, and Linda Ward**. These folks have helped make sure that Union staff at ServiceNet get the wages and fair treatment you deserve for the difficult work you do.

Sisters of Providence Behavioral Health: We will be starting negotiations in January. If you would like to be a part of the bargaining committee please contact your Union Representative. Thanks go out to **John McGrath** who noticed his attendance bonus was missing. He reported the discrepancy to the Union and together they fought to get 44 members CTO (combined time off) banks credited with the hours they were shorted. This was almost \$2,400 in wages!

Earlier this year there was also an issue with overtime payment. Employees who worked at more than one SPBH facility were

(continued on page 10)

DO YOU WANT TO BE THE DECIDING FACTOR?

Meetings are held throughout the year to discuss and decide on issues important to the Local and it's members. This includes but is not limited to such items as; the yearly budget, which grievances will go to arbitration, which events and people the Union should endorse, various internal policy issues and so much more.

The Highest governing body in the Local is **YOU**, our membership. Membership meetings are held twice a year and your voice directs the Local.

In between Membership meetings **Joint Council** is the highest governing body. It is composed of representatives from each worksite, proportionately distributed according to the size of the worksite.

Since our Local combines a variety of job fields, the Joint Council is an important forum for communication and decision making with representatives from all shops. If you want a chance to be involved with the Local on a higher level, if you want to learn more about the role our Local plays in a larger context, and see how your workplace fits into that picture, this is where to come. To nominate yourself for a seat on the Joint council, contact the Local office. An election may be necessary if there is no seat available for your shop.

We currently have the following seats open:

2 seats at Western Mass. C.O.S.H.	2 seats at Cutchins School
1 seats at Cutchins Residential	1 seats at Goddard College
33 seats at Graduate Employee Organization	2 seats at YWCA
2 seats at Hampshire Educational Collaborative	7 seats at UMass Resident Assistants
0 seats at Mount Holyoke College	1 seats at Nonotuck Community Childcare
1 seats at Northeast Center for Youth & Family	1 seats at Providence Hospital
3 seats at ServiceNet	2 seats at Springfield Day Nursery
2 seats at Springfield Partners for Community Action	

*Any member in good standing can attend a JC meeting and offer your input
(but if you don't hold a seat you cannot vote).*

In between Joint Council meetings the **Executive Board** is the highest governing body. This Board consists of the President, Vice President, Guide, three Trustees, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Sergeant of Arms.

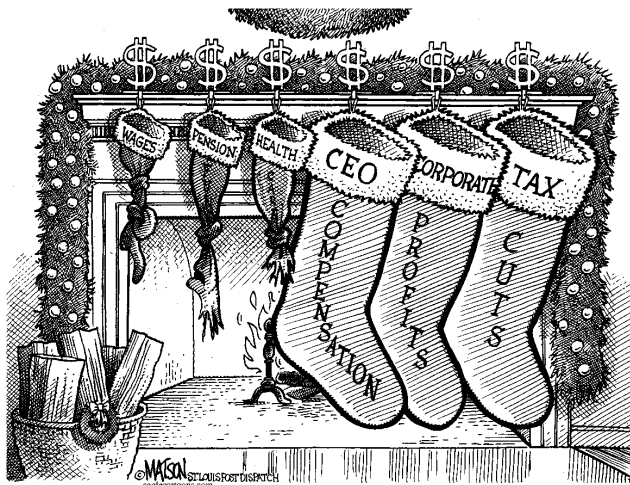
The Local will hold an election in May 2007 to elect new members of the Executive Board. If you would like to hold one of these three - year positions contact the Local office with the position you are interested in.

Description of duties will soon be available on our website for these officer's positions. Keep watching our website, your mailbox and your Union bulletin board for upcoming information about the elections.

MAY 2007
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!



Working News



"The grand prize is a job that pays union scale."

Would you like to write an article for the *Working News*? Maybe you have an idea, photo, joke puzzle or suggestion you'd like to see in future issues? Drop us a line and share it with us. We are always interested in hearing from our members.

CELEBRATE!

See if you can find all 37 events, from the list below, in the puzzle to the right. Words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. Words may also be written forwards or backwards. Good Luck!

Find these events:

New Year's Day	Juneteenth
Labor Day	Lammas
Veterans Day	Lughnassad
Thanksgiving	Rosh Hashanah
Christmas	Yom Kippur
Halloween	Lailat-UI-Quadr
Lohri	Shemini Atzeret
Eid al-Adha	Simchat Torah
Ashura	Eid-Al-Fitr
Tet Nguyen Dan	Cirio de Nazare
Imbolc	Diwali
Tu b'Shvat	Dia de los Muertos
Naw Ruz	All Souls' Day
Vesak	Bodhi Day
Sinhala	Virgin of Guadalupe
Beltane	Santa Lucia Day
Cinco de Mayo	Las Posadas
	Hanukkah

W L H A R O T T A H C M I S L K K Y N N M V B V K R G
W K K L F K T N M A L A H N I S V R L K R N C L O P H
B C J L T L X H I T B N T F L T R K K X K B L A Y P C
K N B G L H D L A J E R H K Q R B R L Y M G T R A A H
C B C P Y H A K Y N M R Z Q L H V Y G D T L N U M L R
R N Y M R W C Y K C K Y E A L A M M A S J K L H E L I
O N L P I P C J V Y M S S Z L D Q K R Q T R J S D S S
S E K D K P L H D A Z P G W T K R R R N T G Y A O O T
H P M I M B O L C D O M B I V A N N A T X C T F C U M
H U S N L W D V B S C N C Z V G I D A H J V M R N L A
A L J A K R E K A R X A R C L I N N T H G T H T I S S
S A U C M S P D C A R W G K F E N N I L D A W X C D Y
H D K G A H A R L E B R X H Y P E G A M L A W R X A N
A A J K H S A F G Y F U T U A E T A Z L E X L H B Y Y
N U R K J N X I B W D Z G H T K Z N O R D H H A A T L
A G T R E Z A J N E G N T E T N K W T J Q L S D D P T
H F I N B N T S J N T R N D A T E U Y U J Z R C G I X
T O F W Y O A J S E N U R W X E Y R N M B O T R K C E
X N L F G W D T T A J L K T N O J P N A B S C F L N X
X I A L T F G H L K D P Y Z M Z T C N A H G H H Z R M
J G D F Z H V T I E P H G K N P W H L K T V H V J T M
K R I K F J D D R D B L I Y A D A I C U L A T N A S N
G I E Z N M G M L J A P Y Q V E T E R A N S D A Y T X
H V T P J J M J N H P Y L R D A U Q L U T A L I A L H
R T K Q R L L M B U F N F J K W L M K Z L F I R H O L
L Z L Z N Q R B R N K C I R I O D E N A Z A R E B K F
K R M M N N N J K N D I A D E L O S M U E R T O S C R



Union Vote Still Matters

In Massachusetts and across the Nation, Unions made a big difference on November 7th by waging a massive get-out-the vote effort, which reached an unprecedented 13.4 million voters in 32 states. Since the beginning of the year, 205,000 AFL-CIO union volunteers contacted 8.25 million of their fellow union voters; worked on phone banks and made 30 million phone calls to union voters; mailed 20 million pieces of mail to union homes and distributed 14 million fliers to Union members at their worksites.

Union households voted 74% to 26% for Democratic candidates and union members made up one in four voters. In key battleground Senate races, union members voted 73% to 27% for Democrats. Educating our members on the positions candidates hold concerning issues important to them made the difference. 76% of union members who received a lot of information from their unions on working family issues voted for Democratic candidates.

Democratic candidates backed many basic bread and butter issues such as raising the minimum wage. Initiatives to raise the minimum wage passed in all states where it was on the ballot: Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Nevada and Ohio. In Arizona 94% of union members supported raising the minimum. Minimum wage ballot initiatives helped get out the vote in all six states.

Election night polling showed 69% of union members say they disapprove of Bush's job performance. Union voters also cited the war in Iraq, the economy and jobs as the issues that are of most concern to them.



UAW 2322 Staff and Members meet with Deval Patrick at the AFL-CIO Conference held in Springfield, MA prior to his election win.



Lt. Governor, Tim Murray, visited the UAW Local 2322 before a labor walk hosted by the Local to get the word out about voting.

November 7th was a victory for all of us who believe in the Union values that helped build this country and created the middle class. Everyone should be able to earn a living wage and we shouldn't have our jobs shipped overseas due to unfair "free" trade agreements that do nothing for workers in the countries where the jobs go and have no environmental protections, health & safety guarantees or protection of workers rights to form Unions.

Here in Massachusetts Deval Patrick and Tim Murray promised to listen to and work on behalf of working families. This was the second consecutive election where pro-labor Democrats earned a net gain of 3 seats in the State House. Anti-labor Republicans now hold the fewest number of seats since 1867.

In Massachusetts we also re-elected the greatest champion of working families in government, Senator Ted Kennedy. Union members around the country worked hard in their states and delivered the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, giving pro-labor Democrats the majority in both branches of Congress.

Senator Kennedy will support working families on the issues of health care, education, pensions and good jobs. His Bill "The Employee Free Choice Act" will allow workers to more freely exercise their human right to organize (and join Unions) and will now stand a chance of becoming law.

We must support (and hold accountable) our new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Massachusetts Legislators and Federal Legislators in their fight to expand the rights of workers and to protect retirees, the disabled and disadvantaged in our society if we hope to fulfill our dream and create the kind of country we believe America can be.



Going shopping? Don't forget to use your 2322 Member discount.

As a member of the UAW Local 2322 you are entitled to deals & discounts at a number of local businesses. All you need to do is present your UAW Local 2322 Member Card at the time of purchase. Supporting locally owned, community-minded businesses is an easy way to protest the labor practices (as well as the political & environmental policies) of corporate giants such as Staples, Barnes & Noble, Wal-Mart, etc. These discounts provide an opportunity to get a good deal and support your community.

Check our website and your Union bulletin board for current discounts and new ones.

New for our members



Spare Time Family Fun Center
(formerly Northampton Bowl)
525 Pleasant Street
Northampton, MA 01060

(1 free game of bowling with the purchase of 1 game. Valid M - F 9am - 5pm and Wed. & Sun. after 9 pm. Not valid with any other offer. Limit one free game per customer per day.)



Sales • Service • Rentals

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413-582-0733 or 413-210-7529
fax: 413-582-0744

Dorothy Beaumont, Owner/Manager
dorbeaun@earthlink.net

On the Haverthuck Trail
Beginning Spring 2007

** If you have ideas for businesses you'd like to see here, send us the information and we will try and contact them. Note: we are looking for places that are unionized, union friendly and/or locally owned.*

Excerpt from "Seeking Tenderness", for Matthew Shepard - Beatrix Gates

IV

Later, he will fly, wrists still bound to the fence, the wind lifting him off his feet.
He will fly toward them as they turn toward home after a night on the town.
We will be like billowing clouds that rake the plains this time of year,
change hour to hour, comb the grasses silver, then red, keep coming.
He will fly, one of a flock of birds that keeps darkening the sky as they pour over the plains with the force of water.
He will be flying with grace and purpose trying out all the angles learned by those who have gone before:
how to fly while being dragged through the hot dirt of Jasper, Texas at the end of a rope tied to the bumper of a pickup truck,
or how to sing through the eyes like the two women lovers looking for a house,
gagged then bound back to back, who took bullets to the head in southeastern Oregon.
He will fly because he is hungry for it, the beautiful mouth of the sky taking in all he has to give,
the tenderness of beating wings all around him.

People can find out more about Bea's book at <http://beatrixgates.blogspot.com>.
For info on Matthew and replacing hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance go to: www.matthewsplace.com

Happy Anniversary GEO!

October 31, 2006

As I was driving to work today in the typically stupid LA traffic, I realized this November will be fifteen years from the historic 1991 GEO/UAW Strike, the one which sealed the deal on health benefits and a grievance procedure with binding arbitration for UMass TAs.

I began my involvement with GEO in September of 1991, as a Research Associate or some such nonsensical title with the Mather Career Center. (I couldn't get any funding in the Philosophy Department where I was a PhD student – probably due much to my serious scholastic shortcomings). In spite of promises that I would retain the same pay from the work I had done for them in the 1990-1991 academic year, I had come back from the summer to find that I was losing \$1,000 per year, down from \$6,000 to \$5,000. This was a complete surprise, and I turned to GEO for help. I had been less-than-spectacular in my support of GEO, but due to the unbelievable determination and persistence of GEO volunteer organizer Mecke Nagel, I knew who would try to help me! GEO did go to bat for me, arguing my case up to the assistant provost.

My crummy deal, though, was but a small side issue as the campus was plunging headlong into a pitched battle over the contract. Through more conversations with Mecke, I began to invest more and more of my time in the union movement, wrote an article for the grad newspaper and eventually became a co-steward for the Career Center, all within two short months as the negotiations broke down. I will never forget the night that some 800 of us met in the Fine Arts Center auditorium and voted (with a small, small fraction of dissent) to go on strike.

What followed in the next two weeks changed my life. The University ground to a halt, classes were cancelled, and the media focused on Amherst. Somehow, a deal was struck, and we got probably $\frac{3}{4}$ of what we were after. It was a huge win, and the University knew it. I was inspired by the action and the effect that people working together could have against very difficult odds. I decided to apply for a job – any job – with GEO that was going to be paid for by eight "lost time" GEO TAs that were part of the strike settlement. When those jobs were filled in March, 1992, I was hired as GEO's first Political Advocate, and began what is now almost a 15 year career as a professional labor union staffer.

Since then, I worked for several years in Connecticut with a public employee union in various capacities: representative, lobbyist, newspaper writer, and finally organizer. I am now working for the Motion Picture Editors Guild, IATSE Local 700 as their national organizing director.

All that to tell you that GEO is where my work in the Labor Movement was born. The direction of my life was immeasurably altered by GEO and the men and women who held those offices before you and your staff. You are doing great work, folks, and please know that lives are far better than they would have been without a GEO to stand up for grad employees. I hope many of you on the GEO staff (and/or at the UMASS Labor Center) move on to take professional jobs in the labor movement because we need all the smart and experienced help we can get out here.

Tris Carpenter
National Organizer
Motion Picture Editors Guild, IATSE Local 700

PS And, yes, I got the money I was shorted! Still have the check stub!

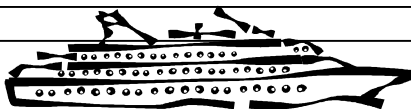


(continued from page 5)

not receiving overtime. SPBH considered these facilities separate corporations. Through the hard work of the Union, members at Providence Hospital received approximately \$40,000 to compensate for the overtime money they were shorted and as lost wages to those who should have been offered the overtime first based on their seniority.

Springfield Partners for Community Action: We will be starting negotiations in February. If you would like to be a part of the bargaining committee please contact your Union Representative.

Who's on board?



2322 Stewards

Cutchins Residential

Artie Graham
Nathan Harrison
Patricia Connors
Rebecca Loveman Pierce

Cutchins School

Christopher Munson
Cindy Rauch

GEO

Andy Barenberg
Emir Benli
Irene Boeckman
Gustavo Chaves
Byn Choi
Ame Christensen
Amy Dickinson
Bob English
Antonia Estrada
Will Fischer
Kevin Hartzell
Lindsey Hoemann
Perry Irwin
Marianne Joyce
Akamol Klaikherd
John Loftus
Kate Maiche
Mariela Martinez
Krishna Melnattur
Emily Porschitz
Vivi Sgourdou
Boone Shear
Lotte Smith-Hansen
Josh Stearns
Matt Stofflet
Laurie Taylor
Louis Theran
Emily Thompson
Eesah Williams

Goddard

Danielle Abrams
Dick Herrmann
Kristal Owens
Muriel Shockley
Lise Weil
Jane Wohl
Sarah Van Hoy

Mount Holyoke College

Eunice Coutinho
Cheryl Lane
Mary Roco

New Beginnings/SPCA

Linda Bess

Nonotuck

Susan Dorazio

Northeast Center

for

Youth & Families

Paul Bailey
Dennis Manley
Natalie Negron
Shawn Robinson

Providence

Violet Delacruz
Epifanio Diaz
Scott Hayden
John McGrath
Willie McCreary
Jody Pasquini

Resident Assistant Union

Kimberly Laycox
Edward McCorkindale III

ServiceNet

Debrah Allen
Marie Amato
Ben Blohowiak
Daniel Bussler
Sean Clarke
Ryan Crowley
William Flaherty
Joseph Frimpong
Laura Grant
Ashley Graves
William Harrison
Mary Hynes
Jonathan King
Daniel Kinsey
Martin Kline
Kendra Kuhn
Rodney McCrae
Alan Prest
Joel Schulman
Barbara Stern
Judith Suriner
Linda Ward

Springfield Day

Nursery

Marie Belden
Pam Curto
Jill Douglas
Wanda Hogan
Jennifer Jasmin
Ann Lafreniere
Vernita Reid
Nora Robinson
Yalin Valdes

If you would like to take an active roll in your union, contact your Union Representative/Organizer to find out how!

Thank you!

Thank you for your
Dedication!

Thank you!

Local 2322 UAW



Union Representative/Organizers

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Leslie Edwards

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Here's a picture taken at the Steward's training held at the UAW Local 2322 office this past October. Pictured above starting from the Left side (front to back): Erin Wilson, Barbara Stern, Dennis Manley, Naomi Fox, and Leslie Edwards. Right side (front to back): Brooks Ballenger, Louis Theran, Perry Irwin, and Nancy Fish.



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Stay in Touch!

Make sure we can get important news and information to you. Update your contact information with our office - don't forget to notify us anytime your name, phone number, address or email changes. For your convenience you can do this on our website www.uaw2322.org, just click on the member contact update form.

UAW Local 2322 welcome our members to stop by the office for a visit anytime. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Our staff is here to help you. If you want to see someone specific, please call first to make sure scheduling will permit time to meet with you (413.534.7600).

You can find directions online at www.uaw2322.org/node/207 or visit www.opensquare.com/map_directions.php

UAW Local 2322 Newsletter

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*UAW 2322 is a Member
of the Local Union
Press Association.*

