

Upcoming Events!

Immigration Reform Rally

Wednesday, April 10
Washington, D.C.

Join us at this rally! Contact info@uaw2322.org if you'd like to go!

UAW 2322 Solidarity and Education Committee Meeting

Monday, April 22
3:00–5:00 PM

UAW 2322 Office, 4 Open Square Way #406, Holyoke, MA

Worker's Memorial Day Event

Thursday, April 25

Northampton City Hall
Contact our office for more information!

Workers Memorial Day Observation

Friday, April 26
1:00–5:00 PM

Teamsters Local 404
115 Progress Avenue
Springfield, MA

Workers Memorial Day

Sunday, April 28

Western MA Pride@Work Postermaking and Prep Party

Monday, April 29
3:00–6:00 PM

UAW 2322 Holyoke Office

UAW 2322 Citizenship and Legislative Committee

Tuesday, April 30
3:00–4:00 PM

UAW 2322 Holyoke Office

May Day

Wednesday, May 1

Northampton Pride March

Saturday, May 4
11:30 AM

Between the Northampton Brewery and Parking Garage, Northampton, MA



By Ron Patenaude, President

Remembering Walter Reuther

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Shortly after joining UAW 2322 in 1998, I had the opportunity to attend the Walter and May Reuther Family Education Center in Black Lake, Michigan. It was truly a life altering experience.

Walter Reuther's dream was to have a place to train trade unionists and Black Lake has served that purpose since opening in 1970. Over the years, thousands of not just Labor activists, but community and political activists, have attended the center.

I attended in 1999 for Union Involvement (I attended a second time for Civil Rights training in 2000) and spent 5 days in the company of other UAW sisters and brothers from around the country.

When discussing this edition of the newsletter with Ryan and



Martin Luther King, Jr. and Walter Reuther in 1963.

the staff, I was reminded of all of the areas in which the UAW has been at the forefront of. The civil rights movement, environmental causes (yes, the UAW has had some issues there as well) many other unions and various social and economic justice issues benefited over the years from Walter Reuther's vision.

On May 9, 1970, President Reuther and his wife May, along with 4 other passengers, were killed in a plane crash. Walter's dream of a place where workers can be trained to be trade un-

ionists and better more active citizens lives on not only at Black Lake, but also in all of those thousands who have gone there.

To Walter Reuther, the Labor Movement was also a Social Movement. During my 15 years as a UAW member, I have had the privilege of hearing those sentiments expressed by UAW Presidents Stephen Yokich, Ron Gettlefinger, and Bob King.

The memorial at Black Lake is inscribed:

"There is no greater calling than to serve your brother, there is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well." -Walter P. Reuther and May Reuther in Brotherhood and Peace

Let us all strive to live those ideals.

Fraternally and in Solidarity,
Ron Patenaude



Join us at the Northampton Pride March on May 4

By Court Cline, Servicing Rep.

The Western Massachusetts chapter of Pride at Work, a national organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender folks who are part of the labor movement, is organizing a contingent for the 32nd Annual Northampton Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride celebration on Saturday May 4th in downtown Northampton. The theme this year is "Our Journey is Not Complete."

Pride at Work - Western Mass. invites all union members and allies to join us as we march to demonstrate mutual support of the LGBT community and

Association, Jobs with Justice, the Occupy movement, IBEW, CWA, and UFCW. This year, we hope to expand to even more representatives from



progressive labor. If you would like to help make posters and plan our contingent, please join us at the UAW Local 2322 office, 4 Open Square Way, Suite 406 in Holyoke on Monday, April 29 from 3:00-6:00 PM.

the Labor Movement for social and economic justice. Last year, we had the largest labor contingent ever with representatives from Mass. Nurses

On Saturday, May 4th, we will gather between the Northampton Brewery and the parking garage at 11:30am. Look for the UAW local 2322 and Pride at Work banners.

Special Earth Day Section



UAW Dissents on Keystone XL Pipeline Expansion

By Ryan Quinn, Servicing Rep.

The UAW has maintained its stance against expansion of the Keystone XL Pipeline despite pressure from other unions to support the project.

On February 26, 2013, the American Federation of Labor – Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) released a statement in favor of “expanding our pipeline infrastructure,” a move interpreted by many to be an endorsement of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline expansion project. Sean McGarvey, president of the AFL-CIO’s Building and Construction Trades Department, released a statement that day announcing that, “America’s Building Trades Unions are pleased that the AFL-CIO Executive Council today approved a resolution in support of a comprehensive energy policy that includes the expansion of our nation’s pipeline infrastructure, including the Keystone XL pipeline...The U.S. construction industry has been mired in a depression for over 4 years now, and shovel-ready projects like Keystone XL and other energy infrastructure projects are badly needed.” AFL-

CIO President Richard Trumka has attempted to clarify that the AFL-CIO has not endorsed the Keystone XL expansion specifically, stating that the federation’s statement “can be interpreted in different ways,” and that they came out in favor of pipelines in general as opposed to more carbon-intensive methods of transporting oil such as ships.

The BlueGreen Alliance, a coalition of unions and environmental groups founded in 2006, has also declined to take a stance on the pipeline expansion, but the BlueGreen Alliance’s initiatives are focused in large part on clean energy sources and climate change, and several of its member organizations, such as the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council, have strongly exposed the pipeline expansion for years.

The United Auto Workers, an affiliate union of the AFL-CIO and member of the BlueGreen Alliance since August 2010, has expressed opposition to the expansion of the Keystone XL



Map courtesy U.S. State Department

Former UAW President Walter Reuther on the Environment

“The labor movement is about that problem we face tomorrow morning. Damn right! But to make that the sole purpose of the labor movement is to miss the main target. I mean, what good is a dollar an hour more in wages if your neighborhood is burning down? What good is another week’s vacation if the lake you used to go to is polluted and you can’t swim in it and the kids can’t play in it? What good is another \$100 in pension if the world goes up in atomic smoke?”

pipeline for over a year. As early as January 19, 2012, the union made a statement in support of the Obama administration’s decision to reject House Republicans’ plan to expedite environmental impact studies and require a rapid decision on the pipeline by reaffirming that “addressing global climate change, establishing sustainable and secure energy sources, and creating and retaining safe and family-supportive jobs are keys to a positive future for our children and grandchildren.” The following day, the Laborers Interna-

tional Union of North America (LIUNA) left the BlueGreen Alliance, with LIUNA General President Terry O’Sullivan stating “we’re repulsed by some of our supposed brothers and sisters lining up with job killers like the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council to destroy the lives of working men and women.” Despite such criticism, the UAW has since maintained its stance that we should not increase the extraction of oil from the Canadian Tar Sands given current climate change and research on the impact of the project.

Special Earth Day Section

The First Earth Day

In 1970, the UAW helped fund the first Earth Day. The UAW's Department of Conservation and Resource Development had been working with environmental groups for several years before Earth Day organizer and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson came to the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department to ask for their participation in the first Earth Day in 1970, but his request led to the UAW getting more involved in the environmental movement.

In addition to funding efforts to put on Earth Day itself in April, the union worked closely with students at the University of Michigan to host the first teach-in on the environment on March 11-14, 1970.



Flyer for the first Teach-In on the Environment at the University of Michigan

The UAW on Increased Fuel Efficiency

By Ryan Quinn, Servicing Rep.

Following the election of UAW International Union President Bob King in 2010, the union joined the BlueGreen Alliance, a coalition of labor and environmental groups which develops research and policy initiatives about creating a green economy. This move signaled a renewed commitment to environmental issues for the UAW, a commitment that some skeptics doubted, given the perception by many that the UAW has always opposed fuel efficiency standards.

Over the past decade, the UAW has begun to move back towards its more progressive environmental history. When

Congress was debating increased Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards in 2007 and 2009, former UAW President Ron Gettelfinger said that the proposed increase to fuel efficiency standards "sets the stage for building a new generation of cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles here in the United States". UAW Vice-President for General Motors Cal Rapson added that "members of our union have never accepted the false choice between protecting our jobs and protecting our environment."

When CAFE standards were again up for review two years



Earth Day In The Workplace April 22, 2013

By Nancy Fish, Servicing Rep.

Celebrate Earth Day!

In honor of Earth Day, the UAW Local 2322 Conservation Committee is asking that you look around your place of work and see if it is easy for you and your co-workers to recycle. Are there recycling bins, clearly marked, out in the open to use? If yes, great! If not, how can you help support the Earth Day action at your local union and make recycling a priority at work and home? How can you and your union co-workers incorporate an earth-friendly system for unwanted paper, glass, plastic, and aluminum in your work place?

Reusable bins for sorting: place these bins near traditional waste basket with signs to encourage recycling all the materials that your town allows...it's that simple. Check with your town for the best way to keep your recycled items out of the landfill.

Does your program have a garden? Many Residential Counse-

lors and teachers use gardens for therapy, nutritional education, science, and health related activities. Work with your programs to make a garden plot. Compost your vegetable scraps and use to make soil. Compost fortifies your garden for super healthy plants. Composting can be easy if you have a container in the kitchen for your veggie scrapes. Composting reduces your trash, enhances your garden, and is earth friendly.

Bring and use your own reusable grocery bags.

Join a neighborhood/town cleanup effort.

Organize an Earth Friendly activity or event with your UAW Local 2322 co-workers.

For more information or support in your efforts please contact your Local UAW 2322 Conservation & Recreation Committee at 1-413-534-7600.

later, the September/October 2011 edition of *Solidarity*, the UAW's bimonthly news magazine, included an announcement from the UAW's Legislative Department calling significant increases to the CAFE standards "a 'win-win-win' - producing greater oil independence for our nation, a cleaner environment for ourselves and our children, and an increased number of jobs in the auto sector."

In 2012, President King spoke out in favor of increasing CAFE standards, following the UAW's involvement in discussions between Presi-

dent Obama and thirteen automakers to come to an agreement to raise fuel efficiency standards to 54.5 miles-per-gallon by 2025. King stated, "This new standard caps off a remarkable set of achievements by President Obama to save the domestic auto industry and put it on a path to long-term prosperity," said King. "Cleaner vehicles that significantly reduce our nation's oil consumption are good for the auto industry and its workers, good for the environment, and good for our nation's economy."

Big Changes Pending at NCYF and Cutchins

By Nancy Fish, Servicing Rep.

Many UAW Local 2322 members will soon be affected by big changes in the Youth Residential Treatment Programs; Northeast Center for Youth and Families (NCYF) and The Cutchins Programs in Northampton and Springfield, to name a few. Many of the pending changes are looming, and not yet realized. Workers' job descriptions will most likely change. Cutchins is currently bargaining over job description changes with the UAW members, as is our right as a union member. Counselors will need to drive more,

work alone more often, and shift their attention to provide services to the client's families, not just the client. Will workers need to use their own cars? Will employers help pay the cost of increased car insurance?

There is no guarantee that NCYF or Cutchins will even receive the full funding to provide current services. Who decides what a safe staff/client ratio is? Will there need to be lay-offs? Often direct care workers disagree with what the State and their employers say is adequate staffing.

Many programs that our UAW Local 2322 members work in are waiting for their employers to tell them if they've received the bid to provide services and stay in business. The time frame for when the bids will be awarded is now late spring (best guess).

Union workers' questions are left unanswered and many workers are unsure about their own job security and safety in a changing model of care. Is this new model cost effective? Workers deserve fair pay and fair benefits. Will the State provide adequate fund-

ing so workers are safe, trained and paid fairly? Will there be enough money to provide ongoing training and support for Counselors new duties and responsibilities? Will the new model of care for our community's troubled youth and families be served better with the focus shifting away from traditional Residential care facilities? Time will tell. Get involved with your shops Labor/ Management meetings and ask your Stewards, and Supervisors for updates.

2013 Massachusetts UAW Lobby Day a Success

On March 5, UAW 2322 President Ron Patenaude, Vice-President Ryan Quinn, Recording Secretary Court Cline, Eric Hopkins from ServiceNet, and Joanne Coakley from the Goddard College Faculty attended the Massachusetts Community Action Program [CAP] Council's "lobby day" at the statehouse. They joined more than 50 other UAW members from across the Commonwealth to speak with our state legislators about funding legal services, child-care and higher education, creating a domestic workers' bill of rights, increasing the state's minimum wage, establishing paid sick time for all workers, and raising state revenues in order to maintain vital services.



Eric Hopkins, Joanne Coakley, Ryan Quinn, and Court Cline at the Massachusetts State House (Photo by Ron Patenaude)

Funding legal services, child-care, and higher education has been a priority for the MA CAP Council for years, as our state

includes members in UAW 2320, the National Organization of Legal Services Workers (NOLSW); UAW 1596, an amal-

gamated local representing graduate employees and adjunct faculty at UMass Lowell; and our own UAW 2322, which represents early childhood education workers and graduate employees, resident assistants, and postdoctoral researchers at UMass Amherst.

Members interested in becoming more active in the political process should consider joining the Local 2322 Citizenship and Legislative Committee by contacting Office Manager Scott LaRoche at scott@uaw2322.org. The committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 3PM at our office at 4 Open Square Way, #406, Holyoke, MA in advance of the monthly MA CAP Council meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.