Quorum!

Fifty-eight CTs attended the Special Membership Meeting on June 3, giving us our first quorum since February 2007.

According to our Constitution, we need at least 50 members at a meeting in order to have a quorum. Once we have a quorum, we can conduct the business of the union.

Having a quorum allowed us to vote on a proposal to move $200,000 from our Contingency Fund into operations. The proposal passed unanimously.

In other business, we corrected the February 2007 minutes and elected a director and two members to the Audit Committee.

Suzy Peacock was elected director, a position she has held since her Board appointment in November 2007. Her term expires this October. Before joining the Board, Peacock served as a Union Representative (UR) and Chairperson of the UR Coordinating Committee for many years.

Meeting continued on p. 6

Suzy CT⁵. A quorum at the June 3 Special Membership Meeting allowed us to elect three members to leadership positions. Suzanne Good and Susan Chalgian were elected to the Audit Committee. Suzy Peacock was elected director.

BEAT THE HEAT

Summer Membership Meeting

July 29, 2008
Erickson Kiva
5:20 p.m.

The agenda will include a discussion of the job inventory project, finances and member issues. Come early for a good old-fashioned ice cream social.
CT News

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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 members. 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 Cherylle Finney.

CT classifieds

For sale
◆ 2 pedestal sump pumps: One less than a year old with an extra new switch. Second is two years old. Call 517-290-2058 after 5 pm.
◆ Large pastel watercolor paintings: Pastel waterfalls, matted and framed in oak. Measure 32"x38". Original $400 each, will sell for $90 each. Email jacorielius@comcast.net or call Jan at 339-4672 after 5:30 pm.
◆ Single family home in Ithaca: 3 bdrm, 1 Bath, 1450 sq. ft. Lot is approximately 132x150. Redone with updates galore: vinyl siding, newer appliances, vinyl window, newer kitchen, bath and utility area & includes central air. Close to elementary and high school, home backs up to ball field. This one is a turn key. Great for first time buyers with Rural Development and MSHDA. Please contact Dianne Beard at 989-763-3555 and ask her for MLS# 76148.
◆ Set of ceramic green lamps: $20. Set of 4 square shade lamps: $40. Metal desk: $20. Glass encased TV stand: $20. Orbitrek: Gently used, $45. 5 piece blonde bedroom set: 50 years old, $100. Two 5x8 area rugs: $30 each. Please contact Beth at 641-6272.
◆ Italian leather furniture: Brand new, cream colored, $1,600 or BO. 6-chair table: Glass, rippled edges, includes 6 chairs with cream colored seats, $375 or BO. 4-chair glass table: With 4 chairs, $200 or BO. Twin size bedroom set: Pink, includes full dresser with mirror and headboard, $220 or BO. Twin bed with box spring: $100. Queen bed with box

General Membership Meetings in 2008
The remaining 2008 Membership Meetings will be held at 5:20 p.m. on July 29 (Erickson Kiva) and October 29 (252 Erickson). These meetings are for making decisions about the Union, asking questions and receiving updates about Union activities.

Executive Board Meetings
First and third Tuesdays.
5:15
CTU Office
All members welcome.

Classifieds continued on p. 6
Preparing to vote

By Deb Bittner

The days are still growing longer and hotter (and, hopefully, more summer-like), we’ve barely put our winter clothing into storage and many of us have only begun to plan our vacations.

It seems far too early but, yes, it is already time to start preparing for CTU’s October elections. This year, we will be electing a vice-president, secretary, four directors and one member of the Audit Committee.

The first step is for the president to select and the Board to approve members of the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee then oversees the elections process according to our Constitution and an agenda that has been established and fine-tuned throughout our thirty-four years as a democratic institution. [Bethany Jones]

Throughout the process, the Elections Committee receives plenty of assistance from either the president or vice president (depending on who is up for election in a given year) and members of the CTU staff. In addition, we have always had many members volunteer to help with the labor intensive tasks like driving vans, checking in voters, counting votes, etc. Responsibilities for committee members run from July possibly through the middle of November (if there is a runoff election).

The fairness and integrity of our democratic process depends on members stepping up to serve on the Elections Committee, and the organization has been well served by those who have taken on this important responsibility in the past. If you are interested in serving this year, please contact me at 355-1903 or ctupres@msu.edu.

The next issue of CT News will provide descriptions of the duties for the various positions up for election in the fall.

Please give serious consideration to running for one of these positions. From personal experience, I can tell you that serving our Union at the Board level is very rewarding. You learn and exercise leadership skills, make decisions about the direction of the Union and participate in and help influence the labor movement. Sure, it’s time consuming, but it’s worth the investment.

There are, of course, additional ways to participate in our union. For example, we have 12 districts without a Union Representative. Union Representatives are conduits between the Board and the members. They also work directly with members in their areas to help solve workplace problems. Consider volunteering for this important position if your district does not have a UR. Check www.msu.edu/user/ctumsu/urs.htm for a list of vacant districts.

No members have stepped forward yet to work on a new CTU Strike Committee—a committee to commemorate our successful 1988 strike. Anyone who would like to help on this committee should contact the office at 355-1903 or ctustaff@msu.edu.

Volunteering for specific tasks, providing feedback, voting and speaking up on the importance of the union are other ways to participate.

The Board is currently investigating the use of some interactive surveys that will provide another way that we can provide feedback and information to our union. In the near future, we will receive surveys that will help us to map and keep a record of our workplace duties. Such a record could prove to be an invaluable tool in protecting our jobs.

There are certainly many ways to contribute to the strength of the union. Thank you for all you do.
Parking woes & union response

CTU Representatives, Board members and Staff, along with representatives of other MSU labor groups, report that union members are voicing their surprise and anger over this year’s increase in parking fees.

Starting in July, rates will skyrocket by 19%, raising the yearly cost of campus parking for a single vehicle from $357 to $426.

“We are going to address this as a union,” said CTU President Deb Bittner. “We are talking to the other unions, looking at our options, and we will be pursuing this issue.”

According to Wayne Cass, chairperson of the Coalition of Labor Organizations at MSU (CLO), the MSU labor unions are currently looking at the parking rate increases and will determine how to proceed.

Several members have protested the rates, saying the increases are premature considering that the commuter lots—which are significantly cheaper—are very difficult to access because of trains and current construction. They suggest that the university should have delayed the increase until the railroad underpass was completed. They also point out that the commuter buses don’t run in the summer.

Many feel that the increased fees would be more bearable if finding a parking spot wasn’t as difficult as it is throughout much of campus.

One member asked why graduate student employees will pay $108 less than other employees this year. (Ed. note: Graduate students are limited to parking south of the Red Cedar River.) [Carolyn Sekedat]

Just about everyone commented that the impact is especially burdensome now with the escalating price of fuel.

The new rates are significantly higher than projected by MSU’s Parking and Safety Bureau back in 2000. At that time, the CLO received figures stating that parking would cost $272 starting in June 2008.

What happened?

According to Mike Rice, Assistant Chief of Police in the Department of Police and Public Safety, increasing replacement and maintenance costs, along with some unforeseen projects such as construction of the ramp along Grand River, contributed to costs rising faster than projected.

Because MSU is required to pay for parking facilities out of parking income with no money from the general fund or legislature, he explained, increased expenses mean increased parking fees.

As we prepare to meet with the university, it is important that we continue to hear from you. Contact President Bittner at 355-1903 or ctupres@msu.edu. [Christina Drewyor]

Also, please consider submitting a letter to the editor of the CT News (ctnews@msu.edu). Our union newsletter is read by MSU administrators as well as other CTs, so it can provide a great forum for getting your voice heard.

CT elected president of labor/management group

C-T Union Representative Janet Roe-Darden was recently elected president of the Mid-Michigan chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA).

As a member of LERA, Roe-Darden has served in the past as secretary and vice-president of the local chapter. [Leslie Galvez]

LERA fosters networking and discussion of issues affecting today’s workplace, according to the Mid-Michigan chapter’s website. It provides a unique forum that welcomes the views of representatives of all stakeholders in the employment relationship.

CTU Board and Staff members frequently attend LERA functions because they provide training that is helpful to those working on labor issues in the local area.

We congratulate Roe-Darden on her accomplishment and thank her for her continuing work with LERA.
**UR district news**

**District 4 (Biomedical and Physical Sciences, Planetarium):** With her election as a director to the CTU Executive Board, **Suzy Peacock** has resigned as UR, leaving this position open. We are grateful to Peacock for her decades of service as a UR and welcome the experience she brings to her new role.

The following CTs have petitioned to be reappointed Union Representatives. They will be reappointed if no other CTs from these districts express an interest in the position before 5 p.m. on July 11.

▼ **District 17** (Grounds, Physical Plant, Wilson, Holden, Case, Wonders, Duffy Daugherty Football Building): **Victoria Tryban.**

▼ **District 37** (Clinical Center (A-Wing)): **Kim Baker.**

We have 12 districts without a UR. Interested in becoming a UR? Know of a coworker who would make a great UR? For more information, contact URCC Chairperson Colleen Drake (432-6123 x162 or drakec@msu.edu) or Vice President Nancy Gray (353-8632 or grayn@msu.edu).

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**MSU farm market**

The Student Organic Farm Market is conveniently located on Farm Lane in Front of the Auditorium. It is a convenient place for MSU employees to buy fresh organic produce every Thursday from now until November.

**MSU farm market**

The Student Organic Farm Stand is operating on campus again this summer. Visit them Thursdays from 11 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Farm Lane in front of the Auditorium. The stand will be open every Thursday until November.

This is a convenient way for MSU employees to pick up fresh, organic produce and flowers. The stand currently offers a wide variety of greens including spinach, salad mix, lettuce, kale, choy, swiss chard and more. The students also sell scallions, leeks, potatoes, herbs, sunchoke, transplants (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, herbs), and strawberries.

A list of the produce that will be available throughout the summer is available at the stand.

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**Annual report on AFPs**

In 2007, the auditors determined that only 4.3% of our dues were not directly related to the union’s defense of its members and contract.

CTs who opt out of membership in the union have to pay a fee equal to dues but have a right to the return of the portion of dues not spent on issues directly related to negotiating or maintaining our contract. These CTs, known as Agency Fee Payers (AFPs) cannot vote in our elections, run for office or vote on whether or not to accept negotiated contracts, but they receive all the benefits that result from those negotiations and are entitled to union representation.

A typical union spends 10-20% of its funds on nonchargeable activities, with some spending as much as 50%.

The CTU, on the other hand, has only minor charges that qualify, such as our classified section and certain articles in the newsletter, some committee activities, and a few of our community donations.

In total, we refunded $355.44 to 31 AFPs in 2007, with the average check being $11.47. We currently have 19 “active” AFPs.

Some unions require that each AFP request a rebate, but the CTU sends out these checks automatically as soon as the amounts are determined.

Our AFPs often change their minds and decide to become members in order to vote or participate in the union. However, a few CTs decline membership for religious or philosophical reasons.

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**Correction**

Deb Lecato’s name was inadvertently omitted from the list of CTs recognized for years of service in the May 2008 CT News. With 30 years of service at the University, Lecato deserves recognition. Congratulations, Deb!
Classifieds
continued from p. 2

spring: $200. Treadmill: $100. Light wood bedroom set: Includes full dresser with mirror, tall dresser, and queen size head board, $250 or BO. Call Lisa at 507-2053.

◆ 2001 Coachman Catalina 242 RLDS 5th wheel: Like new condition. This 24' trailer is just the right size to haul your toys behind but roomy enough for the whole family with two slide-outs. Boat hitch already on! Lowered to $9,500 for quick sale. Can be seen in Ovid at the corner of M-21 and Main Street. Beautiful trailer in excellent shape! Photos of exact same trailer online at http://www.coachmenrvsource.com/rtentory_item.asp?id=251525. Call Kim at 989-640-2663.

◆ Darton scout bow: Used for target practice only; purchased broad heads for deer hunting but not used; includes arm guard, case, quivers, broad heads, arrows, finger trigger, broad head case, and bow; great deal with everything to get started; excellent condition; asking $300 or best offer. Dining table: Glass top; seats four; beige padded seats; great condition; no wear marks on chairs; from non-smoking home; purchased new from ArtVan 1.5 years ago for $500; asking $250 or best offer. Brand new mirror: Never installed; beautiful with covered bridge etching; retails well over $150 without etching; asking $60 or best offer. If interested, or to see photos, email stunningtigress@yahoo.com.

◆ 2 burial plot spaces and vaults: Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, Lansing, MI. Valued @ $3,220. Contact: Christen Bilow 520-271-1566 or email Christen0930@yahoo.com.


Services
◆ Smith Photographic Studios, LLC is currently taking 2009 Senior appointments. An unlimited change of clothing, outdoor shots, sports or artistic photos if requested, all for the low price or $75 plus package order @ $10 per 8 x 10 sheet. Call 517-999-3335 as soon possible or visit www.smithphotographicstudio.ifp3.com.

◆ Licensed Day Care on Lansing’s south side: A few openings for toddlers and preschool children. CPR, first aid and bloodborne pathogen certified. State licensed through the Department of Human Services. Sibling discount offered. Toilet training done every two hours or when parents request specific times. Learning programs provided according to child’s age. Spanish lesson three times a week. Meals and snacks included. Summer Special: No registration fee until July 31 ($35 savings). For more information, please call Kristie or Monica at 517-887-6977.

◆ Nadiz Tailoring and Costume, LLC is a new shop opened by my spouse, Ken Darden, a tailor with many years of experience. The new shop is on 6810 S. Cedar, Suite B (just north of the Holiday Inn, across from Lowe’s and Speedway), Lansing, 517-694-0696. Give Ken a call, tell him you are a CT and get 10% discount off your first order. Call Janet at 487-6139 if you need more information.

Wanted
◆ Scrap yarn: Purchasing any amount, any weight. Contact oster8248@yahoo or 269-763-9877.

Ride sharing
◆ Anyone interested in carpooling from Williamston? Please contact Linda at ocomnorl@msu.edu or 517-507-7298

◆ Capital Area Transportation Authority offers a ride sharing service called Clean Commute that several CTs are using. Contact them at their toll free number (877-921-POOL), local number (517-393-RIDE), fax number (517-394-3733), or website (www.cata.org/cleancommute/index.html).

For rent
◆ Office space: Rent suite or individual office at 2990 East Lake Lansing Road in East Lansing. Will work to meet your specifications. Contact the Clerical-Technical Union, 517-355-1903.

◆ Drummond Island cottage: Charming log cottage on the sandy beach of Lake Huron. Located in protected Mackinaw Bay on the southeast side of Drummond Island. If reading by the crackling fire and listening to the waves from your bed sounds interesting to you, we think that you will love this cottage. $750 weekly June–Nov. Ask about our MSU employee rate. Call or email to reserve a peaceful vacation on beautiful Drummond Island. Phone 517-290-2058. Email kmoser_2001@yahoo.com.

FREE: Advertise to your colleagues in the CT News. Contact Cherylee Finney at ctnews@msu.edu. The CT News accepts ads from CTU members on items for sale and/or services provided by CTU members and/or their household family members.

Meeting
continued from p. 1
Susan Chalgian and Suzanne Good were elected to the Audit Committee, terms to expire October 2009 and October 2010, respectively. Chalgian has served as a chairperson of our Elections Committee and Good is currently a UR.

All three of the candidates were elected by unanimous acclamation.

Because this was not a regular Membership Meeting, the Board did not offer the two $50 drawings. However, we still had a couple of door prizes: Juli Kerr won coffee and doughnuts for her area and Valerie Thompson won a Tastefully Simple gift item.
CT’s poem wins award

“To a Civil Engineer,” a limerick by CT Carolyn Schein, library assistant in the Engineering Building, was among the faculty/staff winners in this year’s annual College of Engineering Poetry Contest. Congratulations Carolyn!

To a Civil Engineer:
She dreams of a bridge or a dam,
And builds it according to plan.
She doesn’t know it,
She’s also a poet.
There’s rhythm and grace in its span.

Exploring workers’ culture

“People who work in offices, people who work in construction, people who work in factories or cleaning buildings — normal people who work nine to five, who clock in and then take a lunch break — our lives end up invisible,” said John Beck, Associate Director of MSU’s Labor Education Program.

Beck, who spoke at the May union training session, said that workers are seldom featured in the media or “art,” and we have been taught that we aren’t artists, writers and poets. “We end up being part of the background rather than the heroes in any story,” he said.

However, he added, it is important that we explore the intersection between art and work. [Susan Chalgian]

“We spend more time at work than at any other one activity. . . . It frames who we are,” Beck said.

He proceeded to display examples of art produced by and about workers, including several pieces made from scrap materials left over from the job. For example, he passed around a piece of “Fordite,” a lump of multicolored paint left behind when cars are painted in a factory. The lumps are gathered and polished into beautiful “jewels.”

The “scrap materials” from our jobs can also include the impressions that spark the imagination. Beck highlighted the writing of artists, musicians and authors who explore their lives as workers in factories, stores, offices, hospitals, mines, grocery stores, etc.

The CT News would like to publish work-related art from members. Contact Cheryllee Finney at 432-9580 or ctnews@msu.edu.
Calendar

July 1 Exec. Board Mtg., C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.

July 4 Enjoy your union-negotiated, paid holiday.

July 15 Exec. Board Mtg., C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.

July 15 Deadline to submit articles, letters, ads, etc. for publication in the July CT News.

July 29 Summer Membership Meeting and ice cream social. Meeting starts at 5:20 but socializing starts as soon as we arrive. Erickson Kiva, 5:20 pm.

August 1 Deadline to donate kitchen and household items for the yard sale to benefit the Mildred B. Erickson Scholarship for nontraditional MSU Students. Call the MSU Union Building Sales Office at 517-355-3464 for details. The sale will be held August 26.

Union Family Fair Day

It’s time for Union Family Fair Day at the Ingham County Fair. Purchase tickets for Thursday, August 3, from your union and you and your family can get huge discounts on entrance and ride tickets.

Tickets for all-day rides are only $10 ($18 at the gate), and entrance tickets are only $2 ($5 at the gate). Children three and under get in free.

Sponsored by the Greater Lansing Labor Council and their friends, this special day gives union members and their families the opportunity to sample all that the Fair has to offer at considerable savings.

Make sure your family participates in the Karaoke Contest for Kids at the Shirley Clark Pavilion. Age divisions are 6-10, 11-14, 15-18.

Contact Deb Bittner (355-1903; bittner@msu.edu) for discount tickets, which must be purchased by the end of the day on Friday, July 25.

Call early as the tickets go fast, and we are sometimes unable to get more at the last minute.

See you at the Fair!

Gerri Olson Educational Lottery Loan

It’s time to register for the Gerri Olson Educational Lottery Loan for fall semester. To do so, call Patricia Shackleton (432-5665) July 28 through August 8. Registrations received after August 8 will be considered as space permits.