Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!

Over a hundred union members, retirees and supporters attended the United Auto Workers’ May 12 rally in support of U.S. jobs. Members of several unions, including Teamsters, MEA and the CTU attended the rally, which took place on the corner of Farm and Shaw Lanes.

Several speakers called for trade polices that stimulate the U.S. economy and demanded that American tax dollars be used to support domestic jobs.

MSU Trustee Faylene Owen welcomed the UAW rally to campus and pledged the University’s support to bringing jobs to Michigan.

“Don’t you every forget that Michigan State University is the working person’s university,” she said, “and we will stand with you, side by side, in working so hard to get jobs back . . .”

Earlier in the day, an AFL-CIO rally for American jobs was held at Lansing City Hall. The AFL rally coincided with the national “Keep It Made In America” bus tour.

April Membership Meeting

The thirty-six CTs who attended the April 30 membership meeting received a lot of background on CTU finances.

In addition to the usual financial report from Treasurer Jeanine Lee, Certified Public Accountant Jim Nyquist presented the 2008 audit.

As always, we received a “clean opinion” of our financial statements, according to Nyquist, a CPA with Maner and Costerian. This means that our finances are presented fairly and conform to generally accepted accounting principles.

Membership continued on p. 8
CT News

Clerical-Technical Union of Michigan State University
2990 East Lake Lansing Road
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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 membership. 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 Cherylee Finney.

CT classifieds

For sale:
◆ 1989 23’ Cree 5th wheel trailer: Sleeps 6, has AC and furnace, big storage unit on roof, lots of storage inside too, 4 burner stove, shower as well as tub, awning in great shape. $3,999. Email dar122264@aol.com for pictures or call 517-256-1889.
◆ Vinyl tonneau cover: Fits a 2001 Chevy Silverado long-bed truck, not used since 2003, black with snaps, $150 or best offer. 67” double sink: Marble top vanity with gold 8” fixtures, like new, best offer. 646-2186.
◆ Chapel length train wedding dress: Lace cap sleeves, pleated skirt and beaded cuff at the bottom; size 16; not been altered but it easily could be; preserved and boxed; excellent condition. Beautiful Jasmine wedding dress: Size 8; easy to alter; never worn; perfect condition. Asking $300 each, negotiable. For photos and questions please email tx2mi@yahoo.com.

For rent:
◆ Beautiful 3-bedroom home in south Lansing: Quiet neighborhood with great neighbors. Located in a cul-de-sac with low traffic. Looks smaller than it is—You’d be surprised! Full finished basement with separate laundry room. Please contact me at 517-819-6210 or shoniebird@yahoo.com. For immediate move-in. Rent is negotiable!

Wanted:
◆ Used foldable high chair in good condition. Call 517-887-4874.

Services:
◆ Air conditioning: Ambient heating & A/C, LLC. No job too small. Five percent off total cost for MSU employees. Call 517-795-9432 or email ambienthvac@yahoo.com.
◆ Capital Area Transportation Authority offers a ride sharing service called Clean Commute that several CTUs are using. Contact Clean Commute 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).
◆ Available to watch children or animals: My name is Jewel McJennett and I am available to watch your children and/or animal(s) during the evenings and weekends. I am a 28-year-old woman with no children or animals of my own and need the extra money to pay on my student loans. I am not afraid of multiple children or animals and can handle just about anything that children and animals tend to get into. I am a responsible and ready to work when you need me to. I also dog walk, and I’m willing to assist the aged as well. Please call 586-489-8199.

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

Membership Meetings
General Membership Meetings are for making decisions about the Union, asking questions and receiving updates about Union activities. Light refreshments and childcare are provided. Additional meetings in 2009 will be held on Tuesday, July 28; and Wednesday, October 28. Locations will be announced as information becomes available.

Executive Board Meetings
1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 5:15
CTU Office
All members welcome.
President's corner

Everyday values

By Deb Bittner

Recently I received an email that provided a new look at a problem we’ve been discussing for several years. In our current economic situation, every little thing we buy or do affects others, perhaps even their jobs. After reading this email, I think this woman is on the right track, so I urge you to join me in taking up her challenge.

“My grandson likes Hershey’s candy,” she wrote. “It is marked made in Mexico now. I do not buy it anymore. My favorite toothpaste, Colgate, is made in Mexico now. I have switched to Crest. You have to read the labels on everything.

“This past weekend I was at Kroger [also a good union place to shop]. I needed 60W light bulbs and Bounce dryer sheets. I was in the light bulb aisle, and right next to the GE brand I normally buy was an off brand labeled ‘Everyday Value.’ I picked up both types of bulbs and compared the stats—they were the same except for the price. The GE bulbs were more money than the Everyday Value brand, but the thing that surprised me the most was the fact that GE was made in MEXICO and the Everyday Value brand was made in—get ready for this—the U.S.A. by a company in Cleveland, Ohio.

“So throw out the myth that you cannot find products you use every day that are made right here.

“On to another aisle for Bounce dryer sheets. Yep, you guessed it, Bounce cost more money and is made in Canada. The Everyday Value brand was less money and MADE IN THE U.S.A.! I did laundry yesterday and the dryer sheets performed just like the Bounce Free I have been using for years and at almost half the price!

“So my challenge to you is to start reading the labels when you shop for everyday things and see what you can find that is made in the U.S.A.—the job you save may be your own or your neighbor’s!

“If you accept the challenge, pass this on to others. We can all start buying American, one light bulb at a time! Stop buying from China. (We should have awakened a decade ago.)”

Even though I do look at labels a lot before I buy, I found this email a good reminder to keep at it and to expand my searching. I have learned that we do produce many things in this country, but the pickings are getting slimmer. The last line in the email was the best:

“Let’s get with the program and help our fellow Americans keep their jobs and create more jobs here in the U.S.A.!!”

As we have been seeing all over the newspapers and on TV, jobs are slipping away, and we are in scary times. We already know that the job we may be saving could be our own—since we depend on parents being able to afford to send their children to college.

From another point of view, it can also be safer to make sure our food and products are made here in the United States. Every day we hear about tainted products being shipped in from overseas. So checking labels not only can save our jobs, it might save our lives or our health.

Speaking of jobs, I was fortunate to attend MSU’s Annual Service Recognition program. It is a wonderful event that honors those who have been employed at MSU for 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and even 40 years of service (Congrats Jim Nash!) as well as those folks who retired in the past year. President Lou Anna Simon remarked to the group, “MSU is a special place and you have made it even more special.” As I watched the pride on the faces of those receiving special recognition or retiring, it was evident that they felt the same way. It was uplifting to be there to celebrate with them.

And speaking of celebrations, it would be fun see you join us at our own special event: CTU’s Annual Picnic and 35th Anniversary Celebration, June 4 at the C-T Union Hall. We’ll have food, games, prizes, good company and more, especially cake! Please try to join us.

In these tough times, remember our own everyday values like employment milestones, picnics, solidarity and spring time with bright greenery and bursting blossoms. Get outside and soak up this special season.
Board actions

January—March 2009

The following CTU Executive Board discussions took place January through March 2009. All expenditure decisions are included, but the list does not represent meetings in their entirety. CTUs can receive copies of complete minutes through the mail by contacting the CTU office at 355-1903.

January 6

Decided to send an additional person (for a total of six) to the health care luncheon program presented by the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA) at a cost of $15 each. [Tanja Marie Brady]

Agreed to provide a letter of support on behalf of the Cyclotron Laboratory to assist in its pursuit of the Star designation from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program.

January 27

Decided to purchase a converter box for the Union Hall television.

Declined to donate $150 to Meridian Township Citizens’ Advisory Committee for their recycling event.

Donated $100 to the Mystic Lake Camp union scholarship fund for the 2009 Summer program.

Agreed to send up to two members to Community Services Training offered by the Greater Lansing Area Labor Council at a cost of $30 each. [Ed. note: No one was able to attend and the money was not spent.]

Approved a UR’s request for $65 to attend Stewards Training presented by MSU’s Labor Education Program (LEP).

February 3

Received report from CTU’s representative to the President’s Advisory Council on Disability Issues (PACDI).

Discussed MSU President Lou Anna Simon’s State of the University Address. [Dawn M. Parsell]

Agreed to send two staff members to the Labor Law Conference sponsored by LEP for $125 each.

February 17

Discussed a member’s request to establish a perennial garden on the grounds of the C-T Union Hall.

At the request of a member, approved a $100 donation to the Williamston/ Webberville Relay for Life Marathon. [Lillian Ann Damer]

Agreed to send the CTU president and one contract administrator to the Labor Law and Labor Arbitration Conference in Chicago. The cost for each attendee is $395 for registration, $239 for lodging, and mileage.

Responding to a member’s request, approved $125 for the member to attend the Labor Law Conference offered by LEP. Educational assistance will be used if available.

Discussed the response of the Coalition of Labor Organizations (CLO) to the MSU President’s letter to employees. The unions will send a letter to employees that describes our work as a coalition to keep health care costs down and assures members that we will keep them informed as we head into health care negotiations.

March 3

Decided to send up to two additional members (for a total of seven) to the LEP program on retirement issues at a cost of $15 each.

Decided to not go with the company being considered to fix the basement because it is not local and not unionized. MSU’s Office of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Safety has agreed to inspect the situation.

Agreed to rent an upstairs office to the CLO at the rate of $100 per month on a month to month basis.

Contributed $100 each to Capitol Area Literacy Coalition, Eve’s House, Listening Ear, MSU Safe Place and Tri-County Office on Aging.

Donated $150 to the Women’s Center to be used in their programs and to help offset the cost of obtaining a new heating system.

Paid $100 annual dues to the CLO.

Decided to send three individuals to the LEP program on workplace bully-
CTU Annual Picnic & 35th Anniversary Celebration

June 4, 2009
4–7 p.m.
C-T Union Hall
2990 East Lake Lansing Rd.
(corner of Lake Lansing and Hagadorn—look for Sparty)

Come as you are!
Friends and family welcome.

CTU provides the food and softdrinks.

Games! Prizes! Activities for the kids!
Congratulations and best wishes

Our congratulations and best wishes go out to the CTs who were honored this year for retirement and/or years of service at Michigan State University.

Forty years
Pamela Brown*
Carol Fosburg
Ronald Hanson
Mary Schneider

Thirty-five years
Margaret Anderson
Peggy Clark
Nadia Cocchane
Carol Cocozzoli
Julie Dansby
Patricia Downing
Judith Easterbrook
Rebecca Erbe
Mona Kindel
Halina Marek
Barbara Sweeney

Mary Lohr
Vickie Lovejoy
Cheryl Lowe
Patricia Neumann*
Kathy Paradise
Dennis Pettee
Julie Randall
Kathy Riel
Kimberly Fay Smith
Tamara Beth Spangler
Otty Turrentine
Colleen Rose Wager
Kristine White
Cheryl Williams
Nancy Wing
Kevin Wyatt

Linda O’Connor
Connie Orr
Amy Peebles
Laurenza Riojas
Amy Rivard
Joanne Russell*
Marcella Schafer
Michelle Sidell
Lanette Stevens
Brenda Turner
Charlene Villarreal
Jeanine Whipple
Marlene Wilkins

Twenty-five years
Janice Ahee
Judith Belanger
Norman Blakely
Juanita Bopp
Cynthia Brewbaker
Connie Brinson
Rhonda Burns
Bunnie Chamberlain
Sherron Cline
Cynthia Conley
Jill Crane
Debra Crane*
Chris Decker
Connie Demars
Beverly Duncanson
Loretta Fiacco
Paula Fossum
Kim Geyer
Theopal Hahn
Kathleen Jones
Janice Knight
Suzanne Levy
Cindy McCormick
Rebecca Miller
William Morgan

Jennifer Wise
Joy Wolfe
Margaret Wolverton

Fifteen years
Letitia Briones
Jami Fell
Laura Gonzales
Elizabeth Gorski
Marietta Hicks
Robert Kerr
Tom Kinney
Cheryl Lundeen
Betty Miller
Susan North
Marcia Paterna
Eugenia Scheer
Laurie Second
Elvira Shaw

Retirees
In the preceding list of CTs who are being recognized for their years of service, an asterisk (*) denotes a CT who has also retired this past year. We also want to wish the best to the following retirees:

Kathleen Badgero, 23 years
Marcia Carl, 22
Nancy Jo Cramer, 19
Nancy Gillespie, 20
Nancy Harms, 23
Earnestine Hart, 22
Sheryl Hulet, 28
Betty Lee, 22
Kathy Lessard, 23
Heather MacVeave, 42
Shirley Ordway, 36
Joann Peterson, 27
Kay Pixley, 23
Sharon Roback, 38
Diane Smith, 21

Correction
The photograph of the first five CTU presidents published in the April issue was incorrect. Not pictured was Becky Hicks, the fourth president. LeeAnn Slicer was fifth and Rondy Murray was sixth.
Letters

Missing minutes
Since it has now been over 12 months since CTU has sent Board Meeting Minutes to members who have requested them, and since this is not the first time significant delays have been encountered, I feel it is time that CTU implement either a Board policy, or failing that, a constitutional amendment, mandating that Minutes from CTU Board meetings be made available to the membership in a timely manner.

What is meant by “Timely Manner”? Well at most, the Minutes should be held for no more than a few months, quarterly at most. In some cases the information discussed may be time sensitive, so more rapid distribution might be warranted. But 12+ months is simply not acceptable, and settling for a simple agreement from the Board has already been tried, and even after several reminders, this hasn’t worked, so something needs to be done to ensure the Board maintains communication with the membership that have requested these documents.

—Robert Kerr

UR District news

District 2 (Administration Bldg, (Floors 2, 3, 4): Kathie Kirby has been appointed UR. Contact her at 432-6701 or kirbyk@msu.edu.

District 18 (Kellogg Center, Brody Complex): An election is being arranged for the UR position in District 18. The candidates are Cynthia Helms and Courtney Huff.

District 32 (Library): Colleen Drake and Suzanne Levy have each petitioned for their UR position. Other members in the district may declare their candidacies for the position by contacting Vice President Nancy Gray at 353-8632 or grayn@msu.edu before 5 p.m. on June 11. A district election will then be arranged.

The following members have petitioned for appointment as Union Representatives. They will be appointed if no other CTs from their respective districts express an interest in the positions before 5 p.m. on June 11.

▼ District 7 (East Fee [Floors 5 and 6], West Fee [Floors 1-6]): Stephanie Six.
▼ District 10 (Farrall, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Cyclotron): Amy McCausey.
▼ District 16 (University Housing, Old Purchasing, Food Stores, Laundry, University Services, Power Plant, Angell Building): Angel Loveall.
▼ District 40 (Sparrow Bldg., Breslin Cancer Center, Lansing Medical Office Center, Downtown/Misc.): Suzanne Good.

Interested in becoming a UR? Contact URCC Chairperson Colleen Drake (432-6123 x162 or drakec@msu.edu) or Vice President Nancy Gray (353-8632 or grayn@msu.edu).

New interim ER director
Jim Nash has been appointed Acting Director of Employee Relations.

Nash, a 40-year MSU employee (who was once a CT), replaces Scott Sowulewski who resigned after five years of service to become the Human Resources Director of the Accident Fund in Lansing.

Board continued from p. 4

Agreed to donate $50 to the 2009 Meridian Township recycling event.

March 17
Listened to a member’s concerns about how he feels the “wage gap” issue has been distorted.

Received reports on LERA’s health care presentation, LEP’s workshop on bullying, CTU’s garden project and the replacement of dead trees in the union’s parking lot.

Discussed the need to replace the communications specialist’s computer. Requested additional information.

Decided to continue our $14 per month subscription to the Detroit Free Press even though Monday through Wednesday delivery will end. The paper will be available online.

Received an update on preparations for health care negotiations from CLO President Wayne Cass.

Discussed the changes the union is making in sending bulk mail to members on campus. It seems we will be able to keep costs down and delivery smooth. [Lisa Kay Wilton]

Approved $512 to transcribe the testimony of several CTs in a case being pursued by another campus union.
Calendar

June 2 CTU Executive Board Meeting, 5:15 p.m., C-T Union Hall. All members welcome.

June 14 CTU picnic and 35th Anniversary Celebration. See page 5.

June 15 Deadline to submit items for the July issue of CT News.

June 16 CTU Executive Board Meeting, 5:15 p.m., C-T Union Hall. All members welcome.

June 16 Preventing Financial Exploitation. Family Resource Center’s Elder Care Series. 12–1 pm, 27 Nisbet Building. Register at www.frc.msu.edu/classes-events-2/.

June 21 Fathers Day. Remember to celebrate fathers, especially working fathers. [Stephanie M Redner]

CT notables

Tara Miller finally has her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Northwood University.

“It took a few years,” she said, because of work, moves, a change in her major, and raising a family. Miller is very happy to have the degree, and she credits CTU’s Gerri Olsen Educational Lottery Loan with helping make it a little easier to obtain.

“I’m not sure I would have been able to accomplish it in the same time frame if I’d had to come up with the tuition money up front, especially after it became more expensive,” she said.

Miller encourages others to take advantage of the loan program, under which CTU loans tuition money to members until they are reimbursed by the University through educational assistance. The money is then repaid to the union.

Cindy Braun is walking the talk! She will embark on a three-day hike to help end breast cancer on August 14.

Braun said she has been training hard and walking 16 miles a week to prepare for the 60 mile walk that will be held in the Detroit area.

Braun survived a brain tumor three years ago, and she sees the walk as an opportunity to say thank you to everyone who supported her.

“I especially want to walk for those who cannot, those who are currently undergoing treatment and for my daughter, that she will never have to be afraid of the possibility of getting Breast Cancer,” Braun wrote on her donations web site.

Net proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure and National Philanthropic Trust, funding important breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment.

If interested, you can help sponsor her walk at www.the3day.org/. Go to “Donate,” and look up her name. Email any inquiries to her at braun@msu.edu.

Membership

continued from p. 1

The group received updates about preparing for health care negotiations and discussed layoffs and other matters. On behalf of Health and Safety Chair Willie Paulsen, President Deb Bittner read two Workers Memorial Day proclamations, one from the State of Michigan and other from the City of Lansing.

Gloria Ellerhorst, of the Children, Youth, and Family Consortium won coffee and doughnuts for her area. Jackie Campbell (Department of English) and Rosie Garcia (Office of the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources) each won $50.