CTs prepare for 2009 elections

While we won’t have any contested races, CTs have stepped forward to run for all of the positions that will be open this fall.

President: Deb Bittner
Treasurer: Jan Wallace
Directors: Walt Peebles, Janet Roe-Darden, Norma Teague
Audit Committee: Suzanne Good

In the races with only one candidate running, Article IV, “Officers, Nominations and Elections,” section 9, of our Constitution provides that:

“When there is only one nominee for an office, it is required that an alternate choice through the process of a no vote be afforded members voting. Should the no vote receive the highest number of votes cast, the elected Executive Board shall fill the position until a special election could be called. The previous nominee would not be eligible for appointment.”

This means that we will have a choice of “No” for president, treasurer and Audit Committee member.

Any questions about the elections should be directed to one of the Elections Committee Members:

▼ Brenda Bailey, baileyb@msu.edu, 884-1058
▼ Liz Owen, owene@msu.edu, 432-6088

▼ Kim Smith, ksmith@msu.edu, 355-7457
▼ Becky Sullivan, sulli306@msu.edu, 355-0120x333

This issue contains elections information on candidate forums, volunteer opportunities, absentee voting, etc. See page 4 for details. [Nicole Ebert]
CT News
CTU
Clerical-Technical Union
of Michigan State University
2990 East Lake Lansing Road
East Lansing, MI 48823-2281

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Fax: (517) 353-3284
Website: www.msu.edu/user/ctumsu

CTU EXECUTIVE BOARD
President: Deb Bittner debtres@msu.edu
Vice President: Nancy Gray ngray@msu.edu
Treasurer: Jeannine Lee jeannine@msu.edu
Secretary: Willie Paulsen paulsenw@msu.edu

CTU STAFF
Contract Administrators
John Klusinske ctua2@msu.edu
Dan McNeil ctuc1@msu.edu

Office Manager & Financial Secretary
Patricia Shackleton ctumgr@msu.edu

Organizational Secretary
Barb Harris ctusstaff@msu.edu

Communications Specialist
Cheryllee Finney ctnews@msu.edu

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 Cheryllee Finney.

CT News
CTU

For sale:
◆ Pinecrest townhouse: 2 bedroom. Club house & pool. Close to Eastwood Mall, MSU. Recently remodeled. $87,500 OBO. Call 517-337-3204.
◆ Solid wood roll top desk: In excellent condition. Will provide pictures for anyone interested. Price negotiable. Contact Dani at 517-887-0778 or djp5655@gmail.com.
◆ Free and discounted cooking products: Lots of fun. Contact Tara (Pampered Chef Consultant) at 517-749-8009 or calltara4pamperedchef@yahoo.com for more information.

◆ Farm house: 4 acre hobby farm, nicely redone, 3 bedrooms 2 full baths, approx. 2000 ft. New 18 x 24 family room addition with cathedral ceiling & french doors, new roof, new septic and drain field. 40 x 80 pole bldg, 30 x 60 “horse” barn, & other bldgs. Fenced for horses. MSTA. $150,000 B/O. Ovid-Elsie schools. 2003 Saturn L-200: Excellent car. 2.2 L automatic. Silver, leather interior, heated seats, power sun roof, air, power everything, 6-disk cd changer. 108,000 miles. NADA $6,800, asking $5,800.

◆ 2004 Pontiac Bonneville SE sedan 4D: V6 3.8L. Automatic, air cond., power steering, power windows, power door locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, AM/FM stereo, single CD player, dual front air bags, 4-wheel ABS, power seat, rear spoiler, alloy wheels. Mileage 68,432. Asking $6,500 or best offer. For more information, contact Bea VanKampen @ 256-3571 or bea_vankampen@hotmail.com.

Services:
◆ General handyman: Reliable. Do almost anything. Drywalling, decks, plumbing, remodelling, repairs, tear downs, yard work, etc. $15/hour. Have references. Paul 989-640-9328.

◆ Ambient heating & A/C, LLC: The economy is being hit hard. I will give a 10% discount to all MSU employees. Free estimates. Call Brian at 517-795-9432 or email ambienthvac@hotmail.com.

◆ Capital Area Transportation Authority offers a ride sharing service called Clean Commute that several CTs 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).

Free: Advertise to your colleagues in the CT News. Contact Cheryllee 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.
The face of the Union

By Nancy Gray

Being vice president of the CTU brings many responsibilities, one of the most rewarding being my role as liaison between the Executive Board and Union Representatives.

First and foremost, I want to say that we have a great group of frontline leaders serving us as URs. These individuals are our coworkers who step forward to bring the union into our workplaces on a day-to-day basis.

The job has evolved over the years. For example, most URs rely a lot more on email than face-to-face contact as they did in the past. However, a UR is still the face of the union in the workplace, getting to know the CTs in his or her area, engaging us in dialogue concerning our union, and informing us about union activities.

In addition to relaying information and promoting solidarity, they assist us with problems on the job as well as listening during times of stress and uncertainty. [Danah Reinerth]

Not every workplace issue needs to result in a formal grievance (although URs can assist in filing one if necessary).

Do you need confidential advice on how to approach your supervisor about a promotion?

Tips on talking to a coworker about an annoying habit?

Contact your UR.

URs support us, the members of CTU, not supervisors or management. They are positive, enthusiastic advocates of union principles. They maintain our confidentiality and help us focus on effective ways to make positive changes in the offices, labs, fields and warehouses where we work.

The union, of course, makes sure that URs are prepared. They always have access to our professional Contract Administrators as well as support from other URs and the Executive Board.

As part of my role as liaison, I work with the Union Representative Coordinating Committee (URCC) to help organize monthly union training sessions for URs and Executive Board members on topics that help us all fulfill our roles.

Just this past year, trainings centered around Family Medical Leave Act issues, the process for filing a workers compensation claim, issues regarding internal audit and professional integrity as well as training from our Contract Administrators on issues and trends that are currently taking place in various districts across campus. Upcoming topics will include what every member should know about their personnel folder, bullying in the workplace and continued in-house trainings for URs to better serve their members in their districts.

An updated list of URs is available on page 6. Check it out. Perhaps you might consider contacting your UR, offering your support and volunteering to assist if needed. [Jason Vlahos]

If the UR position in your area is vacant, you might think about taking on the duties yourself. Having served as a UR myself, I can tell you that it is a sometimes difficult but almost always rewarding job.

If you are interested in a UR position, have a suggestion for union training or want to talk confidentially about a situation concerning your UR, contact me at 353-8632 or grayn@msu.edu, or contact URCC Chairperson Colleen Drake at 432-6123x162 or drakec@msu.edu.

If you are unable to commit to being a UR, but would be willing to distribute information in your area, please call the CTU office at 355-1903.
Call for volunteers

The Elections Committee is looking for volunteers to work on tasks at the following times:

**Wednesday, October 7**
- Prepare ballots at the CTU Office, 5:15 p.m. until done.

**Tuesday, October 27**
- Work the polls at the Auditorium, half-day and full-day shifts, 7:15 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.
- Drive a van for our Shuttle Service, half-day and full-day shifts, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Count votes at the CTU Office, 5:30 p.m. until done.

CTs not running for a Board or Audit Committee position are eligible to assist the Elections Committee.

Revised time is available to poll workers and van drivers who volunteer by Monday, October 12. To help, contact one of the Elections Committee members (list on page 1) or the CTU office (ctustaff@msu.edu, 355-1903). [Jessica Johnson]

**Elections rules**

All candidates receive a copy of the Election and Campaign Rules. Other members can request a copy by contacting Barb Harris at 355-1903 or ctustaff@msu.edu. A copy is also available on the web at http://www.msu.edu/user/ctumsu/Rules.pdf.

Need a ride?

Parking issues? Disability? Whatever makes it difficult for you to get to the polls, have no fear—the CTU Elections Express is on the way.

Van rides to and from the polls at the MSU Auditorium will be coordinated through the CTU office. Just call 432-5665 or email ctumngr@msu.edu on or before October 27 to schedule a ride. Rides are scheduled on a first come/first served basis, so register early.

Want even more fun? Reserve the whole van and come with a group of coworkers!
Help Preserve Cost Effective Local Health Care

Almost two decades ago, the MSU unions recognized the impact health care costs were having on the University. While other employers focused on shifting health care costs to employees, we abandoned the traditional bargaining model and formed a partnership with the University to decrease the overall amount MSU spends on health care.

This wasn’t done without sacrifice. MSU employees have contributed a fair share toward paying the health care cost in the process. We have accepted direct cost shifting when doing so would steer people to using more cost effective products and services. We’ve implemented benefit design changes to lower the overall spend without causing people to forego necessary care, and we’ve recognized the economic relationship between health care and employee compensation in other tangible and measurable ways.

Our partnership approach has driven cost down. MSU spends $50 Million less on health care today as a direct result of this partnership and MSU employees have avoided a great deal of the major cost shifts many other workers have experienced. By taking “ownership” of the problem and investing into a process by setting our own priorities of what to sacrifice, we have been able to maintain a health care benefit that provides quality, affordability, access and choice.

Representative Andy Dillon’s mandatory state government-run health plan would take all ability to continue achieving these results away from MSU and in all likelihood increase pressures to raise taxes and tuition to pay for an unnecessary, massive bureaucracy.

We understand why the Dillon proposal sounds good to the average person. However, it really is not a good idea for a variety of reasons:

1. Medical services in this country are very regionalized. What is good in Lansing, may not work in Detroit or in the UP and vice versa. Choice of insurance companies, plans, networks, hospitals, etc. can make a big difference on costs by region.
2. If we become part of a mega health plan across the State, we will lose the programs that MSU implements to lower costs.
3. It may end up costing MSU more money. The Dillon proposal does not address the increasing cost of health care. It only shifts the payer of the cost and what is paid for.

We work every day to contain and bring health care cost down. We have years of experience evaluating health care cost containment and control strategies and proposals. After careful examination, we have to conclude the unfortunate truth is, this proposal cannot deliver its projected savings.

The real question is: Will how you approach this problem do anything to address the issues, or will spending time and money on making revisions – which will not produce needed relief – make things worse in the long term? This proposal will do just that – make a bad situation worse in the long term.

Please help us avoid the unnecessary loss of our ability to determine our own health care needs and work in partnership with MSU as purchaser/consumer in finding the most cost effective way to meet our needs by contacting your State Representative and Senator, and telling them you don’t support Representative Dillon’s Health Care Proposal.

The MSU Coalition of Labor Organizations
Administrative Professional Association MEA/NEA, Administrative Professional Supervisors Association, AFSCME Local 999, AFSCME Local 1585, Clerical-Technical Union of MSU, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #141-Non-Supervisory, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #141-Sergeants, Graduate Employees Union/AFT, IATSE Local 274, IUOE Local 547
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<thead>
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<th>CT Union Representatives</th>
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<td><strong>1. Administration Bldg, (Floors B, 1)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2. Administration Bldg, (Floors 2, 3, 4)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3. Diag. Center for Population &amp; Animal Health, Basell Bldg (MBI), Henry Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4. Biomed Phys Sci, Planetarium</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6. Baker, Geography, Snyder-Phillips, Mason-Abbot, Psychology Bldg, Kresge, Auditorium</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7. E and W Fee, Hannah Tech Bldg</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8. MSU Grand Rapids Campus</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9. Life Sciences</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10. Farrall, Chem, Biochem, Cyclotron</strong></td>
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<td><strong>11. Plant Biology Lab, Pesticide Rsch, Biology Rsch, Food Safety &amp; Toxicology</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12. Natural Resources, Packaging, Trout Bldg</strong></td>
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<td><strong>13. Anthony, Meats Lab, Engineering</strong></td>
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<td><strong>14. Instr Media Ctr, Urban Plan &amp; Landscape Arch, Audiology &amp; Speech Science, Public Safety</strong></td>
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<td><strong>15. Nisbet, Manly Miles, Univ Printing, Spartan Village Community Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>16. Univ Housing, Old Purchasing, Food Stores, Laundry, Univ Serv, Power Plant, Angell Bldg, Surplus and Recycling</strong></td>
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<td><strong>17. Grounds, Physical Plant, Wilson, Holden, Case Wonders, Duffy Daugherty Football Bldg</strong></td>
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<td><strong>18. Kellogg Center, Brody Complex</strong></td>
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<td><strong>19. IM West, Demo Hall, Jenison, Circle IM, Breslin, Munn Ice Arena</strong></td>
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<td><strong>20. Eppley, Owen, Shaw, N Bus Col Comp</strong></td>
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<td><strong>21. Holmes, McDonel, Hubbard, Akers, Conrad, IM East</strong></td>
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<td><strong>22. Erickson</strong></td>
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<td><strong>23. Plant &amp; Soil Science, Wharton Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>24. Int’l Ctr., Wells, Central Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>25. Spartan Way</strong></td>
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<td><strong>26. Student Services, Horticulture</strong></td>
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<td><strong>27. Giltnar, Natural Science</strong></td>
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<td><strong>28. Clinical Ctr (B,C,D Wings), Engn Res, Radiology</strong></td>
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<td><strong>29. Olin Health Center, Berkey</strong></td>
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<td><strong>30. Campbell, Central School, Gilchrist, Landon, Mayo, Human Ecol, Union, Williams, Yakeley, Wills House</strong></td>
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<td><strong>31. N and S Kedzie, Bessey, Computer Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>32. Library</strong></td>
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<td><strong>33. Vet Medical Center-1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>34. Agricultural Hall, Cook Hall</strong></td>
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<td><strong>35. Olds, Museum, Music</strong></td>
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<td><strong>36. Linton, Eustace, Chittendon, Marshall, Morrill</strong></td>
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<td><strong>37. Clinical Center (A-Wing)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>38. Vet Medical Center-2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>39. Communication Arts</strong></td>
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<td><strong>40. Sparrow Bldg, Breslin Cancer Center, Lansing Medical Office Center, Downtown/Misc</strong></td>
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The following members have petitioned to be appointed UR in their districts. They will be appointed if no other members from their respective districts expresses an interest in the position before 5 p.m. on October 9.

▼ District 13 (Anthony, Meats Lab, Engineering): **Meagan Kroll.**

▼ District 26 (Student Services, Horticulture): **Lisa Ingraham.**

▼ District 36 (Linton, Eustace, Chittendon, Marshall, Morrill): **Janet Roe-Darden.**

District 15 (Nisbet, Manly Miles, University Printing, Spartan Village Community Center): **Rosario Garcia** was reappointed as UR. She can be contacted at 884-0205 or garciar@msu.edu.

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).

September 5—The Coalition table at Lansing’s LaborFest featured the contributions of MSU support staff and offered a hands-on work station. Left: CTU Contract Administrator Dan McNeil, CT Colleen Drake and APA member Christie Tobey at the set up of the Coalition booth. Right: GEU members Robin Harris and Andrea Riley stamp children’s passports.

Coalition joins in Labor Day activities

The Coalition of Labor Organizations at MSU joined area labor groups at the Saturday, September 5, LaborFest in Lansing where hands-on exhibits and displays introduced children to the world of work. The event was part of the city’s sesquicentennial party that paid tribute to Lansing’s 150-year history.

Our exhibit highlighted the different jobs held by support staff at MSU and the unions that represent them. We also handed out MSU and CLO items as well as providing a crafts area where children could make paper Sparty helmets.

At the Board of Trustees meeting September 11, Coalition Vice President Deb Bittner thanked the University for their support of CLO’s efforts at the event, especially President Lou Anna Simon, Trustee Secretary Bill Beekman and Alumni Association Director Stella Cash for helping us to get MSU themed items to hand out to children.

“As a resident of Lansing, I can tell you that those of us who live in the community are proud of our local educational institutions, especially Michigan State University, and we welcome the many ways that the University works to advance this region,” she said. “As an MSU union leader, I can say that we are always pleased to be in positions where we can serve as ambassadors for the University. This weekend’s event allowed us to do just that.”

Labor challenge

The Coalition of Labor Organizations at MSU has initiated a **Labor Challenge** as part of the annual **2009-10 MSU Community Charitable Campaign.** If you donate to the Charitable Campaign, we are asking you to mark your contributions so that it is clear you are a union member.

Unions are all about working collectively, and through our joint efforts, your contribution—no matter how small—strengthens other gifts. Every contribution will help someone who might not otherwise receive help.

By giving through payroll deduction, most working people have found that they can afford to contribute. By joining other union members who share our commitment, camaraderie, and teamwork we can showcase what the MSU Labor Family can do when challenged.

To ensure it counts toward your union, just write “CTU” on the department line after your department name.

*Thanks for all you do on part of the MSU community and the communities where you live!* 
Calendar


October 6. CTU Executive Board meeting, C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.


October 8 until Thanksgiving After becoming an unemployed steelworker in 1978, photographer Martin Desht began documenting the deindustrialization of Pennsylvania communities. His project, “Faces from an American Dream,” will be on display on the fourth floor of the MSU College of Law. Opening reception Thursday, October 8, 4–6 pm.

October 13 (Tuesdays, October 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17). Healthy Parenting. Becki Bowditch, Emotional Wellness Program. Group class/discussion on using positive intervention strategies with children (ages 1-12) so that you can minimize the power struggles you and your child experience. International Center, Room 115, 12:10–12:50 pm.

October 14 “Demonstrating Inclusive Leadership when Negotiating Disappearing Resources,” A Conversation with Women. Lou Anna K. Simon, President, MSU. 3-5 pm, MSU Union Building, Gold Rooms A&B.

October 15. Deadline to contribute items for the November CT News.

October 15 First “Men’s Health, Wellness & Fitness EXPO.” Sponsored by MSU Women’s Resource Center. For men and women who care about the men in their lives. MSU Union Main Lounge, 11:30 am–1:30 pm.

October 20. CTU Executive Board meeting, C-T Union Hall, 5:15 pm. Members welcome.

October 22 Poet Mark Nowak will read from his new book, Coal Mountain Elementary. 105 S. Kedzie, 7:30 pm. LEP Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives.

October 27 CTU elections, 7:30 am–5:30 pm, MSU Auditorium Lobby.

October 28 CTU Membership Meeting, 5:20 pm, 252 Erikson Hall. Doors open at 5 pm for socializing.


October 30. Deadline to submit nominations for the 2009-2010 Jack Breslin Distinguished Staff award. See http://hr.msu.edu/recognition/supportstaff/DistStaff.htm for more information and nomination forms, or call 353-4352.