

SEIU 888 Lunch Time News

October 30, 2008

Alyce Scanlon, your area Member Resources representative, stopped by yesterday. She came to bring me a bumper sticker urging people to vote no on Question 1. I am NOT going to urge you to vote one way or the other. Let's have a 'generic discussion.'

Where do your state income taxes go? They go to the state. What does the state do with those monies? The money funds the state government (such as all of those folks in the statehouse) and various state agencies such as the Registry of Motor Vehicles, the State Police System, the Public Health Department (in charge of stomping on massive threats to the public's health), etc. Part of your state tax monies go to local aid, which means the cities and towns in the Commonwealth. For instance, the schools get state money. Your public library gets state money. I'm sure there are many other programs that I do not know about.

So, if we eliminate the state income tax, the state is left with 'other revenues,' such as my Justice of the Peace commission fee, the "we're having a raffle fee," and other small user fees. What does that mean? Basically, it means no more aid to cities and towns coupled with massive layoffs at the state level. Practically all of the civil service positions could be eliminated and it still would not be enough cuts to compensate for the lack of income tax revenue.

So while I would not dream of telling you how to vote, **I am urging you to vote.** Make your voice heard by voting. – Tina Swift

November 15, 2008: Come with me to Boston for an all day SEIU 888 massive conference. Ok., o.k., so I left the flyer at home. More info: www.seiu888.org. I'll be driving anyway – come for the free lunch! We must reserve, so get back to me a.s.a.p. (I have room for 3 unless you're really small people, then we could make it four.) This is a chance for you to find out 'what goes on in Boston.' It's also a chance for us to make a statement about western Massachusetts.

What do they do?

Chris White works in Technical Services, otherwise known as Cataloging, in the Jones Library. A simple answer to what she does is: Chris orders all of the circulating materials for the Library. She has eight bookbuyers (they buy all types of media) telling her what selections they have made. Then Chris searches vendors electronically using the ILS (Integrated Library System) in order to get the best price and place the order. Everything is tracked, such as when the order was placed, price, shipping if any, etc. For out of print or hard to find items, Chris will search Amazon.com and order from them. (If she does

this, she has to create an ‘invoice’ so I can input it to be paid. Otherwise, imagine your credit card bill with 30 transactions – not knowing what they bought.) Just to add a little perspective: The Bookbuyers’ total budget for circulating materials is over \$240,000 this year. While some of the reference books can be \$500 each, and databases (such as Ancestry.com and others) can be \$1,000 each, if you average the rest of the items out to \$20 each – that’s a LOT of ordering! ###

News: You may have heard on WFCR or noticed the posters announcing that **StoryCorps** is coming to the Jones Library on December 3, 4 and 5.

Since 2003, thousands of people have shared their stories through StoryCorps. Each conversation is recorded and stored at the Library of Congress.

This is a great opportunity for people in Amherst to record their personal stories. How to make a reservation for StoryCorps:

Reservations will open on November 13, 2008 at 10 a.m. To reserve a spot, visit StoryCorps online (<http://www.storycorps.net>) or call 1-800-850-4406. Encourage patrons to reserve their spot early on the 13th on November.

I’m happy to report that everyone who signed up with SEIU 888 in Boston received their free tickets to the Eastern States Exposition!

I’m also happy to report that our contract in full is on the www.SEIU888.org website. When you get to their main page, look on the left and click on chapter information. Then select Town of Amherst. You will see a tab on the right that says “Contract.” Click it!

I have asked (twice) if we can give our members a turkey at holiday time. No response. Should you also like to ask the question, call SEIU. Their number is this: Office Telephone Number:617-241-3300 or **800-882-1466**

Halloween Warning: Apparently “pirate gold” (little chocolate coins in gold foil) has been recalled due to melamine contamination. This is very harmful to children. If you bought it for Halloween – throw it out. Better to be safe than sorry.

The Town Clerk's Office is looking for **voting assistance** during the day for November 4th. You must be trained. \$8.50/hr. Contact Sandra Burgess, Town Clerk. (And, of course, you cannot be scheduled to work for the Town at that time – you need to do this on your off hours.)