

'Mobilize to fight for justice'

Convention to spotlight union's strategies, top issues

"With public workers' rights under attack nationwide, it's crucial that Local 888 members come together to educate themselves about the issues, listen to others' experiences and mobilize to fight for justice," said union President **Brenda Rodrigues**. She urged members to attend Local 888's upcoming convention on Oct. 20.



RODRIGUES

Attendees will vote on union resolutions and attend breakout sessions geared to their particular industry/division. "The convention is an opportunity for Local 888 members who are doing the same type of work to share tips on dealing with similar issues," said Rodrigues.

Breakout sessions may cover such areas as state workers, soldiers homes, higher education, early childhood



McKEEVER

Local 888 Convention

Sat., Oct. 20, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: Teamsters Local 170 Union Hall, 330 SW Cutoff, No. 202, Worcester. Registration opens at 9.m. This is a family-friendly event that features childcare and lunch. *Pre-register by Oct. 12 to be eligible for a special door prize. Go to: <http://www.seiu888.org/convention/>*

education, municipal workers, school employees and public authorities

"The convention is a great time to get caught up on how the political process affects members and their union, and what we are doing to make a difference," said Local 888 Secretary-Treasurer **Tom McKeever**. "Learn more about what your Committee on Political Action did during the primary – and what's planned for the weeks ahead," said McKeever, who is also the local's political director.

See page 4 for more on Convention

Holyoke stages 'styling' protest

Local 888 members at the Holyoke Soldiers Home held a T-shirt "day of action" on Sept. 21. In a display of solidarity, the overwhelming majority of workers that day wore union T-shirts in protest of chronic understaffing at the facility.

Their action was in support of providing quality care to the veterans, while demanding greater respect for the workers who care for them.

MEMBERS UNITED: From left, **Mary Ogar, Shelly LaClair, Tandy Thomas, Gladys Lamanilao, Angela Dickinson and Brian Murray** show off their T-shirts. The certified nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses joined in a 'day of action.'



Labor leader nets Lynn state rep race

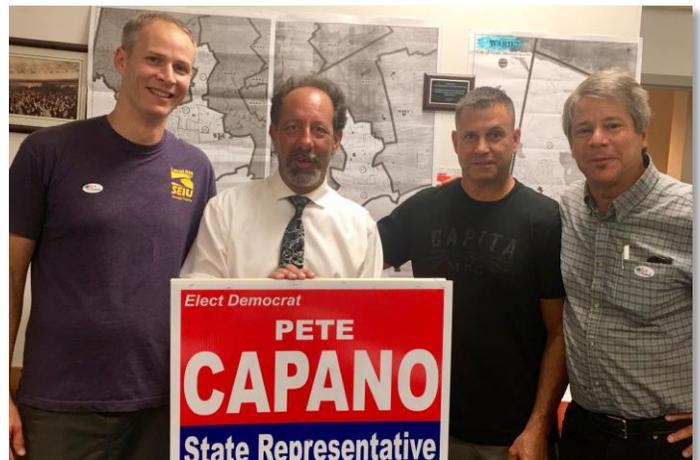
Peter Capano, president of IUE-CWA 201 in Lynn, won the race for state representative in the 11th Essex District. With strong labor backing, including Local 888, the Lynn city councilor won a three-way race in a district that also includes Nahant.

Capano touted his sponsorship of a Lynn law to protect workers as one example of what it will mean to have him working as a state representative. The law prohibits contractors who violate the state's labor laws from doing business with the city of Lynn. At the State House, Capano added, "labor won't have to lobby me, I'll be one of the people lobbying my fellow legislators."

Capano criticized Democrats "who call on labor unions when they need bodies to win an election. After the election, they seem to get amnesia. I think a lot of that would change if there were more people from labor in elected office."

His victory was part of a Democratic primary that saw progressive candidates sweep out two of the top leaders of Massachusetts House Speaker Robert DeLeo's team. This was payback for the failure of the House to pass important bills on workers' rights, health care and education issues and protections for immigrants.

House Ways and Means Chairman **Jeffrey Sanchez** was defeated by **Nika Elgado**, a former State House aide, while Majority Whip **Byron Rushing** lost to **Jonathan Santiago**, an



VICTORY PARTY: Pete Capano, holding a sign, and his supporters – including, from left, Local 888 organizer **Ian Andelman**, field rep **Larry Higgins** and staff chief **Rand Wilson** – had much to celebrate on primary day.

emergency room doctor at Boston Medical Center and SEIU member.

While the state SEIU stayed neutral in the 7th Congressional District race, the victory of Boston City Councilor **Ayanna Pressley** over incumbent U.S. Rep. **Michael Capuano** showed the deep sentiment for change in the Democratic Party.

For his part, Capano is part of a surge in labor candidates across the nation. Overall, this trend is being encouraged by the AFL-CIO's Path to Power program. For a complete election rundown and the list of candidates endorsed by Local 888, see [Election Rundown](http://www.seiu888.org) at <http://www.seiu888.org>.

Scout's honor holds key for Emerson chapter chair

Dennis Levine, a computer systems security administrator, is the newly elected Local 888 chapter chair for Emerson College. He's been at the school going on five years.

Q: What do you like about your job in particular?

A: When I came to Emerson, I was looking to get into an environment that felt like more of an open atmosphere. A little more relaxed.

My job is to maintain the privacy of those who are on the network. As such, I get to meet 90 percent of the people in the college. And the team I'm working with is a fantastic group of people.



LEVINE

In addition, there's a sense of purpose to working in higher education. At Emerson, we're trying to educate young adults to be future leaders. I'm proud to be part of something bigger.

Q: How did you get involved with the union drive?

A: I was against the union at first. The IT department is kind of insular. There wasn't that high a level of
See page 4 for more on Emerson



SPECIAL DELIVERY: Local 888 member **Pedro Ayala**, right, helps make deliveries in Lawrence to aid victims of the natural-gas disaster that shook the area. Recovery work continues

Lawrence disaster aid

The SEIU State Council responded to the natural-gas disaster in Lawrence by contributing over \$4,000 in lunches, pastries and other food for folks who needed it.

One person was killed and more than 80 homes were damaged by fires and explosions in the Lawrence-area disaster. That included the Lawrence home of Local 888 member **Carlos Morel's** daughter – which was blown off its foundation.

Pablo Ruiz, of SEIU Community Action, worked with SEIU volunteers including **Diana Richard** and **Monica Cannon-Grant** to take the food up to the Merrimack Valley. Local 888 members helped volunteers to come up with locations to distribute the aid over the weekend of Sept. 15. SEIU members and leaders from the various locals then gave out water, juice and bag lunches to people who were just then being allowed to walk back to their South Lawrence homes to retrieve vital possessions, such as medications.

In addition, volunteers helped to feed folks who were forced out of their homes but were staying unexpectedly in Lawrence with family and friends due to the emergency. Volunteers also dropped off things at the Lawrence Senior Center.

“We were able to bring in some much-needed supplies,” said Ruiz. “Distributing socks, towels, underwear, personal hygiene items and pillows was very appreciated.”

888 gear along for charity ride

Sporting a Local 888 logo on her bike helmet, Executive Board member **Carolyn Carey** was part of a team of 25 who took part in a Cape Cod charity bike ride to raise money for WE CAN, the Harwich-based nonprofit Women's Empowerment through Cape Area Networking.

“It's a wonderful organization,” said Carey, who works for the town of Harwich. “WE CAN stands up for what's fair and equitable. Just like our union, it tries to make every aspect of life more equitable.”



PEDAL POWER: With her 888 logo on her helmet, **Carolyn Carey** is ready to take part in a Cape fundraising ride for the WE CAN group.

WE CAN partners with other Cape Cod agencies to provide a wide range of services to women and families struggling with such issues as domestic violence, substance abuse or a life crisis.

The WE CAN charity team, which set a goal of raising \$32,500, was part of the larger Last Gasp Cape Cod Charitable FunRaisers event, which goes from Sandwich all the way to Provincetown. The Last Gasp gets its name from a steep hill toward the end of the ride. The goal is to get up the hill without getting off the bike.

Moment of Silence



The officers and staff of Local 888 extend our deepest sympathies to the family of **Joseph Lazzarini**, whose father, **Kevin James Emerson**, 55, of Attleboro, has died. Lazzarini is a former political organizer for Local 888.



PRIMARY PURPOSE: Local 888 field rep **Neal O'Brien**, left, and legal director **John Magner**, right, held signs for **David Biele**, the winning candidate in the South Boston race for state representative.

Big plans for Convention 2018

Continued from Page 1

Both Rodrigues and McKeever will give reports to the convention, followed by a keynote address. There will also be breakout sessions covering key issues including:

- New Member Experience (Member Portal & Union Orientation)
- Why We Organize
- Political Action/GOTV
- How Racism Divides and Harms Us All
- Chapter Leadership Roles & Responsibilities

To pre-register, go to:

<http://www.seiu888.org/convention/>

Scout's honor at Emerson

Continued from Page 2

pressing issues. But once the union was voted in, I started hearing stories from other departments — how management had treated other departments and individuals.

I decided to step up to the plate and be part of solving problems.

It became clear to me that without the backing of a union, management can do pretty much whatever they want. Now we can hold them accountable”

Q. What were negotiations like?

A. Thank God they're over. It took 21 months of negotiating to win this contract. If management had come to the table in a reasonable fashion, we could have been finished far sooner.

Q. What do you like to do in your spare time?

A. I have a son, 23, and daughter, 22. I like to hike and camp. I go up north to New Hampshire with Boy Scout troops. I was a Boy Scout myself, and I've been involved with Boy Scouts the last 16 years. I enjoy it. I'm helping to make kids into adults.

Day for honoring workers

Local 888 members marked Labor Day, which honors workers, in a variety of ways. Members took part in the 34th annual Bread and Roses Heritage Festival on Labor Day on the Lawrence Common with an informational booth.

At the festival, children took in pony rides, balloons and even a reptile exhibit. Entertainment ranged from a local brass band to performances by poets, dancers and actors.

For her part, **Teresa Riordan**, a Local 888 Executive Board member, talked up the importance of Labor Day with her fellow Westwood town workers. And she noted the upsurge in union activism seen across the country.

In fact, a recent Pew Research Center study found that a majority of young people have a favorable view of labor. And the numbers of union members grew last year by 262,000. Three-quarters of those new recruits were under the age of 35.

Coming Attractions

SAVE THE DATE

COMING UP

Public Forum: Increasing Federal Investment in Public Higher Education

Thurs., Oct. 4, 4 p.m – 6 p.m.
Small Science Auditorium,
University of Massachusetts
Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd.

<http://masspeaceaction.org/event/increasing-federal-investment-in-public-higher-education-invest-in-minds-not-missiles/>

UMass Dartmouth Labor Education Center's 43rd Anniversary Banquet

Thurs., Oct. 18, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Venus de Milo banquet hall, 75 Grand Army of the Republic Highway, Swansea

