

Emerson staff vote "Union YES!"

An overwhelming majority of Emerson clerical, technical and professional employees in the academic affairs unit voted to form a union with SEIU Local 888 on April 7. The vote was supervised by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Employees at the college formed a committee of their co-workers to educate one another about the advantages of collective bargaining and build a strong internal network of supporters. The committee also reached out to other campus unions and to students for support during the organizing process. Other higher education unions at colleges and universities throughout the metropolitan area also expressed their solidarity.

"I'm proud to be part of this great group of people who worked so hard to achieve this victory together – 59 to 7 is a resounding affirmation!" said **Estelle Ticktin**, an administrative assistant in the Communication Sciences and Disorders department.

"We met with President Pelton and the senior leadership team before the election to discuss our shared values and our desire to make Emerson a great school and an even better place to work," said **John-Albert Moseley**, a program coordinator in the Visual and Media Arts department. "We hope to move quickly into negotiations with management for our first contract."

Emerson staff will now democratically choose a committee of their co-workers to participate on a bargaining committee, who along with professional staff from SEIU Local 888, will meet with management to negotiate their first agreement.

"We're thrilled with this victory and we are excited about the prospect of our other colleagues joining with us in the near future," said **Shaylin Hogan**, a senior administrative associate in Writing, Literature and Publishing.



Emerson staff celebrate their union election victory.

The workers will be joining hundreds of similar employees at UMass Lowell, Boston University, and Brandeis University who are already united in Local 888.

"Local 888 unites workers in both public and private colleges and universities in Massachusetts," said **Mark DelloRusso**, president of Local 888. "It's exciting to be part of an upsurge of workers in higher education who are

demanding a voice in making their schools the best that they can be."

To learn more about the Emerson staff union, visit www.ouremerson.rocks.

Don't miss the:

Fight for \$15 Rally

(Followed by a social hour for Local 888 members!)

Thurs, April 14
March and rally: 4:00 – 5:30pm
Social hour: 5:30 – 6:30pm

Click here to **RSVP!**
More details inside!

Don't Raise Health Insurance Costs for State Workers

The FY 2017 budget proposal put forward by Governor Baker asks the legislature to raise the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) premium contribution rates for active state workers hired prior to July 1, 2003 and retired workers who leave the workforce after June 30, 2016 from 20 percent to 25 percent. State workers would face a substantial financial impact as a result of this change.

Even without changes to premium contributions, workers who receive their health insurance from the GIC have been facing growing out-of-pocket costs for their care. Plan design changes implemented by the Group Insurance Commission that have raised co-pays and deductibles have resulted in a significant shifting of costs from employer to employee over the past decade. A review of GIC total plan cost data shows that from 2007 – 2016, the true share of GIC health care costs paid by employees (premium contributions plus cost-sharing) now averages 37%, up from a rate of 28% in 2007.¹ An additional 25% increase to the premium share would result in cost increases of over \$1,300 in FY 2017 for many families in premium costs alone.²

In a budget proposal that does not raise taxes or fees elsewhere, the Governor's proposal stands out as a notable exception. State workers and retirees face the same fiscal constraints as all other working families in this Commonwealth, and in fact have sacrificed especially greatly over the past decade as a result of the fiscal crisis and years of budget cuts. It is simply not fair to place an undue financial burden on this specific group of workers in an effort to balance the state budget.

All Local 888 members are urged to contact their State Reps. to tell them to reject the Governor's proposal which seeks to balance the budget on the backs of hard-working families.

[1] Based on analysis of Tufts HealthPlan Navigator and the Unicare State Indemnity Plan Basic, plan designs effective July 1, 2006 and July 1, 2015.

[2] Based on FY 2016 premium rates for UniCare State Indemnity Family Plan

Join the Fight for \$15 in 2016!

RSVP here!
Thursday, April 14th, 3:30PM
MA State House



On April 14th, low-wage workers and allies will join together nationwide for a historic movement to Fight for \$15. *You won't want to miss it.*

For every hard working underpaid worker who dreams of a better future for their family - and for every person who believes that's a dream worth fighting for, this is it. This is the day to be louder, stronger, and more united than we've ever been.

Together we're turning the tide in favor of working people and our families. And we'll need everyone's help -- including members of Local 888 -- to make this a reality.

Are you fed up with working families being forced to survive on poverty wages, while being exploited by companies raking in billions of dollars of profit? On April 14th, 2016, SEIU members are taking to the streets to do something about it.

Will you be there to stand up for \$15/hour?
RSVP here!

Come for the Rally stay for a Drink!
All SEIU Local 888 members who attend the rally on April 14 at 6pm will receive a drink ticket and an invitation to meet up with other members at Scholars Bistro (25 School Street, Boston) for a member social directly after the State House Action and march.

[Click here to take a look at the list of busses coming to Boston from across the State and RSVP.](#)

Coming Attractions

Next Generation Rising



A conference for young workers

Saturday, April 23, 2016 * 9:30am-6:30pm
UMass Boston, McCormick Bldg, 3rd Floor (Ryan Lounge)

Calling all young members of Local 888! Join the Mass AFL-CIO for a day-long conference for young workers 35 and under. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- build relationships with other young union members
- participate in workshops to build their skills
- learn about key issues in the labor movement
- strategize about building the labor movement for the next generation

Please register online at www.massafclcio.org/nextgen and make sure to select 'Union Registration' under Registration Type. Checks can be made payable to the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, 389 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148 Questions? Contact Kevin: kbrousseau@massafclcio.org * 781.324.8230.

Next SEIU Local 888 Executive Board meeting

When: Wed, May 11, 10am – 4pm
Where: 52 Roland St, Charlestown, MA 02129

Local 888's Executive Board is the union's governing body and is empowered to take action consistent with the local's Constitution and Bylaws.



Fuel Assistance Extension!

The Housing Trust Fund is pleased to announce that the Fuel Assistance Program has been extended through April 30, 2016. Applications will now be accepted up to April 30, 2016.

For further details, contact the Housing Trust Fund at 617-241-3380 or speak with your field representative. Applications are available on the SEIU 888 website at www.seiu888.org/htf.

BOSTON HOME CENTER HOUSING EXPO

Saturday, May 7, 9am-1pm

Northeastern University Curry Center Ballroom → TAKE THE T



Learn everything you need to know about Homeownership and celebrate our 20th Anniversary!!

Free Classes!

★ Register at bostonhomecenter.com

Financial Assistance Workshop:
9:45-10:15 and 12:00
Learn about the City's Financial Assistance program, MHP ONE Mortgage and Mass-Housing products.

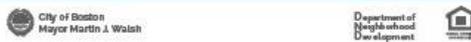
Budgeting for Homeownership:
9:00 - 10:15
Helps you plan your spending and saving for buying and maintaining your home.

DIY Or Hire a Home Repair Contractor?
9:30-10:30
Learn tips on when to do it yourself and when to hire a contractor for home repairs and Spring maintenance.

Structuring Your Finances for Homeownership:
10:30 - 11:45
Learn how to review your credit report and organize your financial documents when applying for mortgages and financial assistance programs.

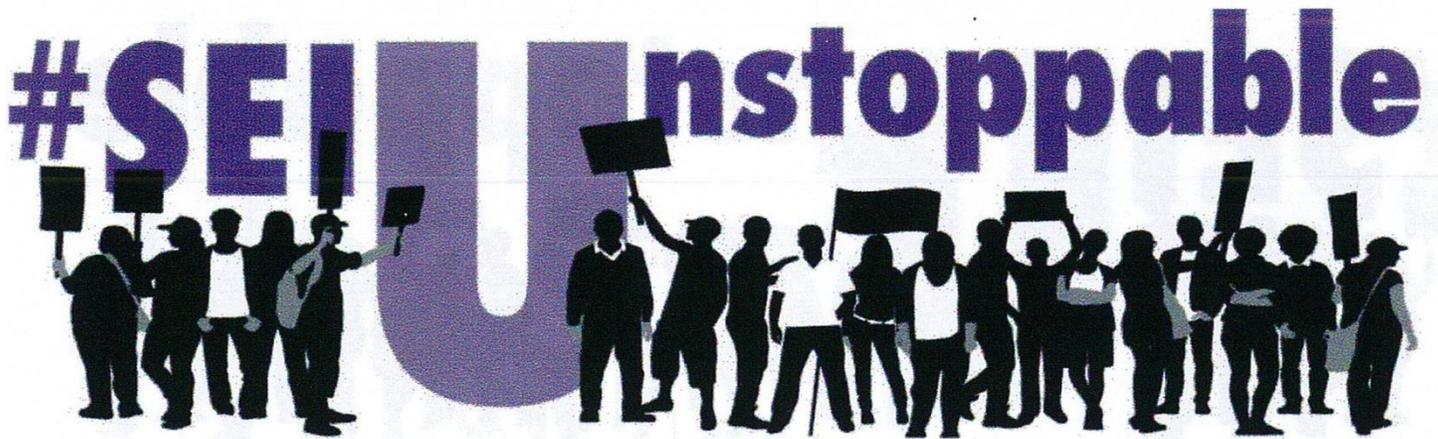
Boston Home Repair Funding Programs:
10:45-11:45
Learn about the City's Home Repair assistance programs - Home Equity Loans, Senior Repair and Lead Abatement.

Participating Partners



Local 888 Executive Board member **David Reno** (Boston Police Dept) and staffer **Rand Wilson** both ran for delegate to represent the 7th Congressional District at the Democratic National convention in July. At the caucus meeting, they were joined by SEIU State Council Director **Harris Gruman**, David's wife **Anna Thal-Reno**, **Rosa Matias** (Chelsea City Hall), former Local 509 president **Mike Grunko** and **Jorge Vargas** (P&E at Boston Public Schools).

BOSTON HOME CENTER
www.bostonhomecenter.com 647.635.HOME (4663)



SEIU President Mary Kay Henry was in Boston in early April to meet with leaders of the Massachusetts SEIU locals about the agenda for the union's 2016 convention.

Local 888 officers **Mark DelloRusso** and **Brenda Rodrigues** along with Field Service Director **Jen Springer** attended the meeting.

The pre-convention meeting was an opportunity to discuss the present moment, the purpose of the SEIU convention and hear President Henry's remarks on how SEIU is "strong, resilient and unstoppable."



Local 888 President DelloRusso with Mary Kay Henry

Participants then discussed what it will take to win future victories and the core concepts that have emerged from the union's Racial Justice Task Force:

- There can be only be economic justice if there is racial justice;
- Ending anti-Black racism is all of our self-interest;
- Together, we can take this on to achieve racial justice.

The meeting wrapped up with an overview of the convention and discussion about the Fight for \$15.

SEIU members are united by the belief that when we come together we can meet any challenge we face. At the SEIU 2012 convention, delegates adopted SEIU's "Vision for a Just Society: where all workers are valued and all people are respected; where all families and communities thrive; and where we leave a better and more equal world for generations to come."

Even with all of success that SEIU members have achieved, there is much more to do to ensure families can realize this vision for a just society.

The SEIU convention will be held in Detroit from May 19 through May 21.

ENDORSED BY: SEIU Local 888
 United for good jobs and quality public service

"SEIU Local 888 is supporting Jay because he's a proven progressive leader...We know we can count on Jay to stand up for working families when we need him to, because we have watched him walk the picket line with workers and take to the streets when it counts. We hope you'll join us in voting for Jay on April 12th and help elevate him to the State Senate"

JAY LIVINGSTONE

#JOINJAY APRIL 12TH

