

SEIU is behind major Climate Change rally 4/29

Working families disproportionately experience high pollution levels by being exposed to environmental hazards both at home and at work. The toll of environmental injustice is a reality for far too many.

Healthy, vibrant communities cannot survive without clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. That's why SEIU Local 888 is urging members to join the [People's Climate March](#) on April 29, 2017.

Since Trump was elected president, there have been many inspiring acts of resistance. When working people come together and raise our voices it sends a message that we won't tolerate going backwards.

At the 2014 climate march, Local 888 member **Enio Lopez** traveled to New York City and locked arms with airport workers, health care workers, and nearly 400,000 other concerned citizens for our environment. It was the largest such demonstration in our nation's history.

With politicians scheming to kill laws that protect our air and water, it's time to speak up and rise up again.

From the Fight for \$15 to Black Lives Matter and the Women's March, working people are becoming more united against a political system that is clearly rigged against us.

Show your support for future generations to have a healthy and safe environment in which to live and prosper. [Join our growing resistance: on April 29, the 100th day of Trump's presidency, lift your voice in the People's Climate March in Boston.](#)

The climate action movement is growing and getting stronger every day because working people around the nation have joined the call to demand solutions that will protect our communities for generations to come. *Join the movement.*

Don't be fooled by Right to Work (for less!)

By Mark DelloRusso, President, SEIU Local 888

Republicans in Congress are pushing a national Right-to-Work bill, but it's not what it seems: that's why we call it a "Right-to-Work-for-less" bill.

The legislation calls for prohibiting unions from charging fees to nonmembers for the costs of representation. Similar bills have been passed at the state level in 28 states.

In states where right-to-work has already been enacted, it has driven down wages and turned more full-time union jobs into part-time jobs with no benefits.

Some good news: Workers won a major victory in New Hampshire on February 16 when lawmakers in the House rejected a right-to-work bill that was supported by Governor Sununu.

Now we have to defeat RTW at the national level. The first step is signing a petition addressed to all Members of Congress. <http://bit.ly/2nHLU6h>

Studies show that wages in states with right-to-work laws are 3.2 percent lower than in states without them. That translates to more than \$1,558

per year. Ask yourself, do we really want a law that could lower wages by 3.2 percent?

Politicians need to focus on making the economy work for working people, which means investing in good jobs and respecting people's right to negotiate for fair wages, safe working conditions, retirement security and healthcare. Right-to-work does the opposite.



Continued from page 1

Don't be fooled...

That's why we need to stop Right to Work dead in its tracks at every level. A progressive coalition is gearing up to make sure right-to-work never becomes law nationwide. But we can't win without your help.

Sign the petition right now. Let's stop right-to-work.
<https://petitions.signforgood.com/right-to-work>

April 4 action in Boston supports the fight for \$15



Over 100 fast food, airport and other low wage workers turned out for an April 4 march to the State House to support the fight for \$15. A bill in the legislature would raise the minimum wage to \$15 and end the exemption for tipped wage workers.

Local 888 convention speaker breaks new ground

By David Reno, Boston Police Dept.



David Cay Johnston, who spoke at Local 888's September 2016 convention, has a new newsletter, DCReports.org.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist has a plan to arm you, the average American, with the information you need about what your government is up to, what your fellow citizens think and — most importantly — what you can do about it.

Johnston recently was first to publish President Trump's 2016 Income Tax returns.

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Chapter Reports

Tyngsborough Administrative Assistants

Tyngsborough Administrative Assistants ratified a new contract. "The best part of the contract was getting three vacation days," said **Cheryl Santos**, a steward. "I think a lot of us are pleased with the Professional Development incentives program, to increase our salary base by accumulating CPE's. It was a pleasure working with Tia and Neal. We felt deflated at times, but it was nice having both supporting us."



SEIU Field Reps Tia Finley and Neal O'Brien assisted with the contract settlements.

City of Boston

City of Boston members held a City Hall chapter meeting with Mark DelloRusso. Chapter Chair, **Keturah Trusty** and stewards, **Larry Louis**, **Sonia Singh** and **Jocelyn Choate** attended the meeting.



Thanks Gail!



Gail Silva from Westborough is stepping down from the Local 888 Executive Board. Gail served on the board for many years and helped with several committees and conventions. "Gail did so much behind the scenes for our union," said Local 888 President Mark DelloRusso.

Local 888 calls on Governor Baker for comprehensive criminal justice reform

Local 888 President Mark DelloRusso joined the SEIU Massachusetts State Council on a letter to Gov. Baker and other top lawmakers calling for reforms that "go beyond the recommendations of the study on criminal justice reform released by the Council of State Government."

The letter called for an end to mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenses, an increase in the threshold for felony larceny from \$250 to \$2500, and sealing CORI laws for seven years for felonies and three years for misdemeanors.

Copies of the SEIU State Council letter are available from rwilson@seiu888.org.

Do you want to distribute the Spark to your coworkers?

To receive multiple copies of the Spark, indicate how many copies you would like on an online subscription form at: <http://tinyurl.com/z713jdm> or just email the information to: rwilson@seiu888.org

Coming Attractions

CPCS Lobby Day

Wed, Apr 19, All Day

Massachusetts State House

Meetings with your Representatives and Senators to support union rights for public defenders. Lobby Day keeps the pressure on our legislators and builds support. Click here to RSVP: <http://888.seiu.org/page/s/mass-defenders-lobby-day->

Jobs with Justice Annual Dinner

Thu, April 20, 6pm – 11pm

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers
East Metro-Boston, 4, 108 Myrtle St,
Quincy, MA

An evening of celebration, food, and fun with the whole Jobs with Justice family! Save the date – more info coming soon!

<https://massjwj.net/2017/01/31/april-20-2017-jobs-with-justice-annual-dinner/>

March for jobs, justice and the climate

Saturday, Apr 29, 2017, Washington, DC
WE RESIST. WE BUILD. WE RISE. Join the People's Climate Movement on April 29 in Washington, D.C. and across the country to stand up for our communities and climate.

Sponsored by SEIU, this march will be a powerful mobilization to unite all of our movements. *Learn more at:* <https://peoplesclimate.org/>

National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Saturday, May 13

Your mailbox/front door!

Working in partnership with the AFL-CIO Labor Liaison Network, United Way and a host of other partners, members of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) get food into the cupboards of those in need. All people need to do is place a bag of unopened, non-perishable food next to their mailbox before their letter carrier delivers their mail on Saturday, May 13th, and the carrier will do the rest. Once collected, the food is taken back to the postal station,

sorted, and delivered by union volunteers to area food banks or pantries.

We ask you to please publicize, promote and most importantly, participate in the May 13th NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

For more info: please contact Yael Foa, National Community Engagement United Way Program Coordinator, at 202-639-6245 or yfoa@afcio.org

SEIU Local 888 Executive Board meeting

Wed, May 17, 10am – 4pm

SEIU Local 888, 25 Braintree Hill Office Park,
Braintree, MA

The Executive Board is the governing body of Local 888. It is authorized and empowered to take all lawful action consistent with our Constitution and by-laws.

Coalition for Social Justice's Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Thu, May 18, 6pm – 9pm

Venus de Milo, 75 Grand Army of the Republic Hwy, Swansea, MA

Please join the Coalition for Social Justice's 22nd Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony. We will be honoring our volunteers and reflecting on the past year's work. Tickets: \$30 (includes dinner)

Rally for Public Education

Sat, May 20, 3:00 – 5:30pm

To Be Announced

Stand up for students, public schools and colleges. Fight efforts by Trump, DeVos, Baker & Peyser to gut our education system. Demand full funding, debt-free higher education and the schools our communities deserve.

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance.

