



The Spark

December 2016



Fight for \$15 in the streets and at the statehouse

On Nov. 29 thousands of workers from across the United States took to the streets in a movement for fairness and justice.

In Massachusetts, Local 888 members and staff took to the streets with fast food workers in front of McDonalds to demand that corporations stop paying poverty wages. Thirty-four workers; community, faith, and labor leaders; and elected officials including State Senator Jamie Eldridge committed civil disobedience and were arrested. Hundreds rallied outside of Logan Airport to demand \$15 an hour and union rights for airport workers. In the afternoon, we gathered at the State House to announce that **Raise Up Massachusetts will be launching a legislative campaign for a \$15 statewide minimum wage.**

Please consider joining this historic campaign for a \$15 statewide minimum wage by taking a pledge to stand with underpaid workers fighting for basic rights.

SEIU Local 888 is part of an ambitious campaign to raise the wages for the thousands of hard-working underpaid workers across the Commonwealth, who make up a third of the state's workforce. If you agree, pledge your support and join the campaign today: <http://tinyurl.com/hyrmv7u>

Check out Local 888's [Facebook page](#) to see photos from the day of action! [Read more about the Day of Action here](#): <http://tinyurl.com/j7msgte>

Serious threats to health care emerge

Working families value the safety and security of their health coverage more than ever. Yet despite broad support, congressional Republicans are moving to try and rush through a plan that would take away health care from more than 22 million Americans – with no plan to replace it.

Congress needs to work together to fix what's broken in the Affordable Care Act to make it work better for everyone, not simply tear the whole thing down.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act without any replacement would result in all sorts of unintended consequences that will harm seniors, children and working families.

The drive to repeal the Affordable Care Act is just the first step in Republican plans to cut Medicaid and turn Medicare into a voucher system. This could plunge our entire health care system and

American households into a crisis at a time when we can least afford it.

- Republicans want to take away health care from 22 million people.
- Many seniors, children and people with disabilities who get their healthcare through Medicaid would be left to fend for themselves.
- Anyone with a preexisting condition will go back to being at the mercy of insurance companies.
- Their actions would destroy Medicare and increase seniors' drug costs.

For a detailed briefing paper on "*Threats to health care in 2017 and beyond*," email rwilson@seiu888.org or call 617 241-3300.



SEIU Local 888 Political Director Dan Hoffer was arrested at the McDonald's in Cambridge along with 33 other fast food and labor leaders.

Members meet with Sen. Mike Brady



On November 22, members of SEIU Local 888 and SEIU Community Action in Brockton joined with Senator Mike Brady to talk about the recent election results in Massachusetts and across the country.

Over 30 community and union members came together to talk about the victories we have achieved and the work that is ahead of us. Even in the face of an election with disastrous consequences, people were fired up and ready to fight for \$15, immigration reform, racial justice, as well as child care and long-term care for seniors and people with disabilities.

Just Cause Eviction law gains support from Mayor Walsh

The Right to Remain coalition announced that Mayor Walsh is supporting the Jim Brook Stabilization Act that would provide new homeowner and tenant protections.

The Boston City Council is expected to hold a hearing and vote on the bill in December.

The proposed bill is named after fallen activist Jim Brooks, a long-time supporter of housing, disability, and LGBTQ rights. Jim Brooks dedicated many of his last years trying to stop wrongful evictions and build a movement for housing justice where people come before profit.

Winning passage of the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act will make it harder for those developers who want to flip real estate with evictions while increasing rents in Boston.

Read the Boston Globe story:
<http://tinyurl.com/gptjo4z>

If you live in the city of Boston, call 617-635-4000 to reach your City Councilor.

Learn more about Just Cause Eviction at www.justcauseboston.org, or on [Facebook](#) at <http://tinyurl.com/zw93uay>

Be sure to use a membership survey before your contract expires

About one-third of Local 888's contracts will expire in 2017. If your contract expires in 2017, a contract survey can be a useful tool to begin preparing for negotiations:

- A contract survey can give your union bargaining team useful information and help build unity on the job.
- Surveys can help get members involved. Filling out a survey is an easy first step to begin building wider participation in your contract campaign.
- The survey is an opportunity to update membership contact information with cell phone numbers and personal email addresses.
- The response to the survey helps track where support for the union is strong and where you need to do more organizing. Similarly, the survey is an opportunity to identify and evaluate workplace leaders who motivate members to fill out and return the surveys.
- Finally, the survey results provide a foundation of data to strengthen your committee's positions at the bargaining table.

Sample contract surveys are available from your field rep or from myunion@seiu888.org.

Do you want to receive the Spark at home?

At the recent Local 888 convention, several members requested that the Spark be mailed to their home address. If you would like to subscribe, call the union hall or fill out the subscription form by visiting the link below: <http://tinyurl.com/z713jdm>

What improvements do you want to see in your next SEIU Local 888 / Boston Public Health Commission / Clerks & Techs contract?
Please rank the following contract issues in order of importance to you using "1" for most important, "2" for second most important, etc:

Salaries

- Across the board pay raise
- Upgrades (i.e. new technology, additional duties, etc.)

Promotional Opportunities

- Stronger contract language on promotional opportunities
- Stronger appeals process language for substantial changes in job responsibilities
- Better access to training and career development opportunities

Hours / Time Off

- Fairer process to pick vacation time
- Management's misuse of attendance policy
- Ability to use personal time
- FMLA
- Release time for union stewards and chapter chair to represent members with grievances

Example of a Local 888 contract survey



Member Spotlight



Jonathan Dudley

A Local 888 member raised over \$1,600 to buy Thanksgiving turkeys in support of locked-out Aubuchon Hardware warehouse workers in Westminster.

Jonathan Dudley, a Gardner Head Start teacher with the Montachusets Opportunity Council, wanted to show that when workers in North Central Mass. take a stand, they do not stand alone. After learning about a lock-out at the hardware chain Aubuchon, Dudley launched an online fundraiser. Within a week, more than \$1500 in donations from across the country flooded in.



Jonathan Dudley (at right), congratulates a locked-out Aubuchon Hardware warehouse worker just prior to giving him a Thanksgiving turkey.

"I was really proud that workers at Aubuchon were standing up to outsourcing, but found it heart breaking that they were locked out just a few weeks before the Thanksgiving Holiday and with winter on the way," explained Dudley. "I believe in solidarity, and that means showing up for each other when it counts."

Dudley works with members of Teamsters Local 170 who drive the buses that transport children to the preschool where he is a teacher. He reached out to the Teamsters and his own union to support his idea to have an online fundraiser to buy Thanksgiving turkeys for each of the locked-out warehouse workers. The locked-out Teamsters added the fundraiser to their Facebook page, and word about the effort spread.

The lock-out began because union members rejected new contract language that would have facilitated out

sourcing. On Nov. 18, Teamsters Local 170 and Aubuchon reached an agreement to end the twelve-day lock-out. Workers now have a three-year contract that offers ample protections for good local jobs. Dudley hopes the community support represented by the turkey fundraiser helped encourage Aubuchon to settle with the union.



Jonathan Dudley (at far right) was joined by Teamster Local 170 leaders and Winchester labor activist Ken Marian at the Thanksgiving turkey distribution.

"Nobody wanted to see the Aubuchon workers eating Thanksgiving dinner on the picket-line or consumers refusing to shop at Aubuchon stores on Black Friday," says Dudley. "I wanted the locked-out Teamsters members to know that the community had their back."

SEIU Local 888 which unites area child care and Head Start workers; Gardner Department of Public Works employees made an organizational contribution, as did a Communication Workers local from upstate New York. Head Start employees from Athol to Fitchburg took up a collection at work, and so did workers at the Verizon call center in Gardner. The call center workers are veterans of the seven-week long Verizon strike that ended last June.

"It made me so hopeful to hear that the IBEW members at Verizon were taking up a collection," says Dudley. "They took a stand against outsourcing and won, now they're supporting local warehouse workers to do the same. This Thanksgiving I'm thankful for solidarity!"

News articles about the turkey distribution appeared in the [Sentinel & Enterprise](#) and the Gardner News.

More photos of Local 888's Jonathan Dudley and Teamsters Local 170 leaders handing out turkeys are posted online here: <http://tinyurl.com/j5hxnk>

Coming Attractions

SAVE the DATE:

WILD 31st Annual Summer Institute

Celebrate the Season with the North Shore Labor Council

Tues. Dec. 13, 5:30 – 8:30 PM
34 Thistle Street, Lynn, MA 01905
RSVP to northshorelaborcouncil@gmail.com or 781-595-2538



Healthy & Safe Workplace Legislative Planning Meeting

Tue, Dec 13, 1:00 – 2:30pm
MTA, 20 Ashburton Place, 3rd Floor, Boston
Co-hosted by the Mass. AFL-CIO and MassCOSH
Help shape labor's legislative agenda and identify shared priorities to press for important improvements in working conditions. For more info contact Sean Mulkerrin at sean.mulkerrin@masscosh.org

Raise UP Massachusetts

Wed, Dec.14, 11am – 1pm
SEIU Local 32bj, 26 West Street, Boston
Raise UP Massachusetts meeting to discuss and vote on legislation to submit on raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour over several years and on Paid Family Medical Leave.

SEIU 888 Executive Board meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 21,
10:00 AM at SEIU Local 888,
25 Braintree Hill Office Park, Braintree

2017 National Single Payer Strategy Conference

Jan. 13 – 15, 2017, New York, NY
Join hundreds of union activists and leaders for the National Single Payer Strategy Conference in New York City, January 13 through 15, 2017.



The conference is jointly sponsored by the [Labor Campaign for Single Payer](#), [Healthcare NOW](#) and One Payer States.

As workers everywhere fight to maintain decent healthcare benefits, now is the time to win single-payer Medicare for All.

Take advantage of the early registration fee and [register today](http://tinyurl.com/zfnxugy). <http://tinyurl.com/zfnxugy>

Scholarships are available. Contact organizers@laborforsinglepayer.org if you wish to apply.



June 23, 24 and 25, 2017

Bridgewater State University

Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD) is a multiracial, multicultural women's

organization founded in 1986 by women labor activists and labor educators to empower women to become effective leaders in their workplaces, unions, communities and in the Massachusetts labor movement.

Scholarships for Local 888 members to attend are available. Contact Local 888 Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Rodrigues at brodrigues@seiu888.org or call 617 241-3300

Happy Holidays from all the officers, executive board, and staff at Local 888!

