

March 2 Vote Set for Suffolk Univ. Staff

Suffolk University staff members marched to the university president's office on Jan. 31 to announce that a majority of their coworkers supported a petition to have an election supervised by the National Labor Board.

"We asked them to not expend precious university resources trying to in any way disrupt our legal right to have a union election," said **Meri Power-Ayer** of Suffolk University's Political Research Center.

Organizing committee members were joined by both undergraduate and graduate students as they delivered a letter signed by 24 union leaders from across Suffolk.



Suffolk union supporters are seeking to form a new union with Local 888. Many of the above employees have worked for months to build majority support for their union. Their election is March 2.

The Labor Board has set the election for March 2 to be held on campus.

Library Circulation Assistant **Jim Alexander** of the Mildred Sawyer Library said that from his perspective, it's about the stakeholder's voice.

"This university is a community and communities are built on engagement and people actually participating. I think Suffolk really needs a boost on that," said Alexander. "That's what we're trying to do."

Continued on page 2

It's Time to Stand Up, Show Up, Rise Up

By Mark DelloRusso, President, SEIU Local 888



Our country has been a beacon of hope for hundreds of years, yet our new president has chosen to scapegoat immigrants and refugees claiming that this will protect our jobs and national security.

Let's be clear: immigrant families strengthen our communities and our economy by creating millions of jobs every year. Today immigrants are running almost a fifth of our small businesses, and doing much of the work our families depend on, including caring for our children, the sick and the elderly, and securing and cleaning our offices and airports. Many immigrants are members of Local 888 or our sister SEIU locals here in Massachusetts.

In just his first few weeks in office, President Trump has launched a frontal assault on working families and our communities. But there is good news: Huge collective actions like the Boston Women's March, the Day of Action for the Fight for \$15, our campaign to protect affordable health care, and the outpouring of support at airports for our nation's immigrants and refugees have given many Local 888 members hope and inspiration. These actions -- and the millions of people coming together to demand better from our president -- they represent the true spirit of America.

SEIU is encouraging all of us to Stand Up, to Show Up, and to Rise Up for an economy and a democracy that work for all us.

Here are three things you can do:

1. Sign the [petition](#) to say you will stand up against the attacks.
2. Join an [action](#) to be part of the growing movement for our families.
3. Share on [social media](#) to add your voice to those speaking out.

By uniting and organizing, we have overcome setbacks in the past. Together we can do it again. *Now is the time to stand up, show up, and rise up against these attacks on our families and our shared values.*

Suffolk Univ. Staff

Continued from page 1

"We've been working really hard to make sure our support is spread across campus," said Power-Ayer. "We have a real coalition of support and we're hoping to make this a great place to work like we know it can be."

"I think that collective bargaining and giving Suffolk staff a voice will make Suffolk a better place," said **Esther Anastasia**, of the physics department.

Local 888 members who are alumni or have friends or relatives who work for Suffolk are urged to contact organizer Ian Adelman at (508) 314-4417 or email iadelman@seiu888.org.

Defend ACA (ObamaCare) by winning Medicare for All!



Brenda Rodrigues (shown above with author Les Leopold) attended a national Single Payer strategy conference in NYC on Jan. 14. SEIU members voted to support Medicare for All at the 2016 International Convention in Detroit.

The Trump administration and most republicans are moving ahead with plans to restructure Medicaid, repeal the ACA, and privatize the Veterans Health Administration.

If they succeed, these efforts could jeopardize health care coverage for millions of Americans -- especially seniors, people of color, single parents, veterans, the disabled, lower income workers and the unemployed.

Moreover, the Republican plan will put even more of the funding burden for social safety net programs onto already overstretched state budgets.

Rolling back the modest gains the ACA achieved will financially burden state and local governments to plug the holes in health care's sinking ship.

Speakers at the national Single Payer strategy conference unanimously believed that the best way to fight proposed cuts to the ACA and defend Medicare was by aggressively campaigning for Medicare for All.

Latino Caucus hosts California Sec. of State



Local 888 leaders gathered at the League of United Latin American Citizens event on Jan. 27

SEIU Local 888's Latino Caucus hosted a political event honoring Alex Padilla, California's Secretary of State on Jan. 27. The event was sponsored by the League of United Latin American Citizens and featured many prominent Boston politicians.

"Local 888's Latino Caucus fights hard to support issues that face Latinos in our union as well as the communities we live and work in," said Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Rodrigues.

Rodrigues drew on her experience in the Jan. 21 Women's March in Washington to make a point about the urgent need for unity: "Millions of people came together across Massachusetts, the country, and the globe to stand up for justice, equality, and fairness for all. We will not forget what we marched for and those who marched with us.

"If there's anything we learned last weekend, it's that our voices are powerful. We must not just push back [against the Trump agenda], but push forward to help promote secure employment, accessible health care, affordable housing, and safe communities for everyone. Because no matter what boat we came to America on, we are all in the same boat now!"



Member Spotlight

Big Win at Chelsea Soldiers Home!

Arbitrator's decision reinstates member with back pay



Teresa Krupien

Teresa Krupien -- a 20-year employee of the Chelsea Soldiers Home -- was unjustly terminated in 2014 after false allegations were made against her.

Krupien had a blemish free disciplinary record. She was liked and respected by her coworkers, the patients she provided care for and their families. She received many glowing letters of support from members of the

soldiers' home community and her community in Chelsea.

Union leaders strongly believed that her termination was unjust and Local 888 filed to have a neutral arbitrator decide the case.

A Polish citizen who immigrated to the United States and later became a US citizen, Krupien started working in the Chelsea soldiers home kitchen and later became a clinical nursing assistant. When she was living in Poland Ms. Krupien was a registered nurse with over 20 years of experience.

The arbitrator ruled that the Chelsea soldiers home did not have "just cause" to fire Krupien. He further ruled that Krupien was to be "made whole" by returning her to the position and restoring her income as if she had never been unjustly terminated.

Krupien is an example of a proud union member who suffered an injustice at the hands of her employer. By using the grievance and arbitration procedure, the union was able to show that Teresa Krupien did not commit any of the alleged actions.



Mike Kelly Retires!



Longtime Local 888 member, COPA Committee activist, and Executive Board member Mike Kelly retired from the Mass Lottery after 42 years and from the Local 888 Executive Board on Feb. 1.

President Mark DelloRusso presented **Mike Kelly** with some congratulatory cake and grateful thanks from all of the members and staff of Local 888.

"Mike was never shy about expressing his views, even if they were unpopular or controversial," said DelloRusso. "No one could ever doubt his commitment and dedication to our union and the labor movement."

Do you know a member who is making a difference in your union or community? Contact rwilson@seiu888.org to be featured in a future Local 888 Member Spotlight.

Watch for your 2017 Local 888 membership card in the mail this month

Your membership card entitles you to attend membership meetings and participate in chapter and local-wide governance. The card also gives you access to an array of special membership discounts and benefits!

Tree Warden of the Year



Congratulations are an order for **Chris Hayward**, a Local 888 member and Tree Warden for the Town of Watertown. Hayward was selected out of 351 Massachusetts Tree Wardens as the recipient of the 2017 Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year Award. A reception with a special cake was held in Chris's honor on Jan. 17.

Coming Attractions

Exploring Class and Classism

Thu, Feb. 16, 5:30pm – 9:00pm
SEIU Local 32BJ, 26 West St.,
Boston, MA 02111

In this workshop, participants will explore: How class identities affect our lives, our work and our relationships, and how we can become more inclusive with others from different class backgrounds. Pizza and refreshments will be served upon arrival.

Register online here:

<http://www.classism.org/events/exploring-class-classism/>



COPA monthly meeting

Thurs, Feb 23, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
SEIU Local 888, 25 Braintree Hill Office Park,
Braintree, MA. For more info contact: Joe Lazzerini
jlazzerini@seiu888.org

Down the Pike: The Future of Boston Area Labor Markets

Tue, March 7, 5:30pm – 8:30pm
Papa Razzi, 16 Washington St, Wellesley, MA 02481
The Labor and Employment Relations Association,
Boston Chapter - Winter Dinner Meeting
Member-\$55 - Non Member-\$65 - Student-\$25
Professor Barry Bluestone will discuss, "Down the Pike: The Future of Boston Area Labor Markets."
Registration deadline is Feb. 28, 2017.

Labor Guild Classes begin

Mon, Mar. 13, 7:00 – 9:30pm 66

Labor Guild School

Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA 02184

Local 888 scholarships available

Info & Register online at: www.laborguild.com/school

SEIU 888 Executive Board meeting

Wed, Mar. 15, 10:00am at SEIU Local 888, 25
Braintree Hill Office Park, Braintree

Conference on the state of labor in Boston

Saturday, Apr 1, 2017

University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey
Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125

This conference will bring together a wide range of people who share a commitment to understanding the state of labor and working people in the Boston region.

Greater Boston Labor Council Annual Legislative Breakfast

Mon, April 10, 8:30am – 10:00am

Omni Parker House, 60 School St, Boston, MA 02108
Annual Legislative Breakfast for state lawmakers from within GBLC's twenty-four community jurisdiction. The breakfast provides an opportunity to outline labor's state legislative agenda to lawmakers.

<http://gbclc.com/legislative-breakfast>

Jobs with Justice Annual Dinner

Thu, April 20, 6pm – 11pm

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East Metro-Boston, 4, 108 Myrtle St, Quincy, MA 02171

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. Join the march in a powerful mobilization to unite all of our movements.
<https://peoplesclimate.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

