

The Spark

January 2018



Look for your Local 888 ballot in February and



VOTE!

All Local 888 members in good standing should receive a ballot in the mail in early February. Ballots will be mailed to all members no later than February 2. The election will conclude on March 3, 2018 with

the vote count at 10:00 am.

Local 888 has an Election Committee that is supervising the election. **Gordan Luciano**, who works at the Lottery, is chairing the committee. Other Local 888 members on the committee are **Meta Jones** (Boston), **Lenny DiBartolomeao** (Chelsea) and alternate **Kathleen Porrazzo** (Quincy Housing Authority). Members with questions, concerns, or protests should send them to: SEIU Local 888 Election Committee, 25 Braintree Hill Office Park Suite #306, Braintree, MA 02184 or emailed to gluciano508@verizon.net

Local 888 member needs help after devastating fire



SEIU Local 888 member and Chelsea Soldiers' Home employee, **Christine Cyr** suffered a devastating loss when her home caught fire in Lynn on January 8 leaving her homeless. Cyr lost all her belongings including her pets. Local 888 Executive Board member and Chelsea Soldiers Home union leader **Rick Moffatt** requested \$500 support for Cyr and her family from the union's Benevolent Fund.

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Scholarship winners!

Congratulations to five Local 888 members whose children have been awarded union scholarships.

Pictured left to right are: Maya Barnes, daughter of **Deitra Barnes** (awarded \$500), and Alyssa Towle, daughter of **Carol Towle** (awarded \$500 scholarship), and Michael Anderson, son of **Erin Anderson** (\$1,000 Greg King Scholarship).
*Not pictured: Winners Samuel Colella, son of **Deborah Colella** and Meriel Borowko, daughter of **Debra Borowko***



Learn more about Local 888 Scholarships here:

www.seiu888.org/888members/benefits/scholarships

Members ask: "Where do my union dues go?"



Union dues are one of the ways that workers build power—by pooling money to allow for representation, legal services, and an organization backing them up.

Visit Local 888's website to find out more about your union dues.

At the bottom of the web page "[Where do my union dues go?](#)" click on the link to see a report on Local 888's [2015 and 2016 revenue and expenses](#).

Blue Hills Chapter contract victories

Blue Hills Regional School Custodians:

Blue Hills Custodians recently voted unanimously to ratify an MOA providing for almost 6% over three years (retroactive) plus a step increase of 2.5% which a majority of its membership will benefit from during the term of the new contract. An increase in the clothing allowance and paid stipends for attaining certain required certifications were also gained, along with other advantageous contract language.

Blue Hills Clerical:

Clerical workers also recently voted unanimously to ratify an MOA providing for a 6% increase over three years (retroactive) plus an increase in its longevity benefits at all levels. Advantageous contract language was also gained, including language upholding seniority rights.

"I wanted to thank both negotiating teams," said Local 888 Internal Organizer Larry Higgins. "Each team did a tremendous job in researching and providing relevant and impactful information that was instrumental in the negotiation process."

Members stepping up to help after devastating fire

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Local 888 member Christine Cyr told CBS Local News that her fiancé evacuated the building so quickly that he was unable to even grab their two cats and two birds. "The whole roof caved down, the whole building. They couldn't put the fire out for hours," Cyr said. "I lost my babies so, kind of numb. It doesn't seem real."

Want to help?

Members are urged to contribute via a "Go Fund Me" web site, which can be found at this link, <http://bit.ly/2mkXplz>. So far \$1,238 of the \$2,000 goal was raised in just two days!

Member Tina Almeida featured in Somerville Alderman's newsletter



Local 888 Crossing guard **Tina Almeida** was recently recognized by newly elected Somerville Alder Stephanie Hirsch who wrote "Tina brings a joyful and safe morning to kids and adults in Union Square each day. The long-time

Mansfield Street resident became a crossing guard after she had been a hospice nurse. She wanted to get out in the sunshine and get moving. She loves to be around children and all her regulars who cross."

Want to get involved in your union's political activities?

The Committee on Political Action will be meeting on **January 23 at 6:30pm** at the Braintree Union Hall, 25 Braintree Hill Office Park. Reach out to Political Organizer Joe Lazzerini at jlazzerini@seiu888.org for more information.

Earn your college associate degree or certificate online for free!

With the SEIU **Free College Benefit**, eligible SEIU members and their families can earn an Associate Degree or Certificate online without having to pay for tuition, fees or e-books. A new partnership with Eastern Gateway Community College, part of the University System of Ohio and regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, offers grants that fill the gap between any federal, state, or employer education grants the student receives and



the cost of tuition, fees, and e-books for certain online programs:

- Associate Degree: Accounting, Business Management, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Individualized Study, Paralegal
- Certificate: Business Management, Patient Home Navigator

First launched with AFSCME in 2015, thousands of students have already taken advantage of millions of dollars in scholarships. We are proud to bring this benefit to SEIU members.

- Register at: www.seiumb.com/shopping-discounts/seiu-free-college-benefit.htm
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit any required verification. Any grant award must be applied to tuition, fees and e-book charges.
- Agree to use any employer-provided educational assistance.
- Verify High School or GED completion by having official transcripts sent to Eastern Gateway Community College.

Have any questions? See SEIU's Frequently Asked Questions at this link: <http://bit.ly/2FoJbjs>

Day of Action planned for "opening day" of Supreme Court Janus case

SEIU is planning a national day of action on Feb. 26, the first day of oral arguments regarding the "Janus v AFSCME" case at the Supreme Court. The Massachusetts AFL-CIO is also mobilizing its public service union affiliates to take action that day too. In Massachusetts, members will wear stickers and hold worksite events.

An AFL-CIO planning and Janus messaging meeting to prepare local leaders is planned for Jan. 23 at the MTA HQ in Quincy. Chapter leaders interested in participating will be provided with an "action toolkit," talking points, social media graphics, stickers, placards, a press advisory template, and a press release template.

For more information contact Local 888 organizing and communication director Rand Wilson at rwilson@seiu888.org

Local 888 participates in Agawam Wreath Laying Ceremony



Honoring Veterans: Kwesi Ablordeppey, Holyoke Soldiers Home; Jennifer Reynolds, Amherst; Lori Moran, Watertown; and Brenda Rodrigues.

Local 888 elected leaders and members participated in *Wreaths Across America's* event at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, where Local 888 has members. Local 888 member **Joshua Kusnierz** who works at the Agawam cemetery had invited Local 888 to participate in the event.



Coming Attractions

Janus training & planning session for chapter leaders

Tue, January 23, 9:30am – 1:30pm

Where: Massachusetts Teachers Association, 2 Heritage Dr, First Floor, Quincy, MA 02171

Messaging training on Janus vs. AFSCME. The training is important for union leadership, communications staff, as well as legislative, political and organizing staff. The Janus vs. AFSCME Supreme Court oral arguments are set to be heard February 26, 2018 with a decision in the case by the summer.

Please note that space is limited. Chapter leaders interested in attending should contact Rand Wilson at rwilson@seiu888.org to preregister.

COPA Meeting

Tue, January 23, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Where SEIU Local 888, 25 Braintree Hill Park #306, Braintree, MA 02184. *For more info contact Political Organizer Joe Lazzarini at jlazzarini@seiu888.org.*

We Are All Americans Now

Tue, January 23, 7pm – 9pm

Where: Brockton Public Library, 304 Main St, Brockton, MA 02301

"Women and Immigration," American Immigration Dialogue Series

Please contact Malice Veiga at 508-580-7890 ext. 205 or email mveiga@cobma.us

www.brocktonpubliclibrary.org

Ballots will be mailed to members for the Local 888 Officer and Executive Board election Friday, Feb 2, 2018

Learn more at:

seiu888.org/888members/elections/

Brockton Legislative Reception

Fri, February 9, 6pm – 8pm

Where: Brockton Public Library, 304 Main St, Brockton, MA 02301

Local 888 is a co-sponsor. Members are urged to attend and meet their elected officials.

Day of action regarding Supreme Court "Janus" case

Monday, Feb 26, 2018

Where: *Your chapter!*

SEIU is planning a national day of action on the first day of oral arguments regarding the "Janus v AFSCME" case at the Supreme Court. The AFL-CIO is also mobilizing its affiliate unions for that day too. The plan in Massachusetts is to have members wear stickers and hold worksite events.

Chapter leaders interested in participating will be provided with a toolkit, talking points, social media graphics, stickers, placards, a press advisory template, and a press release template.



Deadline for Local 888 Officer and Executive Board mail ballots to be returned

Sat. March 3. Ballots must be received by 9:00 am. Ballots must be returned using the postage paid envelope to be counted. Posting ballots after Feb. 28 could mean your ballot will not be received in time. Learn more at <http://www.seiu888.org/888members/elections/>

Ballot count for Local 888 Officer and Executive Board Election

Sat, March 3, 10am – 12pm

Where: SEIU Local 888, 25 Braintree Hill Park #306, Braintree, MA 02184

The FairShare Amendment is under attack



Corporate lobbyists are suing to take away your right to vote on investments in public education and transportation! *Take action by signing this online petition:* <http://action.raiseupma.org/page/s/defend-the-fair-share-amendment>

