

The Spark

July - August 2017



Local 888 takes public defenders' case to Senate President

Local 888 President **Mark DelloRusso** met with State Senate President Stan Rosenberg regarding collective bargaining rights for public defenders and staff who work for the Committee on Public Council Services.



The June 12 meeting was productive and positive. "Our allies in the state senate are key to winning a progressive agenda in Massachusetts. We need them to stand with the public defenders in their fight for to form a union," said DelloRusso.

Local 888 members can help! Contact Local 888 Political Director Dan Hoffer at dhoffer@seiu888.org.

Take two minutes to make your voice heard with new SEIU survey!

All SEIU Local 888 members are urged to fill out a quick, 2-minute online survey as SEIU prepares to raise our voices like never before in the year ahead.



The survey provides a simple way to share what you care most about and help better connect union activists.

Use this link to take the survey:
<http://bit.ly/SEIUsurvey>

Scholarship winners!

Congratulations to three Local 888 members whose children have been awarded \$500 union scholarships. The winners are: Laureen Abbondandolo, daughter of Mass State Lottery member **Alysa Abbondandolo**; Ryan Der, son of BPHC member **Sandy Der**; and Brian Hoey, son of UMass Lowell member **Denise Hoey**.



Visit bit.ly/888scholarships to learn more about Local 888 scholarships

TrumpCare's Impact on the Prevention and Public Health Fund in Mass.

The Affordable Care Act established the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) to expand and sustain national investments in prevention and public health programs. Since 2010, Massachusetts has received more than \$126 million through the Prevention Fund.

In 2017, the Prevention Fund will invest nearly \$1 billion in critical public health programs across the country for community-based prevention, immunizations, outbreak preparedness and response, and more. **The TrumpCare bill would eliminate the Prevention Fund, decimating lifesaving public health investments in every state.**

Massachusetts received a total of \$17,622,501 in FY 2016. If the Prevention Fund were repealed, Massachusetts would lose more than \$88 million over five years.

In FY 2016, Massachusetts received funds for the following programs:

Massachusetts State Department of Public Health

- \$4,210,887 from the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. The Block Grant gives states flexibility to use the funding in ways that fit their communities and their unique needs.
- \$3,680,232 through the Immunization and Vaccines for Children program
- \$97,023 for other immunization programs
- \$2,551,532 to prevent and control heart disease and stroke
- \$2,425,693 to prevent and control diabetes
- \$1,234,298 for epidemiology and lab capacity programs
- \$421,842 for lead poisoning prevention
- \$301,392 for tobacco cessation
- \$275,583 to combat healthcare associated infections

Boston Public Health Commission

- \$966,385 to combat health disparities through the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program

JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.

- \$63,034 for tobacco cessation

Old Colony Y

- \$400,316 to combat health disparities through the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program

Partners in Health

- \$994,284 to combat health disparities through the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program

For more information, visit:

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/prevention-fund-state-facts-2017/>

Local 888 COPA members line up behind Somerville candidates



SEIU Local 888 COPA members met in Somerville on June 20 and June 28 to consider candidate endorsements for Somerville. Members voted unanimously to support incumbent Alderman Matt McLaughlin for Ward 1, challenger JT Scott for Alderman Ward 2, challenger Ben Ewen-Campen for Alderman Ward 3, NAGE member Jesse Clingan for an open seat in Ward 4.

Don't miss the next Committee on Political Action meeting

Local 888 members need both power on-the-job *and* a strong voice in politics. That's why members are urged to participate in the upcoming Committee on Political Action meeting: **Tuesday, July 25**, from 6:30 – 8:00pm at the Chelsea Collaborative, 318 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150

Members looking for a ride to Chelsea or needing more information should contact Local 888 Political Organizer Joe Lazzarini at 617-241-3369 or jlazzarini@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/z7l3jdm> or just email the information to: rwilson@seiu888.org



"Moment of Silence" in memory of Local 888 members

If a Local 888 member (or family) passes away, and you would like to have a notice included in the Spark, please send information to Brenda Rodrigues at brodrigues@seiu888.org

SHAWN FORD

Shawn passed away from a motorcycle accident on May 20. He was employed at the Mass Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon.

DEBORAH A. CARNEY

Deborah died from injuries sustained in a vehicular accident on July 2, 2017. She was the front of the house manager for food services at Brockton High School, where she has worked for over 25 years.

MICHAEL BOYER

Condolences to Boston City Hall member Jane Boyer on the loss of her son after a lengthy illness.

Lydia Edwards for Boston City Council District 1



Lydia Edwards got strong support from SEIU Local 888, SEIU Local 32bj and the Boston Teachers Union on June 29.

"Today SEIU Local 888 is proud to stand with SEIU 32BJ and the Boston Teachers Union announcing our joint endorsement of Lydia Edwards for Boston City Council District 1," said **Brenda Rodrigues**. "She is the candidate of working families in Boston and we stand shoulder to shoulder with her to win this campaign!"

The primary is Sept. 26 Learn more at www.lydiaedwards.org

Local 888 supports campaign for Paid Family and Medical Leave



Boston Water & Sewer member **Damali Simmonds** testified at a statehouse hearing in support of legislation that would create the nation's most comprehensive paid family and medical leave insurance program.

"I had to return to work three months after I gave birth to my beautiful daughter," said Simmonds. "I simply could not afford to take more time off work without pay or I would risk eviction. Mothers are forced to make terrible choices – paid leave would allow me and so many other mothers to stay with their infants when they are most needed."

The paid leave legislation (H2172/S.1048) would make employees in Massachusetts eligible for job-protected paid leave to recover from a serious illness or injury, to care for a seriously ill or injured family member, or to care for a new or adopted child.

Employees taking paid leave would receive partial wage replacement equal to a percentage of their average weekly wages, with a maximum of weekly benefit of either \$650 or \$1,000. Paid leave would last up to either 12 or 16 weeks to care for a seriously ill or injured family member or to bond with a new child (family leave), and up to 26 weeks for an employee's own serious illness or injury (medical leave).

Benefits would be funded through employer premium contributions to the new Family and Employment Security Trust Fund or to private insurance plans. Employers would be allowed to require employees to contribute up to 50% of the cost of premiums.

For more info, visit **Raise Up Massachusetts** www.raiseupma.org

Coming Attractions

Committee on Political Action meeting

Tuesday, July 25, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Chelsea Collaborative, 318 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150 For more information contact Local 888 Political Organizer Joe Lazzerini at 617-241-3369 or jlazzerini@seiu888.org

Exploring Class & Classism

Thursday, August 3

5:30 – 9:00 pm

BEST Hospitality Training Center (Dudley Square). In this workshop, participants will explore:

- How class identities affect our lives, our work and our relationships.
- How race intersects with class.
- How we can become more inclusive with others from different class backgrounds than ourselves (and why that's important).



Bread & Roses Labor Day Festival



Monday, Sept. 4, Enjoy Labor Day by attending a Multi-Cultural, Multi-Ethnic Open-Air Arts & Music Festival sponsored by Local 888!

See the schedule of events at Bread & Roses Heritage Festival: <http://bit.ly/Bread-Roses>

Local 888 will have a tent set up on the Lawrence Campagnone Common and be providing festival attendees with info about the benefits of union membership. Volunteers are needed to help out (even just for a few hours) with setup or staffing our tent. Contact Local 888 organizer Gayle McMahon at gmcmahon@seiu888.org

Labor Guild education opportunities



Sept. 11 - Nov. 13, Monday nights from 6:30-9:00 pm for the fall semester of The Labor Guild's next round of classes.

[Sign up for classes](#) on *Media, Messaging, and The Labor Movement, ABC's of Arbitration; The Steward's Job; Collective Bargaining; Employee Benefits Are No Longer Fringes, Leadership at Every Level, Next Steps for Stewards, and Persuasive Public Speaking.*

Local 888 can provide scholarships. For more info visit: <http://bit.ly/2shmuTd>

Raise Up Massachusetts lobby and hearing for a \$15 Minimum Wage

Tue, September 19, 10:00 – 11:00 am
Gardner Auditorium, Massachusetts State House

Massachusetts Primary Election Day

Tue, Sept. 19, (Sept. 26 in Boston!)

Last day to register to be eligible to vote is August 30!

For more info visit "Where Do I Vote"

<http://bit.ly/2tJbldK>

North Shore Labor Council Legislative Dinner

Sat, September 23, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Angelica's Restaurant, 49 S. Main Street (Rte. 114), Middleton, MA

Featuring Keynote Speaker: Tefere Gebre, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO

Honoring Special Awards Recipients:

- Celebrating Sanctuary (honoring cities, school committees, organizations working to create Sanctuary)
- Jonathon Feinberg and the Guitar Center workers successful organizing drive
- No on Question 2 Coalition
- NSLC Women's Committee

For more info and tickets, contact Rebecca at 781-595-2538 or northshorelaborcouncil@gmail.com

Enjoy discount tickets at Six Flags this summer!



SEIU Local 888 members can buy tickets to Six Flags with substantial savings off the main gate price.

This *online* benefit program offers not

only substantial savings, but allows you to "print and go" so you have your ticket in hand when you get to the park with no waiting in line to purchase tickets.

To access your special tickets, and learn about other Local 888 membership discounts, visit Local 888 Deals at bit.ly/2ueMGi0

