

CPCS staff push for organizing rights

About forty staff from the Committee for Public Counsel Services (The Public Defender Agency of Massachusetts) spent June 2 at the statehouse to meet with their elected representatives about legislation that would include them in the state's collective bargaining law.



CPCS Data Analyst David Colarusso met with State Representative Sean Garbally urging passage of House Bill 2374

David Colarusso, a Data Analyst and former Staff Attorney at CPCS met with his state rep. "I found my conversation with State Representative Sean Garbally very worthwhile," said Colarusso. "I was impressed by how receptive he was to hearing my concerns as a constituent and left the meeting feeling that he better understood our issues and why we need a seat at the table with management."

"The momentum is really building within the legislature to finally fix this "oversight" in the state's collective bargaining law," said **Mark DelloRusso**, president of Local 888. "It's simply inexcusable for the state to deny hundreds of state employees their right to bargain collectively for a voice at work."

Local 888 leaders attend convention

By Mark DelloRusso

A delegation of ten delegates and three alternates attended SEIU's quadrennial International Convention in Detroit from May 19 - 24.

Mary Kay Henry was reelected President along with a slate of seven Executive Vice Presidents and 37 Executive Board members.

Eileen Kirlin, Executive Vice President for Public Services (which includes Local 888) announced her retirement as did current Secretary-Treasurer Mike Fishman.

The convention passed resolutions in support of the Fight for \$15, against racial injustice, and alongside AFSCME, in support of protecting members of our unions and those that want to be part of one.

Secretary-Treasurer **Brenda Rodrigues** did a great job as our "whip" for the Local 888 table.

Kwesi Ablordeppey (Holyoke Soldiers Home) stood up at the microphone and spoke out against racism and other social injustices. He received a huge applause from the entire convention.

Sue Noel (Dracut) stood with Hillary Clinton on stage while she addressed the convention and got a hug from her afterwards.



Kwesi Ablordeppey (pictured on the convention monitor) spoke out against racism and other social injustices at the SEIU convention

SEIU Convention

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Local 888 got a shout out from Mary Kay Henry for our participation in the Clinton campaign and support of workers on strike at Verizon.

Other members of Local 888's delegation included: **Carolyn Carey** (Harwich), **Frank Chillemi** (Westwood), **Jim Corcoran** (Mashpee), **Mike Kelly** (Lottery), **Charlotte Killam** (Water & Sewer Boston), **Dave Reno** (BPD Boston), **Kelly Shay** (DND Boston), **Fred Simmons** (Haverhill), **Jorge Vargas** (BPS Boston), alternates **Tom McKeever** (Lottery) and **Jen Springer** (staff), and guest **Lorna Pleas Heron** (DND Boston).



Local 888 delegates enjoying a meal while at the SEIU convention.

This convention was a huge success and the strong participation by members of the Executive Board made it one of the best conventions I have ever attended.

Other convention news:

SEIU Votes for "Medicare for All!"

Declaring that healthcare is a "human right, not a commodity," delegates to the 26th International Convention unanimously passed a resolution that puts SEIU on record in support of national and state single-payer initiatives, often called "Medicare for All."

"Our local union was founded on the principle of quality healthcare for all," said Diane Sosne, President of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW whose local submitted the resolution. "The resolution we passed shows that SEIU stands alongside the majority of Americans who believe that we need to build a new healthcare system that works for everyone."

The resolution commits SEIU to support "enacting state-based single payer models and public options and, when politically feasible, will advocate for single payer on a national basis." It supports the core

principles of healthcare justice and the inclusion of everyone, regardless of immigration status, under a single standard of care.

Until recently, SEIU focused most of its attention on defending and implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). But, in addition to 1199NW, a number of

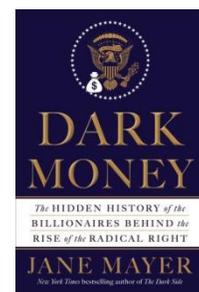
regional locals have been involved in state single-payer battles. For example 1199 Healthcare Workers East is a key supporter of New York Health, a bill that would establish a publicly financed universal healthcare system to cover all New Yorkers. And SEIU Local 1021 has been a strong supporter of the Campaign for a Healthy California.

"Local 888 is thrilled to have SEIU help lead the

fight to win Medicare for All," said Local 888 Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Rodrigues. "Just as we have helped to change the terms of debate in the 'Fight for \$15' campaign, we can be a game changer organizing the movement for healthcare for all!"

Who are billionaires behind the radical right?

The seemingly unlimited and often untraceable money flooding our political system has everything to do with Citizens United — the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling that the First Amendment to the Constitution precludes the government from restricting independent political expenditures.



A new book, **Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right**, by Jane Mayer goes way past that, describing an impressive effort by the right wing to remake our political system and control the terms of the debate through foundations, think tanks, and university institutes.

Find out how you could win a free copy by visiting www.seiu888.org/category/union-updates

Member Spotlight

Leader on the job becomes new leader in Local 888

Long time UMass Lowell employee (and former student) **Nick Piscitello** was recently elected chapter chair for the professional bargaining unit at the university. The UMass Professionals are one of the largest chapters in Local 888 with over 580 members working in a wide variety of jobs throughout the university.

Piscitello never expected to be a union leader. "I dreamed of becoming a computer scientist or engineer like my dad," he told the Spark.

But first he had to overcome serious learning disabilities that left him unable to read or write in the sixth grade. Fortunately, his parents fought for the resources that he needed and one teacher made an extraordinary effort to help him overcome his disability. By the time he got to high school he was a national honors student!

After enrolling as an undergraduate at UMass Lowell, that experience inspired him to become involved as a resident assistant in the resident life program and eventually appointed resident director at Fox Hall.

"The opportunities I've had at Lowell are just amazing," said Piscitello. "So many people here shaped my life and helped me to be who I am today. I wanted to give back and help others. That's why I loved working in the Student Affairs department."

It inspired him to get his Master's in Education at UMass Lowell.

It wasn't long before management recognized Piscitello's abilities and transferred him to Facilities. Initially wary of not being in student development, he soon found that he was working with dozens of students in an equally important role.

As his responsibilities in administration expanded, Piscitello decided to pursue a second Masters in Business. The university made him director of Administrative Services last August.

"I've realized that as you move into leadership at the university it's an opportunity to make great changes – and have fun doing it!" Piscitello emphasized.

"You can make a significant difference in people lives, especially when we find those 'win-win' opportunities for synergy and collaboration."



New UMass union leader Nick Piscitello: "The opportunities I've had at Lowell are just amazing. So many people here shaped my life and helped me to be who I am today. I wanted to give back and help others."

Piscitello wants to bring that same approach to his new role as chapter chair and to helping his coworkers in the union. "Our jobs are critical to the success of the university. By working collaboratively with management we can find many more 'win-win' opportunities that help the university while helping members to grow and succeed too."

Piscitello will be sworn in as a new

Executive Board member in September.



New SEIU Local 888 Executive Board member Lori Moran is sworn in by President Mark DelloRusso. Welcome back Lori!

Coming Attractions

Local 888 Committee on Political Education (COPA)

Tuesday, June 21 at 6:30 PM
Local 888 office, 25 Braintree Hill Park, Suite 306, Braintree, MA. The committee will go over its second round of endorsements for the fall elections.

Please RSVP by Monday, June 20 to Joe Lazzerini, Political Organizer (508) 418-3370 or email jlazzerini@seiu888.org



COPA helps members fight against budget cuts to public services and threats to contract rights. Membership involvement in electoral campaigns and legislative advocacy is key to winning locally and statewide!

Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD)

Weekend Leadership Conference, Bridgewater State College, June 24 – 26

More info at <http://wildlabor.org>

The conference costs \$30. Local 888 will reimburse up to 10 members who attend. Contact myunion@seiu888.org for more info.



Bread and Roses Labor Day Festival

Lawrence Common,
September 5, 12 to 6 PM.

Union discounts on summer fun!

Six Flags:

Day Ticket	\$41.00
Season Pass	\$56.99

Water Country

Online Ticket	\$29.99
Paper Ticket	\$30.99

Canobie Lake Park

Ticket	\$31.00
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Visit www.seiu888.org/888deals to get these discounts and more!



SEIU Local 888 Membership Convention

The bi-annual SEIU Local 888 Membership Convention will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM at 30 Braintree Hill Office Park, Braintree, Massachusetts.

Registration opens at 10:30 AM. After the convention adjourns, there will be an office warming and celebration of our new union headquarters in Braintree.

Members who pre-register for the convention by Sept. 9, 2016 will be eligible for a special door prize!

For more information and updates on the convention, visit SEIU Local 888 website at www.seiu888.org/convention



A delegate from the Chelsea Soldiers Home speaks out at Local 888's 2014 Convention.

SEIU Local 888 has a new address!

Local 888 is now located at **25 Braintree Hill Office Park, Braintree, MA 02184**

Local 888's also has a new FAX number: **617 241-3303**. All other numbers remain the same.

Directions and information about free shuttle from the Red Line is online at www.seiu888.org/my-union/directory/directions888/