

Suffolk Univ. Staff Union Vote Inconclusive

The National Labor Relations Board conducted an election on March 2 to determine if a majority of staff at Suffolk Univ. wanted the right to collective bargaining with management.

Suffolk employees have worked for months to build majority support for forming a union to, "Give us a voice and a contract to create stability and predictability," said **Michelle Archer da Silva**, a staff assistant in the Law School.



Aggressive management interference has stymied Suffolk University workers' drive for their collective bargaining rights.

After the workers petitioned the NLRB for an election, management began using the infamous Chicago union-busting law firm Seyfarth Shaw (where average hourly pay is over \$600 an hour!).

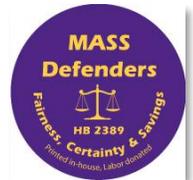
With Seyfarth's help, management cut the originally proposed bargaining unit in half, excluding many of the union's strongest supporters. Then management used anti-union tactics like holding intimidating "one-on-one" meetings with workers, disparaging Local 888, and suggesting that by forming a union, workers could actually end up worse off.

When workers went to vote, management challenged the eligibility of 49 workers, many of whom were members of the organizing committee! Four workers were challenged by NLRB and three by Local 888.

The vote for SEIU Local 888 was 71 to 80 for no

Majority of Senators & Reps co-sponsor bill for public defenders' organizing rights

The SEIU Local 888-backed bill to win union rights for staff at the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) is off to a strong start in this legislative session. Bipartisan support now includes 139 members of the legislature (113 out of 160 members in the House, and 26 out of 40 in the Senate).



With so many co-sponsors, the organizing rights bill is in a strong position to pass. However, winning will require a strong showing for the MassDefender's lobby day. All Local 888 members, public defenders, investigators, and administrative staff are invited to the State House to have face-to-face conversations with their elected representatives in support of the bill.

The lobby day is Wednesday, April 19 from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the Massachusetts State House. Whether you're available in the morning or the afternoon, we will be meeting with Representatives and Senators all day.

Our lobby day is crucial to keeping the pressure on our legislators and winning more support. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

Save the Date for the Next Lobby Day, April 19th at the State House.



Local 888 member and City of Boston Chapter Chair Keturah Trusty delivering chocolates to the Veterans Homeless shelter on Valentine's Day.

Suffolk Univ. Union Vote

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union. However, because the 56 uncounted ballots could determine the outcome of the election, the challenges must be resolved before workers will know the final result.

"I'm confident that a majority of the uncounted ballots were cast by folks who support forming a union at Suffolk," said **Liz McGovern**, an office coordinator for the Strategy and International Business program. "The challenged ballots included members of the organizing committee and many staff members openly supportive of the union."

While Suffolk is a private university, it survives because of the enormous support it receives from tax subsidies, government financing for tuition and other public support.

If Suffolk management continues with its expensive obstruction, the results of the election could take months to sort out.

However, regardless of the result, workers at Suffolk are determined to move forward. They are designing a survey that will allow everyone an opportunity to provide input on their bargaining priorities once all the votes are counted and their union is certified.

Catalina Colon honored for service to the City of Boston



Administrative Guild member **Catalina Colon** (pictured above, second from left) retired after 17 years of service to the City of Boston. She was honored by her coworkers, family and SEIU Local 888 members at a luncheon. Catalina also works with members from the Boston P&E department.

Coworkers brought gifts and she received a citation from the City Council for her outstanding public service. SEIU Local 888 officers also presented a certificate of appreciation and purple carnations!

Want to star in a short video about Local 888's mission?



The greatest threat to Local 888 -- and all unions -- is that so many members don't have any idea what makes our union strong and effective. *But that's not the fault of the members!*

Local 888 must do a better job explaining and educating members about what the union does and ways that members can contribute to making it better.

We are looking to make three 3-minute videos starring Local 888 members about how Local 888 has improved their lives either at work or in the community.

These videos will be used to help members understand the fundamental values that shape our union and provide them with the arguments they need to defend and spread those values.

The videos will be a resource for every member – new and old – who values having a voice at work and rights on the job.

Interested in telling your story? Contact Local 888 Communications Director Rand Wilson at rwilson@seiu888.org or call 617 241-3300.

Updated Public Records Law



Under the new public records law, each town must appoint a "Records Access Officer" to coordinate and manage the municipalities' response to public records requests. These additional duties may impact some Local 888 members who are assigned additional responsibilities.

Read more about the new public records law here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/pre/prenotice.htm>

The new requirements went into effect the first of the year and must be fully implemented by July 2017.

As a member, have you encountered new responsibilities as a result of the law? As a leader, are you bargaining over changes to job descriptions related to it? Have you won members more money for the extra responsibilities?

Send reports from your workplace to Local 888 Assistant Director of Field Services Maureen Medeiros, mmedeiros@seiu888.org.

Member Spotlight**Member cited by Mayor
in State of the City
speech!**

Congratulations to BCYF Streetworker **Francisco Melger** who was mentioned by Mayor Marty Walsh in his annual State of the City address as a dedicated city worker who is “making a difference.”

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.

Chapter Reports**Malden School Clericals**

Malden School Clericals negotiated a new three-year contract with a salary increase of 6 percent over three years with \$150 across the board increase to longevity. Twelve member's positions were upgraded and bereavement leave was increased from 3 to 5 days.

Winchester School Custodians

Winchester School Custodians negotiated a new three-year contract with a salary increase of 7.25 percent over three years! Members also won paid lunch periods, an increase in longevity after 25 years, a \$25 increase on sick time buyback, an increase in their clothing allowance and position upgrades.

SEIU Field Rep. David Nagle assisted with the above contract settlements.

**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

**MassCOSH 40th
Anniversary Gala**

Thu, April 6, 6:00 – 8:30pm.
The Lenox Hotel
61 Exeter St, Boston, MA

Join MassCOSH in Celebrating 40 Years of Fighting Hard for Workers.

With Honorary Event Co-Chair Mayor **Martin J.**

Walsh and Master of Ceremonies Senator **Linda Dorcea Forry**. The event honors Firefighters' General Secretary-Treasurer **Ed Kelly**; State Treasurer **Deborah Goldberg**; Senator **Marc Pacheco**; Representative **Jim O'Day** and the family of the late **Ricardo Oliveira**.

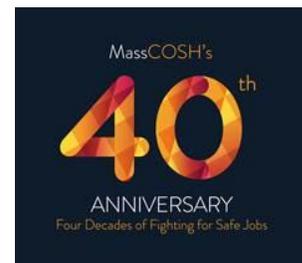
For 40 years, the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) has stood side-by-side with our fellow brothers and sisters to fight for safe and healthy working conditions. Over the decades, we have created real change – in workplaces, in our laws, and in people's lives – with our message of safe jobs and healthy work as a right, not a privilege.

**Local 888 resolution on
repairing schools
anticipated COB report**

A Local 888 resolution that was adopted at the 2016 membership convention on calling on the state and municipalities to “[Fix Massachusetts Schools Now!](#),” anticipated a City of Boston [report](#) that more than half of Boston's schools are plagued by poor or deficient air quality, which studies have linked to low student achievement and high rates of asthma.

The report's findings, released on March 2, are based on an examination of schools' ventilation systems or the lack of them, and other factors that can affect air quality, including the inability to open windows.

Local 888 members at the Boston Public Schools' Planning & Engineering Dept. take great pride in their work, but are frustrated by bureaucratic and budget constraints that impede their jobs. They will be looking at creative ways to proactively bring Boston Schools into compliance with state and federal standards.



Coming Attractions

WILD in the Winter

Sat, March 11, 8:30am – 3:30pm
BEST training Center, 2201
Washington Street, Boston

Come to a WILD Winter Program and learn how to face the attacks on immigrants and labor. \$20 registration fee. *Light breakfast and lunch included.*

SEIU Local 888 BCYF Party

Sat, March 11, 9:00 pm;
ZC Boston, 801 Massachusetts Ave, Boston

Refreshments, appetizers & raffles
3hr free parking is available. *Questions? Please call or text Hajji 857-829-1550*

COPA monthly meeting

Thurs, March 16, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
SEIU Local 888, 25 Braintree Hill Office Park,
Braintree, MA. For more info contact: Joe
Lizzerini jlizzerini@seiu888.org

Labor Guild Classes begin

Mon, Mar. 13, 7:00 – 9:30pm 66
Labor Guild School, Brooks Drive, Braintree
Local 888 scholarships available
Info & Register online at:
www.laborguild.com/school

Exploring Class and Classism

Tue, March 14, 5:30pm – 9:00pm
BEST Hospitality Training Center (Dudley
Square) 2201 Washington Street, Boston
Why is class often so difficult to talk about? How
do class differences impact our work, our
relationships and our workplaces? What is your
class story? Find out more and register here:
<http://www.classism.org/events/exploring-class-classism-2/> Pizza & refreshments will be served.

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. More info:
www.umb.edu/lrc/events

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>

2017 Public Sector Union Health Care Forum

Tue, April 11, 8:30am – 12:30pm
One Enterprise Drive 7th Floor Quincy, MA

Are you a union member involved in public sector collective bargaining? This forum will feature a great lineup of presenters and a panel discussion with local industry experts. Topics will include: Health Care Strategies Product Pipeline (What you may see at the bargaining table), Pharmacy Strategies, Health Care Reform Update. Space is limited, so register today! To RSVP, contact Steve Dion at 617-246-7908 or Stephen.Dion@bcbsma.com.

Jobs with Justice Annual Dinner

Thu, April 20, 6pm – 11pm
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
Metro-Boston, 4, 108 Myrtle St, Quincy, MA

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. Sponsored by SEIU, this march will be a powerful mobilization to unite all of our movements. *Learn more at:* <https://peoplesclimate.org/>

