

More Emerson staff unite in Local 888

Three new Emerson College groups voted to join SEIU Local 888 on May 3. The Communications and Marketing, Institutional Advancement, and Information Technology units voted in separate NLRB elections. The organizing win follows a successful bid last month by employees in the Academic Affairs unit. The combined four groups are expected to become a bargaining unit of about 150 members.

The new units will each elect their coworkers to a bargaining committee to negotiate their first agreement with Emerson management.

"As an alumna of Emerson College and now a staff member, I am proud to be part of a group that has come together to form our union so that we can make our school a better place to work and learn," said Nerissa Williams Scott, an Assistant Manager at the Paramount Center.

"We built relationships across departments and across job titles. We heard from our colleagues about why they love to work at Emerson as well as the things they would like to see improved," said Nancy Howell, a Senior Copy Editor. "Now that we have voted in our union, we look forward to negotiating a first contract that addresses our concerns."

The workers will be joining hundreds of similar employees at UMass Lowell, Boston University, and Brandeis University who are already united in Local 888.

"The momentum is building in area colleges and universities for a voice on the job and collective bargaining," said **Mark DelloRusso**, president of Local 888. "We welcome all of the new Emerson members to Local 888 and to the Boston-area labor movement."

Local 888 relocating to new offices in Braintree

SEIU Local 888 is relocating to a new headquarters in Braintree on June 1.

Background on the decision to move

Early in 2015, President Mark DelloRusso spoke with Local 888's current landlord about several issues regarding the 52 Roland St. property. The elevator did not work for several years making it difficult for

disabled members to climb the stairs to the second floor. Despite repeated requests, the landlord never fixed it.

The landlord also took several months to correct persistent heating and cooling issues (sometimes the office hit 100 degrees!) and removed our SEIU signs and banners pointing to the office location.

Traffic in the Charlestown area was already very congested and with a new casino expected in Everett, access would become even more difficult.

President DelloRusso asked the landlord to be released from the remaining four years of the lease and the Executive Board formed a committee to assist in the search for a new home in the area of Quincy, Braintree, or Dorchester. The final selection was presented by the committee to the Executive Board without objections.

Advantages

By downsizing to 6,400 square feet, SEIU Local 888's members will save hundreds of thousands of dollars and help keep Local 888 financially stable for years to come. Local 888 also received four month's rent free.

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An aerial view of the new Local 888 office

Local 888 moving to Braintree

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"Members are going to like the safety and security of our new offices," said Local 888 President Mark DelloRusso. "It will be significantly less expensive than the Charlestown union hall and easily accessible by shuttle bus from the Quincy Adams station on the Red Line."

An "open house" for members to see the new space will likely coincide with Local 888's biannual convention tentatively scheduled for late September.

The new address for SEIU Local 888 is 25 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 306, Braintree, MA 02184. Local 888's main phone number will remain the same as will addresses for the Lowell, Worcester, and Western Mass offices.

In addition to the free shuttle to the Quincy Adams Red Line T Station, the new offices have ample free parking, a fitness center, and it is close to a child care center and two hotels. South Shore Plaza with over 200 stores is just five minutes away.

Local 888 leaders to attend SEIU Convention

Leaders of Local 888 will be attending the SEIU 2016 International Convention in Detroit from May 19 through 24. Local 888 is entitled to 13 delegates, 3 alternates and 1 guest. Local 888's delegation to the convention will be: **Mark DelloRusso, Brenda Rodrigues, Frank W. Chillemi, Sue Noel, Mike Kelly, Kwesi Ablordeppey, Carolyn Carey, Charlotte Killam, Jim Corcoran, David Reno, Jorge Vargas, Kelly Shay, Fred Simmons, Thomas McKeever, Jen Springer and Lorna Heron.**

At the convention, members will discuss three new initiatives to overcome challenges to worker organization in the current economy and political environment. 1) Create Next Forms of Worker Power. 2) Build a Wider Movement and 3) Innovate in Our Current Work.

More information about the convention is online at: www.cvent.com/events/seiu-2016-international-convention/event-summary-c8414c7e0f564108ad1743cf9d4fb8f0.aspx

Weymouth Custodians Step Up for Town Clean Up

Twelve Weymouth Custodians volunteered on Saturday, April 30 to help with a town-wide cleanup of war memorials and the senior center.



"It's always a good feeling to give back to the community and help out the town," said **Doug Bowen** chapter president. "Most of us wore our Local 888 shirts to show folks that we're more than custodians. Many of us are residents and we have pride in our work and in our union."



Joining Bowen for the cleanup was **Tony Steele** (chapter VP), **Mike Manning** (negotiation committee), **Gino Conte, Matt Conlon, Dave Diersch, Tom Alexander, Rick Pearson, Tom Merrill, and Larry Taylor.** Local 888 rep. **Dave Nagle** also pitched in.

Local 888 supports Verizon workers!



Local 888 organizers Ian Adelman and Colleen Fitzpatrick attended the AFL-CIO's Young Worker conference and picketed in support of striking Verizon workers. Learn more at standuptoverizon.com

Shrewsbury Cafeteria Workers



The cafeteria negotiating committee (left to right Patty Sanuik (Chapter Chair), Sandra Litchfield and Elaine Stark) unanimously recommended a new tentative agreement. The membership vote is set for May 17. There are 36 members in the unit.

Coming Attractions

Local 888 Executive Board meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 10 am – 5pm
52 Roland Street, Charlestown, MA



Merrimack Valley Labor Council Legislative Breakfast

Thursday, May 12, Doors open at 8:00 AM
The Lawrence Vocational Technical High School, 51 River Rd. Andover, MA. Tickets are \$30 p/p (table for 8 is \$240). Contact Tom Raiche at (978) 441 1939

Massachusetts Constitutional Convention

Show your support for the FairShare tax on incomes over one million dollars.

Wednesday, May 18, 1:00 PM
Massachusetts Statehouse

Mass. AFL-CIO Gompers-Murray-Meany Annual Educational Conference

Build connections across the Labor Movement, learn strategies to talk with your co-workers about anti-worker candidates running this cycle, and enjoy an election themed comedy show starring Jimmy Tingle. Wednesday, May 25, 3pm to Friday, May 27, noon
Sea Crest Beach Hotel, Falmouth, MA
Register at www.massafclcio.org

Local 888 Committee on Political Education (COPA)

Thursday, May 26, 6:30 PM (Monthly meeting)
26 West Street, 2nd Fl., Boston
COPA helps members fight back 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.

E-Board member named one of most influential Latinos



Jorge Vargas from the P&E Dept. of Boston Public Schools was named by *El Planeta's* "PowerMeter" as one of the 100 most influential people in Massachusetts' Latino community. *El Planeta* celebrated Jorge and the other 99 top Latinos on Tuesday, May 10 at the Epicenter Artists for Humanity in South Boston.

Local 888 sponsors "Just One" Run

Local 888 has signed on to sponsor the Ryan Harrington Foundation's "Just ONE Run" 5k fundraiser in memory of Sean P. Curtis

Proceeds will directly impact the lives of those affected by the disease of addiction. Participation includes the 5K adult race & walk, a children's "Fun Run" plus refreshments, music and plenty of activities for kids. Registration: \$30.00 for adults, children 13 and under are free.



The run will start at the Blessing of the Bay Boat House in Somerville. The route will snake around the mighty Mystic River over to Medford, through the Mystic River Reservation, crossing back over Wellington Bridge and finishing at the boat house.

Members interested in participating should contact David Nagle at dnagle@seiu888.org.

Scholarship Notice

Twice a year, Local 888 awards three \$500 scholarships (by lottery) to enable members (or family) to attend any post-secondary school of their choosing. Local 888 will also award scholarships of up to \$500 for approved labor study programs or courses. Local 888 also awards the Greg King Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 in the fall.



Application Instructions

Application forms are available from the Local 888 union Hall or can be downloaded from www.seiu888.org/888members/benefits/scholarships

Completed application must be received by SEIU Local 888 no later than 5:00 PM on June 13.

Applications will be screened by Local 888's Scholarship Committee and winners will be drawn by lottery before July 11.

Woburn School Custodians

After long and hard negotiations, Woburn School Custodians ratified a new agreement on April 19 covering July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 and July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. The contract was a great example of the unions in Woburn sticking together. Salaries were increased as follows:

YEAR 1 (14/15):	2.0% Increase; retroactive to 7/1/14
YEAR 2 (15/16):	2.0% Increase; retroactive 7/1/15
YEAR 3 (16/17):	3.0% Increase effective 9/1/16
YEAR 4 (17/18):	1.75% Increase effective 9/1/17 1.75% Increase effective 3/1/18

In addition members negotiated a health insurance opt out. Members who opt out of a single plan get \$1,500; those who opt out of a family plan get \$3,000.

The employer also agreed to a wage reopener and not to attempt to implement any health insurance plan design changes until 2018.



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