

Local 888 "all in" for Labor Day and the fight for \$15

Public service workers who are members of SEIU Local 888 joined a national day of action on Labor Day, standing up with fast food workers and other working people fighting for a better life.

In Boston, **Chris Gonsalves**, an investigator with the Committee on Public Counsel Services (CPCS), joined with other union members and leaders of the Fight for \$15 movement at a rally on the Boston Common. "Hundreds of public defenders and support staff who work for the CPCS are being denied the right to form a union because we were left out of the state collective bargaining law," said Gonsalves. "CPCS staff have been struggling for more than five years to fix a glitch in the law that left us without a path to organize and gain a meaningful voice in our wages and working conditions."

Following the Boston Common rally, workers marched to Copley Sq. where **Jorge Vargas**, an HVAC supervisor with the Boston Public Schools and a leader of Local 888 spoke. "Public service workers are under attack," said Vargas. "We've got to recommit our co-workers to stick together and mobilize to advance our struggles for justice and change the direction of this country."



In addition to the rally in Boston, Local 888 had an information tent on Campagnon Common at the [Bread & Roses Heritage Festival](#) in Lawrence.



"Our members are preparing to join forces with other working people and the Fight for \$15 movement for a massive voter engagement drive ahead of the 2018 election," said **Mark DelloRusso**, president of SEIU Local 888. "We need to push our elected leaders to listen to working families, raise wages, and expand the right to form unions."

In a video released in advance of the Labor Day strikes and protests, U.S. Sen Bernie Sanders agreed: "America needs unions," he declared. "Unions are the only way

working people have ever gotten ahead in this country. And today unions are the only shot for workers to take back the country and fight back against corporate interests that have rigged the system against them."

Union candidate Paul Feeney wins Dem Primary!

IBEW Local 2222 member and Local 888 endorsed state senate candidate Paul Feeney won the primary for the Bristol & Norfolk district.

All members in Southeastern Mass are urged to help Paul win the October 17 General Election.



Practical Aspects of Union Membership

A Say in Decisions. Paying union dues is your ticket to having a say in what the union does. Around contract bargaining time, only dues-paying members of the union are eligible to participate in making many critical decisions:

- No membership, no say in the process.
- No membership, no right to vote on the outcome.



You Send a Message. A strong, voluntary union membership gets the message across to the employer that the individual employees are standing behind their leaders, so that when a union official addresses the employer, it's understood that one voice speaks for many.

Everything Costs Something. The ultimate strength of the union lies in the determination and participation of its members. But it's also true that it takes money for an organization to translate good intentions into concrete actions. Everyone needs to pitch in financially to make the union strong.

—Adapted from, "*The Union Member's Complete Guide*," by Michael Mauer.



Standing up for Charlottesville: Local 888 executive board members **Tom McKeever**, **David Reno** and **Jorge Vargas** attended a rally in Boston to protest the horrific acts of violence perpetrated by white supremacists in Virginia last August. "We remain steadfastly committed to work for justice and peace," said McKeever. "I was proud to stand with those that protest hate and denounce right-wing extremism."

Pre-Primary COPA Report

The Committee on Political Action has reviewed hundreds of candidate questionnaires, held forums, and conducted interviews.

28 candidates won the endorsement of the Committee on Political Action this year. These candidates have shown a commitment to working families, and if elected, would continue that commitment.

One of the goals of the Committee on Political Action is to encourage members to run for office and support them. This year we are proud to support three SEIU Local 888 members who are running for office:

Steven Winslow, Gloucester Department Head, running for Malden City Council at-large candidate

Emmanuel Marsh, Lottery employee, Incumbent School Committee member, Malden

Fred Simmons, Haverhill Custodian, running for Haverhill City Council

Click here for a full list: <http://www.seiu888.org/2017-political-endorsements/>

SEIU Local 888 -- in conjunction with the MA SEIU State Council and SEIU Community Action -- has also made endorsements in Brockton, Springfield, Worcester, and Lawrence.

Here is a link to those endorsements - <http://www.seiu888.org/2017-political-endorsements/>

The Committee on Political Action will consider additional candidates for endorsement after the Preliminary Elections.

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:

Sept 28 at 6:00 pm at SEIU State Council, 145 Tremont St, Boston (Red Line to Park)

Members needing more information should contact Local 888 Political Organizer Joe Lazzerini at 617-241-3369 or jlazzerini@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

NAKIEKA "KIKI" TAYLOR

Local 888 officers and staff extend our deepest sympathies to Ms. Taylor's family, friends and co-workers. Nakioka Taylor was the victim of a stray bullet fired near her home on August 20. She worked as a life guard for BCYF.

Mendon Upton ABAs and Paras win new contract

Mendon Upton regional school district ABAs and Paras unanimously ratified a new three-year contract which included:

- Lengthening the filing period for grievances from 7 to 10 days.
- Memorializing the school work day hours at all work sites.
- Winning paid release time for the chapter leadership to attend trainings, union meetings and conferences.
- Improvements to the step raise system such as moving up the steps and scale faster.
- Three-year agreement with annual increases of 2%, 2.3% and 2.5%
- Additions to the paid bereavement coverage for aunt, uncle and first cousin.

The tentative agreement was approved by the membership with 80% support.

Head Start member leads campaign for Fair Trade in Central Mass.

Local 888 member Jonathan Dudley (above at left) organized a meeting last July in Gardner for Central Mass residents to share their experiences and learn more about how NAFTA has impacted their communities.

At the meeting, participants discussed how to make sure Pres. Trump replaces the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with a deal that is good

for working people and communities in all three North American countries.

NAFTA was negotiated by the Bush administration, signed into law by Bill Clinton in 1994. Some estimate that there have been 9 million NAFTA-related job losses in the US.

There is no guarantee that the Trump administration



will make changes to NAFTA that actually benefit working people or communities, instead of just extending the many ways it benefits multinational corporations.

For more information contact: Jonathan Dudley 704-608-2204 or jonadudley@gmail.com

U-Mass Lowell members petition the legislature to fund union contracts

Higher Education professionals who are united in SEIU Local 888 at UMass Lowell have been bargaining with management in good faith since last March. After months of negotiations, Governor Baker has not authorized reasonable cost of living increases.

"We launched this petition campaign to request that our state reps urge Governor Baker to fund reasonable and fair cost of living increases for state higher education professionals," said chapter chair **Nicholas Piscitello**. "Now that over 250 members have signed the petition, I'm confident that Administration and Finance will get the message."



Coming Attractions



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: Teferi Gebre, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO

Honoring Special Awards Recipients:

- Celebrating Sanctuary cities
- 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

We Are All Americans Now: American Immigration Dialogue Series

Tue, September 26, 7pm – 9pm

Brockton Public Library, 304 Main St, Brockton, MA
Mayor Bill Carpenter will speak at the library on American Immigration. Mayor Carpenter will talk about the politics and the economics of immigration but also the personal and existential encounters with American immigration. (This event is being organized by Local 888 member Malice Veiga.)

Committee on Political Action meeting

Thursday, Sept. 28, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at SEIU State Council, 145 Tremont St, Boston (Red Line to Park).

For more information contact Local 888 Political Organizer Joe Lazzarini at 617-241-3369 or jlazzarini@seiu888.org

Local 888 Hockey Night

Sat, October 14,
4:30pm–9:00pm

Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell, 300 Arcand Dr., Lowell.

River Hawks vs. Omaha-Nebraska with a 4:50-5:50 pm private pre-game skate,

followed by a special Local 888 reception at 6:00 pm with the hockey game at 7:00 pm.



Local 888 members turn out to support Lydia Edwards



"Lydia Edwards really is for the people of Charlestown," said Local 888 member and Boston Police Dept. staffer **Marian Callahan**. "She will fight for more affordable housing and better schools -- she's everything we need in a City Councillor." Callahan attended a "meet and greet" with Lydia Edwards sponsored by Local 888 on August 3 at the End of the World Tavern in Charlestown.

With continued strong support from Local 888 members, Lydia Edwards will win her preliminary election on September 26! Please vote!

Get "Raise Up" petitions now!



Ballot petitions are available for pick up at SEIU Local 888 in Braintree or a dozen other locations throughout Massachusetts. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Joe Lazzarini at 617-241-3369.

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>