

LOCAL 888 APPOINTS LABOR LEADER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jen Springer was appointed Executive Director of SEIU Local 888 on Tuesday, by President Bruce T. Bocardy. Springer is a seasoned labor leader skilled as a chief collective bargaining negotiator. Jen's

negotiating skills have led to countless gains for her members. Read more on www.seiu888.org

LATEST CONTRACT AGREEMENTS

Boston Water & Sewer...

Local 888 members at the Boston Water and Sewer Chapter have ratified a new contract that will cover workers beginning from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014. Thanks to the phenomenal dedication by the bargaining team of Chapter Chair Charlotte Killam, Arlene Jenkins, Marcia O'Brien, Linda Livingstone, and Dianne Cordova.



Mass. State Lottery...

Members of the Lottery ratified the state contract in February. President Bruce T. Bocardy sent a letter to management and demanded that contract be implemented. He also offered to assist members in a campaign to accomplish this. The vote was taken at the SEIU 888 office and the contract was ratified by 228-yes to 39-no, with unmarked ballots-53, retired members-4 and spoiled ballots-2.

Thanks to the bargaining team: David O'Reilly, Jim Rodick, John Conway, George O'Toole, Jim Harrington, Eilleen Meade, Tom Jakus and Joe Macinnis.

Hingham Public Library...



Hingham members negotiated a three-year contract: 2% each year, an equity adjustment for two positions, one at 4%, and one at 3%. Once the team decided to proceed to mediation, management came forward with a proposal to remove double time on Sundays.

Their threat of not opening on Sundays, however, did not shake this team. The team and the members held together and stood strong, and management proposed the grant money that partially funded the double time in a lump sum payment.

A great contract and a great win for the Library staff and negotiators: Anna Byrne, Linda Harper, Carol Lipsett, Janice MacDonald, Marcia Sinclair, and lead by Peter Thornell.

Fitchburg City Inspectors...

Fitchburg members recently ratified a hard fought contract for 3 years. The group was able to fight back any give backs and received 0%, 0%, 2%, with "no layoff" language, and upgrades for 3 of the lowest paid positions.

Millis Town Hall Employees...

Millis Town Hall members won their collective bargaining rights after achieving majority certification by the Commonwealth's Department of Labor Relations on January 27, 2012. Mike Giampietro from the Building Department spearheaded the drive with help from Local 888 staff.

On February 15th about two-thirds of the new members gathered with Mike Foster, Local 888 Regional Representative, and Local 888 Organizer Alex Reusing, to begin the process of bargaining with the Town.

SPRINGFIELD CROSSING GUARDS UNITE IN LOCAL 888



Springfield Bargaining team L-R (from the back): Don King, Willy White, Joseph Perry, Mary Abeid-Pratt, Vivian Ann Kelly, Vanessa Merrit, Hellen Brown, Regional Rep. Angel Alvarez

Making use of a recent state law that has made it easier for public workers to seek collective bargaining rights, the 125 crossing guards in Springfield have signed cards saying they want to form a union. With the hard work of Local 888 union organizers Deanne Dworski-Riggs and Christina Villafranco, the crossing guards were able to gain recognition from the state.



SEIU 888 COPA RAFFLE
April 1: Boston Celtics vs. Miami Heat
Raffle Ends: March 29th, 2012 at 8pm

**ENTER THE RAFFLE TO WIN TWO
 CELTICS VS. HEAT TICKETS!**

Win two (2) tickets to the Boston Celtics vs. Miami Heat Game at the Boston Garden on April 1, 2012. The raffle ends on March 29th at 8pm. The winner will be announced at noon on March 30th and will have their tickets personally delivered by President Bruce T. Bocardy. Go to www.seiu888.org for more info.

MEMBERS ENDORSE KENNEDY & WARREN



A group of our Local 888 members participated recently in SEIU State Council-organized U.S. Senate Forum. In the end, our members tallied their votes in favor of Elizabeth Warren. We then shared our results to the rest of the SEIU locals, where, at a full State Council meeting, participants endorsed Warren's candidacy.



At the Joe Kennedy III endorsement meeting, Local 888 COPA leaders Jorge Vargas (Boston Schools Planning & Engineering) & Lorna Pleas (Boston Elderly Commission) participated in the interview session held last week in the SEIU State Council office. Each posed questions to Kennedy about his preparedness and viability as a candidate. In the end, Pleas and Vargas cast their votes in support of his candidacy, along with several of the other SEIU local members in attendance.

SUPPORT PAID SICK LEAVE

Almost 1 million workers in Massachusetts (over 40% of private sector workers) lack a single guaranteed paid sick day. More than two thirds Massachusetts workers are unable to take sick time to care for a sick child or elderly parent.

SEIU Local 888 is supporting "An Act Establishing Paid Sick Days" so that all Massachusetts workers can take sick time when they need it.

Have you worked somewhere where you don't have any sick days? Do you need more sick days than what

you get now? Do you think it's important for people to stay home when they're sick so they don't spread disease? We need to hear from you. If you care about this bill, please take a minute to email our Legislative Director, Eldin Villafane evillafane@seiu888.org about why you think paid sick days are important.

SAVE THE DATE...UPCOMING EVENTS!

Here are upcoming opportunities to get involved in the labor movement and meet fellow union members. Local 888 will pay for our member's tickets, so just let us know if you would like to attend. Contact: deannedr@seiu888.org or call 617-650-6156.

WILD 25th Anniversary Celebration

The Women's Institute for Leadership Development is celebrating 25 years of strengthening the number, influence, and diversity of women at all levels of leadership in the Massachusetts labor movement.

Saturday, March 10, 2012, 7 pm – midnight
 1199 SEIU, 150 Mt. Vernon Street
 Boston, MA 02125. Tickets \$25

Know your Rights & How to Deal with Hazardous Conditions: SEIU Health & Safety program

Training location: SEIU Local 888 office
 52 Roland St., Suite 101, Charlestown, MA 02129
 Training date: Saturday, March 24, 2012
 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Training will include:
- * Health & Safety and public employees
 - * Indoor Air Quality
 - * Chemicals in the workplace
 - * Assault and violence on the job
 - * Health & Safety committees

For more information contact: Gary Smith
gsmith@seiu888.org (617) 241-3326

Labor Seder

The Jewish Labor Committee Labor Seder is a unique interfaith opportunity through which labor and Jewish community leaders and activists continue to build bridges. Find ways to get involved in meaningful campaigns for social justice, and rejoice with us in the Passover tradition.

March 29, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
 IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street, Boston, MA