

Update

Office Professionals of CMU.
"The most generous employee group on campus."

November 2008
An Award Winning Publication

Are we better off?

The Faculty have ratified a new three year contract; the 2008 Presidential election is over; many are looking forward to the holiday season; and our Bargaining Team has begun preparing for 2009 negotiations.

A few members have asked if we can expect a tough time at the bargaining table. The answer is yes.

Local 6888 will be having special meetings to keep the membership informed, and to gather much needed information from our members about what is most important to them, and what language needs to be added or improved in our contract.

It is imperative that all members attend these meeting, as that will be where you will receive information important to you and your employment.

Just as important is for Local 6888 members to show their solidarity and support for the union and bargaining team. That is where our strength lies.

We may only have a few agency fee payers, but we have far too many members that are not "active". An active member attends meetings, votes at all elections, and outwardly shows their support for their union.

I have heard a few Office Professionals say that our union doesn't do much for us, and that we would all be better off without the union; that the University would be much more generous if we weren't unionized.

Well, that simply isn't true, and if you take a look at the history of our membership, you will see what your union has done for you.

Prior to organizing, there were no established pay levels for clericals. Divisions and departments set wages with input from the Personnel Director. Yearly increases were decided by the head of the division or department. Raises were mostly based on favoritism, bias, and personality, rather than on work ethic. Some clerical employees did not see a raise for 3 years or more.

In the 1968-1970 contract, we had mandatory unpaid maternity leave at the end of the 5th month of pregnancy. An employee could not return to work sooner than 90 days following the birth of the child, and the position was not held for the employee to return to. In the next contract, 1970-1973, the mandatory unpaid leave language was deleted.

In the 1979-1982 contract, we negotiated paid maternity leave for 2 weeks prior to due date and 6 weeks after delivery. This contract also included the addition of bumping language in cases of the reduction or reallocation of the bargaining unit. The language also stipulated 14 days written notice of layoff.

These are just a few of the things your union has gained for you. You can read about more advances and improvements on Local 6888's web site at www.uawlocal6888.org.

The next time you hear someone say "we would be better off without the union", I challenge you to tell them of the many advances your union has made for you.

In Solidarity,
Caral Turner



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Happy Thanksgiving!

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Our National Anthem in Iraq

For those of you who are unaware, at a military theater in Iraq, our National Anthem is played before every movie.

The following was written by Chaplain Jim Higgins on 5/14/07 in Iraq :

I recently attended a showing of "Superman 3," here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium we use for movies, as well as memorial services and other large gatherings. As is the custom back in the States, we stood and snapped to attention when the National Anthem began before the main feature.

All was going as planned until about three-quarters of the way through The National Anthem ,the music stopped. Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-22 year-olds back in the States? I imagine there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments; and everyone would sit down and call for a movie.

Of course, that is, if they had stood for the National Anthem in the first place.

Here, the 1,000 soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again. The soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. And again, at the same point, the music stopped.

What would you expect to happen? Even here I would imagine laughter, as everyone finally sat down and expected the movie to start.

But here, you could have heard a pin drop. Every soldier continued to stand at attention. Suddenly there was a lone voice. Then a dozen, and quickly the room was filled with the voices of a thousand soldiers, finishing where the recording left off:

"And the rockets red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner
yet wave, O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?"

It was the most inspiring moment I have had here in Iraq . I wanted you to know what kind of soldiers are serving you here.

Remember them as they fight for you! For many have already paid the ultimate price.

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS!!

LSA Anaconda is at the "Balad Verdana" Airport in Iraq, north of Baghdad .

Health Tip Is it really FDA approved?



"FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved"; maybe you saw the words on a company's web site or in a commercial promoting a new product or treatment. Some marketers may say their products are "FDA approved," but how can you know for sure?

An FDA web page serves as a gateway to information about approvals of FDA-regulated products: www.fda.gov/opacom/7approval.html. You can search for FDA approval information by product type.

FDA is responsible for protecting the public health by regulating human and animal drugs, biologics (e.g. Vaccines and cellular and gene therapies), medical devices, food and animal feed, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.

But not all of these products undergo premarket approval--a review of safety and effectiveness by FDA experts and agency approval before a product can be

marketed. In some cases, FDA's enforcement efforts focus on products after they are already on the market. This is determined by law.

The FDA does NOT approve:

- ✓ Health care facilities, laboratories, or manufacturers.
- ✓ Cosmetics - perfumes, makeup, moisturizers, shampoos, hair dyes, face and body cleansers, and shaving preparations.
- ✓ Infant formulas.
- ✓ Dietary supplements.
- ✓ Food labels, including Nutrition Facts.

The FDA DOES approve:

- ✓ New drugs and biologics.
- ✓ High-risk medical devices (e.g. Mechanical heart valves and implantable infusion pumps).
- ✓ Additives in food for people.
- ✓ Drugs and additives in food for animals.
- ✓ Color additives used in FDA-regulated products.

Not Afraid to Say 'Merry Christmas'

The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS's Sunday Morning Commentary, December 18, 2005.

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are: Christmas trees. It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu.

If people want a crèche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period.

I have no idea where the concept came from that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution, and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship Nick and Jessica and aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him?

I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where Nick and Jessica came from and where the America we knew went to.



What Unions Do

When people think about the role that unions play, the first thing that comes to mind is negotiating over a contract. These collective bargaining agreements deal with what are known as the "terms and conditions of employment." This is unionism at its core: employees banding together to fight for better pay, get decent health care and other benefits, and gain more control over many other areas of their day-to-day working lives.

Personnel Transactions

New Employees

Vicky Kauffman, Spec Clerk OP4, ProfEd, 10-20-08

Promotions

Colleen Zeh, Stu Svc Coord/Online Grad Prgs, ProfEd, 10-27-08 (prev Spec Clerk OP4, ProfEd)

Return from Leave

Leslie Franklin, Sr Spec Clerk OP5, Admissions, 11-10-08

Update

UAW Local 6888

November 2008

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Laughter - Good for the Soul! HA HA HA



TO: ALL EMPLOYEES

FROM: SYSTEM'S ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: WARNING! C-NILE VIRUS ... MUST READ:

Just learned about this from a reliable source. It seems that there is a computer virus out there called the "C-Nile Virus" that even the most advanced programs from Norton cannot take care of, so be warned. It appears to affect those of us who were born before 1958.

Symptoms of the C-Nile Virus:

1. Causes you to send the same E-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send blank E-mail.
3. Causes you to send E-mail to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send E-mail back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to send E-mail to other listed persons who received the E-mail from the person who sent it to you.
6. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
7. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished the

Addicted To Your Computer

Ten ways to know that you're addicted to your computer:

- 10) When you begin to laugh you yell, LOL.
- 9) You tell your computer you love it, more than you tell your spouse.
- 8) Your house catches on fire and you run home to save your computer before your family.
- 7) Your computer is your ONLY friend.
- 6) You think cyber sex is better than real sex.
- 5) You type only in short hand (YO ROFLMAO I'LL BRB B4 U RTFM LOL).
- 4) You type 40 words a minute with two fingers.
- 3) Your twins are named RAM & ROM.
- 2) After breaking from your computer, you realize you have gained 40 lbs, have grown hair in unusual places, your spouse and kids have left you, and Windows 3.1 is outdated.
- 1) YOU READ CRAP LIKE THIS!

Windows 2000 Error Messages

Windows message: "Error saving file! Format drive now? (Y/Y)"

File not found. Should I fake it? (Y/N)

Press any key except ... no, No, NO, NOT THAT ONE!

Bad command or file name! Go stand in the corner.

Press any key to continue or any other key to quit.

Enter any 11-digit prime number to continue.

BREAKFAST.SYS halted ... Cereal port not responding.

Runtime Error 6D at 417A:32CF: Incompetent User.

WinErr 16547: LPT1 not found. Use backup. (PENCIL & PAPER.SYS)

Your hard drive has been scanned and all pirated software titles have been deleted.



Does China Permit Worker Rights?

NO. China today has more labor activists in prison than any other country in the world. There are widespread violations by China of internationally recognized labor rights.

FACT: Chinese workers have no right to form or join free trade unions.

FACT: In China, collective bargaining for better wages and working conditions by free unions can't occur.

FACT: Strikes and democratic labor protests are prohibited in China.

FACT: More than four million Chinese are in forced labor camps, producing auto parts and other products that often are exported.

FACT: The U.S. State Department reports that official repression of labor activists in China has worsened in the past few years.

China Has Jailed Many Labor Activists

The UAW and AFL-CIO are fighting for the release of all those in China who have been jailed for their labor activity. Among them:

Yao Fuxin

a steelworker at the Liaoyang Steel Rolling Mill was charged with subversion and sentenced to seven years for leading 2,000 workers from the Ferroalloy Factory along with 15,000 workers from five other factories in Liaoyang in a protest against corruption and unpaid wages and pensions.

Xiao Yunliang

a former worker at the Ferroalloy Factory in Liaoyang was charged with subversion and sentenced to four years imprisonment for his participation in a workers' demonstration in March 2002. Xiao is reportedly in very poor health.

Wang Guoqi

sentenced to 11 years for his work at the Free Labor Union of China. Presently imprisoned in Beijing No. 2 prison and reportedly very ill.

Liu Jingsheng

formerly a worker at Tongyi Chemical Plant who was jailed in 1992 and sentenced to 15 years.

Yue Tianxiang

sentenced to 10 years for helping workers demand unpaid wages from Tuanshui Auto Transport Co. and for publishing the newsletter Chinese Workers' Monitor. Hu Shigen a professor at the Beijing Languages Institute who was sentenced to 20 years for organizing the Free Labor Union of China.

Guo Qiqing

a worker at a chemical factory in Hubei got 1 year for leading a demonstration demanding that the company pay back capital borrowed from the workforce. Guo is believed to have been released, but this has not been confirmed.

Zhang Shanguang

a labor activist who was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for passing information to foreign organizations and attempting to set up the Shupu County Association for the Rights of Laid-off Workers. He reportedly has been severely beaten and tortured.

Guo Xinmin

sentenced to 2 years for organizing workers seeking unpaid wages from Tianshui City Transport Co. Guo is believed to have been released, but this has not been confirmed.

Peng Shi

an electrical worker arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment for leading a worker protest at the Hunan Xiangtan Electrical Machinery Plant.

Liao Shihua

a former worker in the Changsha Auto Electronics Factory and a prominent labor activist, was formally arrested on July 7, 1999 for "conspiring to subvert state power" and "assembling a crowd to disrupt traffic."

Kang Yuchun

a member of the Free Labor Union China, sentenced to 17 years in prison on counter-revolution charges. He has been serving since 1992.

Xu Jian

sentenced to four years for providing legal counsel to workers seeking back pay and filing labor disputes under Chinese law.

He Chaohui

a railway worker at the Chenzhou Railway Bureau. He was given a 10 year sentence in 1999 for illegally providing information to foreign organizations.

Yao Guisheng

a former worker at the Hunan Knitting mill, has been serving a 15 year sentence since 1989.

You Can Help Fight China's Labor Repression

Today, more than ever before, China wants to be accepted as a trading partner by the rest of the world. The Chinese regime wants respectability, but that can't occur until China respects human and labor rights.

For workers who are languishing in prison for exercising internationally recognized labor rights, freedom remains a far-off dream. The UAW and the AFL-CIO have launched an international campaign on behalf of jailed labor activists.

You can support democracy and worker rights by [sending an email](#) to President Jiang Zemin today. Help free imprisoned unionists by registering your protest. **Do it today!**

Workers Independent News

PepsiCo Is Wiping Out 3300 Jobs, Closing Plants

PepsiCo announced on Tuesday that it plans to cut 3300 jobs and close six plants. The company, which is the world's number two drink producer, and also owns the FritoLay and Quaker brands, plans to make the cuts both in and outside the United States. Announcements as to which plants will be shuttered will be made in the coming months. The company announced last weeks to shift focus back to soft drink promotion after a long running strategy of promoting more expensive to produce energy drinks.

Another U.S. Vehicle Plant Bites The Dust

By Jesse Russell

This week has been filled with bad news for auto workers. ON Monday GM announced it was moving up the closure date for a plant in Janesville, Wisconsin from the year 2010 to December 23, 2008. Wednesday morning Portland, Oregon received similar news when Daimler announced it would be shuttering a plant by the year 2010. Nine hundred workers will lose their jobs as the company shifts the work to Mexico and South Carolina. The Mexican plant is expected to start taking on some of the work from the Portland plant in February of 2009 when the company begins production of Freightliner's Cascadia. Hundreds of white collar jobs will also be moved from Portland to South Carolina. Meanwhile, the state of Wisconsin has begun work offering services and help for 1,200 GM workers who will be losing their jobs at the end of the year. Earlier this year Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle set up an assistance team that will help workers find training opportunities and educate them on unemployment benefits.

Young Workers In U.S. Earn Less Than Their Counterparts 30 Years Ago

By Doug Cunningham

Dr. James Parrot of New York's Fiscal Policy Institute says a new study by the Center for Economic Policy Research reveals that median wages for young U.S. workers today are lower than 30 years ago. Unions, Parrot says raise those wages by an average of 13 percent.

[Parrot]: "Unions make an important difference in the compensation and the pay and benefits that young workers receive. And that could be one of the reasons why young workers - young people generally - are so anxious for significant economic change in this country because they see that their living standards have been held back by the kind of policies we've had."

20 percent of workers over the age of 45 stopped making payments into retirement

Retirees were struggling with insecurity even before the brunt of the economic crisis hit. An AARP survey released earlier this month found that during the past year 20 percent of workers over the age of 45 skipped or stopped making payments into retirement accounts. The report also found that some workers heading toward retirement had also begun drawing down accounts prematurely. 13 percent withdrew money from retirement accounts.

Economic Report: Economic Crisis Changes U.S. Eating Habits

Eighty percent of workers have changed their eating and drinking habits due to a tightening economy. That's according to a new survey released Monday by Vault.com. Sixty percent of those polled said they have started bringing lunch from home more often instead of eating out. Twenty eight percent have even begun giving up a cup of joe in the morning. Twenty two percent said they are trying to arrange for a telecommute option at work to cut down on fuel costs.

Economic Report: Telecommuting Workers Are Happy Workers

Workers that figure out a way to telecommute tend to be happier according to a new US Unified Communications Survey. Sixty percent of those surveyed said they save at least \$25 per month in fuel costs and 25 percent reported they could save as much as \$100 per month. Ninety percent of those surveyed said telecommuting is at the least a good idea for employers.

Quote of the Month

"The first thing a dictator does is abolish the free press. Next he abolishes the right of labor to go on strike. Strikes have been labor's weapon of progress in the century of our industrial civilization. Where the strike has been abolished ... labor is reduced to a state of medieval peonage, the standard of living is lowered, the nation falls to a subsistence level."

-- *George Seldes, journalist; 1935*

December 2008

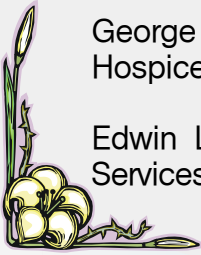
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 World Aids Day	2 Abolition of Slavery Day	3 Disabled Persons Day 	4	5 1955 The two largest labor organizations in the US merge to form the AFL-CIO, with a membership estimated at 15 million. AFL-CIO Day	6 Miners Day 
7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13
14 Children's Memorial Day	15 1941 The AFL pledges that there will be no strikes in defense-related industry plants for the duration of the war. Bill of Rights Day	16	17 Clean Air Day 	18 International Migrants Day	19 Underdog Day	20 Human Solidarity Day
21 Winter Solstice 	22 1919 Amid a steelworkers strike, approx 250 anarchists, communists, and labor agitators were deported to Russia, marking the beginning of the so-called "Red Scare."	23	24	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
28 1944 Pres. Roosevelt ordered the Army to seize the executive offices of Montgomery Ward & Co. After the corporation failed to comply with a Nat'l War Labor Board directive regarding union shops	29 Tick Tock Day 	30	31 New Year's Eve 	Monthly Observances: Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month; National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month; Safe Toys and Gifts Month; Universal Human Rights Month		

In Memory

Memorial contributions have been made in memory of the following:

George Burt, Father of Mary Jones, Management. Donation made to Hospice of Central Michigan.

Edwin L Hills, Father of Denise Smith, Undergraduate Academic Services. Donation made to Hospice of Central Michigan.



Executive Board

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Guide

Update is published by UAW Local 6888, 1205 S. Mission Street, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858 (Ph: 989-773-1312).

Members are invited to contribute letters to the editor, articles, photos, or cartoons. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject any material. Views expressed herein are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the UAW, District 1-D, Local 6888's Executive Board, or Bargaining Committee.

This newsletter is "Labor Donated".

Deadline for material submission is the 20th of the month prior to the month of issue. Send all materials to Caral Turner, Warriner 308 or via e-mail to tume1cj@cmich.edu.

Request for Photos

Hunting season is upon us. Some Office Professionals and their family members hunt, and I'd like to post photos of their success in our newsletter.

Photos can be of any game animal or bird. But please, try to make sure your photos are respectful so as not to offend the sensibilities of any of our members.

Any individuals who hunt with a "camera" are invited to share their photos too!

Photos will be published in the December newsletter and can be sent to me in WA 308 or tume1cj@cmich.edu. Be sure to include all pertinent information, i.e. hunters name, type of game, your name and department.

Happy hunting!
Caral Turner

Wedding Bells



Wedding bells rang for Desiree and Rob Evans August 16, 2008. Desiree is the daughter of Caral Turner, Faculty Personnel Services



November Birthdays

KATHLEEN ASSMANN
CHERYL BLUEMER
KATHY HALL
CINDY HOWARD
SOPHRONIA LASHUAY
MARY KAY MAAS
DONNA MAYES
PAULA MCDADE
ROBIN MCDONALD

KAREN MOREY
SALLY OLLER
PATRICIA PERRY
BRENDA SCHAFER
PATRICIA SCHAFER
JANYCE SELESKY
CINDY SMITH
SUZANNE SOVA
SHEILA WEBER

**NEXT
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
NOV 19
LAKE ERIE RM**