

# Highlights of 2014



## January 2014



Some 250 members of Local 888 and their families from across the Merrimack Valley turned out for the first ever **Hockey Night at UMass Lowell**. Local 888 sponsored the game and hosted a family free skate and a reception for members, in an effort to raise awareness about the union in the Merrimack Valley.

Fifteen **State Police Dispatchers** testified at a hearing on **House Bill 2370** that would move their retirement eligibility from Group One to Group Four. The dispatchers also submitted over 50 letters of support for H.2370.

## February 2014

A new Memorandum of Understanding for a successor agreement between Mass DOT and the Coalition of Mass DOT unions was ratified.



## March 2014

Members of Local 888 were joined by nearly 400 other SEIU members at a forum with the five candidates for governor in the election set for November 2014.



Local 888 held a special luncheon and appreciation for long time City of Boston union member and labor activist **Greg King**, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

## April 2014

Local 888 leaders joined other Massachusetts SEIU locals for candidate interviews for the offices of Attorney General, State Treasurer and Lieutenant Governor.

## May 2014

Over 100 community and labor members turned out to support **Malden school custodians** at a rally to keep quality services in local schools. After the rally, many of the custodians and their supporters packed a meeting of the Malden School Committee.



**Westwood clerical workers** ratified a new contract covering about 20 members. The agreement was hard fought because

management (unsuccessfully) was looking to take several positions out of the union.



## June 2014

Local 888 members attended rallies in Boston, Worcester and Springfield for a **Day of Action for Low Wage Workers**, while some members who make less than \$15 an hour wore special "**Low Pay is Not OK**" stickers on the job that day.

After a rally for better services and local jobs by **Malden's school custodians** and their community supporters, a veto-proof majority of city councillors voted to transfer oversight of their jobs from the School Dept. to the Public Facilities Dept. setting the stage for a new proposal from the mayor.

The Malden City Council voted to support the Mayor's plan to provide an additional \$2,226,293 to the School Dept. to keep all 28 custodians working at the Malden Schools. The funding will also provide for hiring a new custodial supervisor to ensure improvement in school cleanliness.

## July 2014



Unit Two members ratified a new tentative agreement reached between the Alliance Bargaining Committee and the state that includes the **Chelsea and Holyoke Soldiers Homes**.



The SEIU-backed **Raise Up coalition** ended its bid to put a question on the November ballot to increase the state's **minimum wage** after the legislature approved a bill increasing the \$8-per-hour minimum wage to \$11 by 2017. The bill to increase the minimum wage also gave a big boost to the safety of the state's

workforce. The bill included a measure that will extend protections similar to **OSHA to executive branch employees**.

## August 2014

**Lottery members** overwhelmingly ratified a new contract and held a "signing ceremony" with Treasurer Steven Grossman.

Local 888's summer interns from the National Occupational Health Internship Program finished their **report on the health and safety conditions of DPW workers** in Massachusetts.

## September 2014



Early childhood educators and staff at the Lowell Day Nursery (LDN) launch a social media campaign to win raises and respect.

convention to listen to inspirational speakers, vote on policy resolutions, and consider other union business. Members passed a resolution urging each chapter to find ways to make employers pay a minimum of \$15 per hour either through collective bargaining, community pressure campaigns, or city and state legislation.

## October 2014

SEIU Local 888 members gathered for their bi-annual membership



## November 2014

The Raise Up Massachusetts coalition of more than 100 community organizations, religious groups, and labor unions (including Local 888), won a ballot initiative to provide earned sick time for hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts families.



In addition to re-electing many of our allies in the House and Senate, Local 888 helped elect a few candidates who will be new allies for the labor movement. **Michelle Dubois**, a former Local 888 member, defeated her opponent by just 445 votes with strong support from Local 888 members. In addition, Local 888 won six of seven races picked by the Committee on Political Action as our top priorities, including **Steve Ultrino** who helped save 28 school custodians jobs in Malden this year.

**City of Boston** chapter leaders and Local 888 staff worked together to address problems with the way Human Resources (HR) was determine whether requested FMLA leave was "excessive" and routinely second guessing members' medical professionals. HR was causing undue stress and delays in otherwise routine FMLA requests. With union pressure, HR corrected errors around FMLA approvals and resolved to decrease in denials, delays and the use of medical releases.

## December 2014

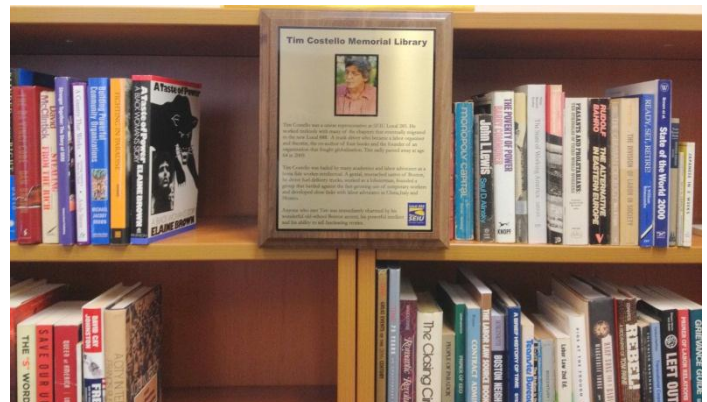
75 instructional assistants from five different schools in Worcester who work for the **Central Mass Special Educational Collaborative** formed a new union with Local 888.



MassCOSH recognized Local 888 Field Director **Lisa Field** for her "leadership, creativity and hard work to promote the safety and wellbeing of workers" at its 38th year awards ceremony.



Members gathered to dedicate the **Tim Costello Memorial Library** at the Local 888 union hall. The library dedication was a tribute to a former Local 285 business agent who spent most of his life in the service of the labor movement as a both an activist and author.





### **Officers**

**Mark DelloRusso**, President  
**Anita Christon**, Recording Secretary

**Brenda Rodrigues**, Secretary Treasurer

### **Local 888 Executive Board**

**Kwesi Ablordeppey**, Holyoke Soldiers Home  
**Regina Capone**, Town of Winchester  
**Carolyn Carey**, Town of Harwich  
**Frank Chillemi**, Westwood Town Hall  
**James Corcoran**, Mashpee DPW  
**Diane Foley**, Weymouth School Drivers & Monitors  
**Lorna Heron**, Boston Elderly Comm.  
**Mike Kelly**, State Lottery Commission

**Charlotte Killam**, Boston Water & Sewer  
**Janet King**, UMass Lowell  
**Suzanne Noel**, Dracut Town Hall  
**Carmen Pagan**, Chelsea Soldiers Home  
**Lyn Scolamiero**, Plymouth Clerical  
**Kelly Shay**, Boston DND  
**Gail Silva**, Westborough Town Hall  
**Fred Simmons**, Haverhill Schools Custodians  
**Jorge Vargas**, BPS Planning & Engineering

### **Trustees**

**Greg Barry**, State Lottery Commission  
**Susan Winning**, UMass Lowell

**Richard Moffatt**, Chelsea Soldiers Home

### **Local 888 Staff**

Peter Bala, Field Representative  
 Lidia Calvo, Office Manager  
 Sue Chase, Field Representative  
 Mari Cooney, Field Representative  
 Donald Cronin, Organizer  
 Steven D'Amico, Field Representative  
 Mark DelloRusso, President  
 Lisa Field, Dir. of Field Operations  
 Jamie Gaynes, Political Organizer  
 Madeline Garcia, Field Representative  
 Daniel Hoffer, Political Director  
 John Magner, Legal Director  
 Gayle McMahon, Organizer  
 Maureen Medeiros, Field Representative

Antonio Nunes, Finance & Administration  
 Director  
 Neal O'Brien, Field Representative  
 Ron Patenaude, Field Representative  
 Joan Pritchard, Field Representative  
 Orvine Ramos, Dues Administrator  
 Rudy Renaud, Organizing Director  
 Brenda Rodrigues, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Jennifer Springer, General Counsel\Legislative  
 Director  
 Bill Storella, Field Representative  
 Christina Villafranca, Organizer  
 Ashana Ward, Administrative Assistant  
 Rand Wilson, Communication & Policy Director  
 Ian Woolverton, Organizer

