

# LOCAL 6 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014



## TRIAL COURT NEGOTIATIONS

Members of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ratified their collective bargaining agreements on June 17th after one month of negotiations.

Highlights of the agreement include: a 9% increase over three years, reclassification, the ability to take vacation in half-hour increments, an additional vacation day or one extra day's pay for employees who use three or fewer sick days in a year, a \$.0.25 increase by the employer to the Group Insurance in years two and three of the agreement, a shift differential increase from \$.0.75 to \$1.00, in-service professional development and a new joint labor-management committee.

"Everyone worked very hard to arrive at a bottom line that would be fair to all; it was a pleasure to brainstorm with such conscientious people who are devoted to the improvement of the system and effective change" said Meredith Marcoux.

"I was impressed with the knowledge, caring and effort put forth by the committee for the members they represent. These folks truly care about everyone's rights and concerns," said Wally Skinner.

"It was nice to witness, during the negotiations, Justice with Dignity and Speed being served," said Claudia Dutra.

"The Local 6 team was a super-good group!" said Charlie Luongo.

## NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

Antero Amado, Custodian  
New Bedford  
Robin Bates, Law Librarian  
Essex Superior Court  
Tom Carter, Staff Attorney  
Appeals Court  
Claudia Dutra, Court Interpreter Sr  
Interpreting Services  
Arthur Fenno, Research Attorney  
Superior Court Admin Office  
Philip Lang, Assistant Coordinator  
ELMO Program  
Michelle Latimer, HAA  
Berkshire Juvenile Court  
Meredith Marcoux, Sessions Clerk  
Franklin-Hampshire Juvenile  
Charles Luongo, Judicial Assistant  
Malden District Court  
Kathleen Mitchell, Judicial Secretary  
Eastern Hampshire District Court  
Patti Pelletier, Operations Sup  
Dedham District Court  
Debbie Puopolo, Operations Sup  
Quincy District Court  
Diane Peterson, Case Specialist  
Norfolk Superior Court  
Sharon Shosey, Office Manager  
Fitchburg District Court  
Wally Skinner, Coordinator  
Norfolk Community Corrections  
Shawn Wright, Asst Coordinator  
Berkshire Community Corrections

## EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS & STAFF

Mary Mahoney  
*President*  
Donna Barrette  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Robert S. Manning  
*Business Manager*  
Lois D. Cuiuffredo  
*Vice President*

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

Erik R. Barrette  
*Business Agent*  
Edward Brassil  
*Executive Board Member*  
Paula Campbell  
*Executive Board Member*  
Edward Grace  
*Executive Board Member*  
Louise Mahoney-Scullari  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Melissa Markstrom  
*Business Agent*  
Richard Martin  
*Executive Board Member*  
Evangeline Maxwell  
*Executive Board Member*  
Patricia Pelletier  
*Recording Secretary*  
Deborah Puopolo  
*Executive Board Trustee*  
Christine Richards  
*Executive Board Trustee*  
Richard Russell  
*Business Agent*  
Julie Toner  
*Assistant to the Secretary Treasurer*  
Julie Wojtkowski  
*Executive Board Trustee*

## AMR STEWARDS RALLY TO SUPPORT GRIEVING EMT

Local 6 union members from American Medical Response in Springfield raised over \$7,000 for a union sister whose husband passed away unexpectedly in April. After a long-awaited trip to visit her husband in North Dakota, EMT Deb Black-

Komendecki landed in the airport to discover that her husband Joe Komendecki, a long-time EMT and Respiratory Therapist away on business, had passed away earlier that evening. When Local 6 Stewards learned of the tragedy and hardship Deb would face in funeral

expenses and transporting her husband back to Massachusetts, they set up a page on GoFundMe.com and raised over \$5,000 overnight. Their fundraising efforts attracted local media attention and the inspiring story was featured on CBS Springfield evening news.

## RUTLAND HOSPITAL      WAREHAM SCHOOLS

Members at Rutland Regional Medical Center commence negotiations on July 15th. In anticipation of negotiations, the nurses have been holding meetings since the fall to form an Action Team in order to increase the level of participation and activism among the membership. In May, there was standing room only at the Demands and Proposals meetings.

At the May 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for the Wareham School Department Secretaries' Association, affiliated with Local 6, members elected the following new officers: President - Nancy Cederholm, Vice-President - Joanne Spiro, Secretary - Deborah Peckham, Treasurer - Marilyn Hackett. New committee members

include: Grievance Committee: Jennifer MacKerron, Joanne Spiro, Marilyn Hackett, Jackie Schulze, and Nancy Cederholm; Sick Bank Committee: Judy Govoni; Scholarship Committee: Helene Owen, and Karen Ross Nasveschuk; Health and Safety Committee: Nancy Cederholm; and Social Committee: Elaine Johnson and Vanessa Coles.

## MASS BAY CREDIT UNION

Members of Mass Bay Credit Union ratified a collective bargaining agreement after twenty months of negotiations and entering into federal mediation. Throughout negotiations, members have increased their involvement within the workplace. In October, members presented man-

agement with an anti-bullying petition. In November, members wore RESPECT buttons in solidarity with the negotiating committee. In May, members won back-pay for a temporary employee who was being compensated less than the contract demanded. A June arbitration was settled for \$2,500 in

back-pay and a promotion for a member who was unfairly demoted. The settlement discussion also resulted in the resolution of several other grievances including the posting of a position and acknowledgment that probationary employees must be notified on or before their probationary period expires.

## REGISTRIES OF DEEDS

Contract negotiations began in Hampden, Middlesex North and Middlesex South Registries of Deeds. Hampden negotiators include: Tom Chevalier, Ann Marie Cunningham and Bridget O'Connor. Middlesex North: Barbara Meehan, Anita Downs and Karen Cassella. Middlesex

South: Kathleen Marifiote and Susan Lennon.

Members at the Hampden Registry of Deeds made phenomenal progress at a Labor-Management meeting in November. Committee members include: Ann Marie Cunningham and Bridget O'Connor. The committee effectively

ended the practice of having to turn in physician-only signed doctor's notes for all doctor appointments, a restricting policy for calling in sick, improvement with bathroom stocking and cleanliness and received an update on the elevator revitalization project.

## TRIAL COURT LABOR-MANAGEMENT AND ARBITRATION

Trial Court members who work in the Electronic Monitoring Program are making improvements in the workplace through joint labor-management committee meetings.

Members on the committee include: Tracey Albrecht, Carmine Giuggio and Phil Lang. In April, the committee established a new and transparent process for bidding shifts. In

May, the committee: improved the bid process by adding an additional bid, discussed possible solutions to address and avoid workplace safety concerns, demanded in-service training, comp days owed for snow days and the implementation of new technology. The next meeting is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>.

In March, Local 6 won a promotional grievance with the Trial Court resulting in a job being awarded to the senior grievant with greater qualifications for the job. The arbiter criticized the employer's interview process and cautioned management to establish a system that adheres to the contract by measuring relevant qualifications that are objectively demonstrable.

## AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE

Members at American Medical Response ratified a collective bargaining agreement in November. Committee members included: Joel Perkins, John Glabicky, Liz Dempsey, Adam Bassett, Rock Thibeault and Jason Dorval. In order to fight off major cuts proposed by management, the members

formed an Action Team to increase their level of activism within the workplace. In October, the bargaining team presented management with a petition demanding fair wages, health-care and hours. During the course of negotiations, members wore red T-Shirts, ribbons and EMS Strong armbands. On the

last day of negotiations, members lined AMR's driveway greeting management, local traffic and ambulance crews. Members succeeded in fighting off or minimizing some of the worst cuts. Highlights include: an 8.75% increase over the course of three years and an increase in pay for Field Training Officers.

## TOWN OF WESTFORD

Members working for the Town of Westford ratified a collective bargaining agreement on June 19<sup>th</sup> which includes: a 6% wage increase over the course of three years retroactive to July 1, 2013, a \$100 longevity increase, compensation for members who temporarily serve as the

department head, a four-hour increase to the comp time cap, the establishment of a labor-management committee, increased flexibility on bereavement leave, an across the board increase to members in grade A and improvements to the wage scale for the recreation department

eliminating pay freezes built into the scale. Committee members included: Jo Cobleigh, Tim Whitcomb, Sandra Habe, Tom Laflamme and Rae Dick. Members will soon begin collecting ideas and volunteers for their first labor-management meeting.



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL  
EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION  
LOCAL 6, AFL-CIO

77 Parkingway  
Quincy, MA 02169

Phone: 617.984.0006 or 1.800.882.1462

Fax: 617.984.5882

Email: [OPEIULocal6@opeiulocal6.org](mailto:OPEIULocal6@opeiulocal6.org)

---

[WWW.OPEIULOCAL6.ORG](http://WWW.OPEIULOCAL6.ORG)

---

JOIN US AT THE  
**SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 AT 6 PM  
AT 77 PARKINGWAY, QUINCY

"I WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL OPEIU LOCAL 6 MEMBERS TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN OUR REPRESENTATION PROCESS. PARTICIPATION LEADS TO INCREASED AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES WHILE AFFORDING THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING OTHER OPEIU LOCAL 6 MEMBERS FROM ACROSS STATE."

- PHIL LANG, ASSISTANT COORDINATOR  
FOR THE TRIAL COURT'S ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM

---

## WORK CONNECTS US ALL!

---

### UNION BENEFITS

OPEIU strives to provide numerous membership benefits using its collective membership power to reduce cost. New benefits include a \$2,000 death

benefit and a \$2,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit. Information about this benefit and your new towing/service calls card were in the

October issue of the White Collar. The White Collar is how OPEIU keeps you informed about new and existing benefits. For more information visit

[www.opeiu.org](http://www.opeiu.org) and [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org) for union member benefits.