

Get a paper copy from your steward (or) Scan the code (or) visit: https://rb.gy/hunly1

by Adam Kaszynski President IUE CWA Local 201

You can get a paper survey from your steward or a GE Campaign Captain, or you can complete it online. Your name is mandatory to verify you are a member and not a management troll. The rest of the questions are optional, but it is important to think through each question. In the past groups of workers have filled out their individual surveys in a group setting, so you can bounce ideas off others and incorporate what you want in your individual response. You might get your group together for lunch or coffee break and get it done together. If you opt for the paper instead of online survey, make sure you don't leave your survey laying around and return it directly to your steward immediately.

One highlight of last

week's IUE-CWA Divisional Meeting were meetings with representatives from other GE Locals, the GE Conference Board Chair, and the International President. Between inflation, the company's announced break up, rampant outsourcing and wage tier schemes, GE workers have a lot of common issues. The contract survey is an essential tool to make sure members demands are turned into concrete proposals at the bargaining table. You must tell the Negotiating Committee what you want through the survey. There are a couple of issues on the survey that need some background information. "COLA"

The Department of Labor recently announced 9.1% inflation over the last year, and we are all feeling the pinch. As Union workers, we have the power to get the employer to the table. We must take on GE over the devaluation of our wages and rising cost of living. The IUE-GE National Agreement still has Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) language starting on page 142. However, the language has not been negotiated into an active status in the past 2 contracts. In 2011-2015, the now frozen COLA language yielded a modest sum of \$0.65 based on a modest rise in inflation. Instead of COLA language last contract the Company offered \$0.80. It might have seemed like a deal at the time (it didn't to 201), but hindsight is 20/20. Had the contract unfrozen the COLA language we would as of June 2022 been up \$1.87 with two more

continued on page 12



IUE CWA Members From GE Locals at the Divisional Conference in July

(LATO) Patricia Crawford Norman Hamel Anthony Baltas Kathleen Kinloch Donald Anderson Suzanne Sierra Michael Hegh

LPS/Crafts/Machine Maintenance

Theodore "Ted" Cohen Joseph Kelleher Jerry Gingras Michael Brown

#### Lynn Component Manufacturing

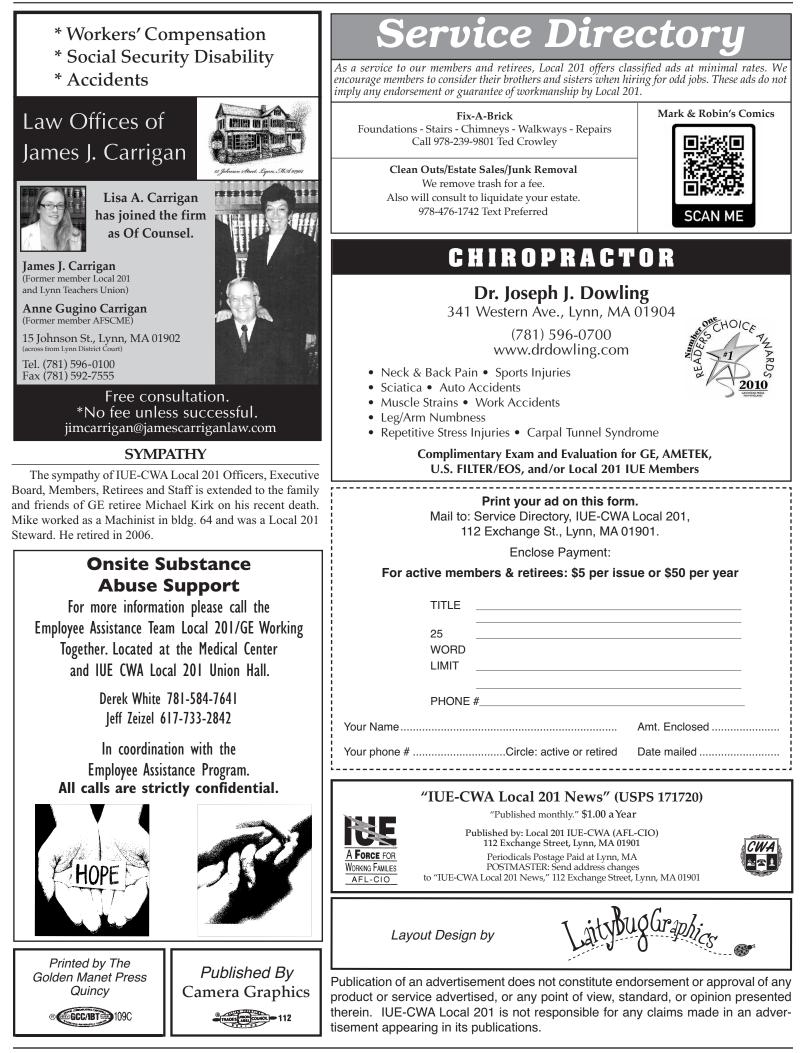
(LCM) Andrew Burton James Lannon Jr. Albert Boucher Roland Rice Allen LaDue John Fahy Guy Gaudet Denis DeGrandpre William Snowdon Wade Ward Glenn Christy

**Power Plant** Michael Stewart

**Logistics** Stephen Romanowski

Congratulations to all 2022 retirees. "Hoping you enjoy a long healthy retirement and thank you for being members of Local 201." If we missed anyone, please let us know. All retirees should be receiving the union newspaper. If you are not call 781-598-2760 or send an email to **info@local201iuecwa.org**.

Next Local 201 Membership Meeting August 16, 2022 - See page 4



# Unions and Libraries Both Benefit Members

By Jackie Miller, Chief Steward Saugus Public Library

Just as Unions are there to help their members, libraries exist to benefit the public. Among the great offerings the Saugus Public Library provides (through the generosity of the Friends of the Saugus Public Library) are the discount passes to local museums and attractions.

Residents of other towns are welcome to use the passes. Be sure to book your passes ahead of time as the discounted passes are popular, especially during school vacations, and we can only give out one pass per place each day. You do need a library card from a library within the NOBLE network, but getting a library card is easy! Just call and ask about registering for a library card.

### Boston Children's Museum



Massachusetts (Department of Conservation & Recreation) Parks Passes Boston Museum of Fine Arts Boston Museum of Science New England Aquarium USS Constitution Museum Zoo New England

(Franklin Park Zoo and Stone Zoo)

Reserving a discount pass is easy. Simply go to the Museum Pass portion of our website **https://www.sauguspubliclibrary.org** and book your discount coupon and learn about admission requirements. You can also call us at 781-231-4168 ext. 3102 to reserve a pass.

🕸 Cetera 🛛	ADVISOR
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Brian Thomas REGISTERED PRINCIPAL 583 Chestnut St Unit 6 Lynn, MA 01904 BRANCH: 781.496.3900 DIRECT: 781.519.0461 FAX: 781.469.1826 brian@dfgedge.com www.dfgedge.com

# Terri Tauro for State Rep

The North Shore Labor Council has been working hard knocking doors and getting the word out for Terri Tauro for State Representative 8th Essex MA. Terri is the president of IUE CWA Local 1776 and represents the municipal workers in Marblehead. She is stepping up to be a voice for working people, something we need more of in the state house. We need people looking out for working families not elected officials looking out for big monied interests. This election is wide open. The incumbent is not running for re-election. Her

territory covers Marblehead, Swampscott and parts of Lynn. Please consider voting for Terri. The local 201 legislative committee has been volunteering for Terri. On July 16, 2022 Liz Shuler president of the AFL CIO came to kick off a door knocking session at the local 201 union hall for Terri. It is not very often that the National AFL CIO President knocks on your door looking to help out. Thank you for your time and inspiration Liz.



Local 201 Legislative Committee Helping with Terri Tauro Mailer



Terri Tauro, Liz Shuler, and Adam Kaszynski



Group of Volunteers for Terri on Saturday July 16, 2022

## Apply Now: New E-Team Machinist Training Class



The E-Team machinist training program is currently recruiting and accepting applications for its next class. We are looking for motivated people who want to

change their lives by learning to work in a highly technical field that offers strong employment, good wages and benefits and a career with opportunities for growth. Students are enrolled *tuition free* in our demanding training program.

Applications may be obtained at the Union Hall or go to our website: www.ETeamhome.net Facebook https://www.facebook.com/ETeammachinisttraining

#### Call us at 617-699-1071

The E-Team is associated with the Essex County Community Organizations, IUE/CWA Local 201 and the Boston Tooling and Machining Association.

#### Business Agent's article continued from page 12

tervened. After discussing with the manager and informing the Company they had yet to meet the burden to establish insubordination and they could not justly send our union member home, they agreed and requested the member have the rest of the day off paid. This member understood their rights to representation, that was the difference between being unjustly suspended and getting time off PAID. If any manager attempts to threaten discipline, immediately see your steward or call the hall.

#### LWWTP

The Company has denied the step 2 health and safety bonus. The reason being is, when Suez took over, they did not have an established health and safety program. The Union position is that the language is in the contract and the practice of payment has been long standing. We are pushing that grievance to step 3. The case will be heard the 2nd or 3rd week of this month. We all should take note of this denial heading into contract negotiations. The representative of the Company that negotiated the current contract with the Union is the one that denied the grievance.

#### Ametek

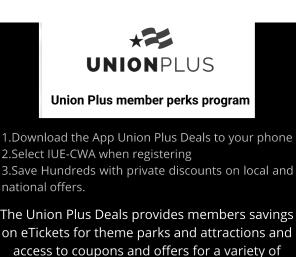
It's been a little while since we have had a steward in Wilmington so let's give a warm welcome and a shout out to Randall Blakelock!

Retention bonuses should all have been paid out and that was the last of them. Keep in mind when the Company approached the Union about having issues retaining members the Union requested the Company increase wages rather than one time

bonus payments. These little bonuses are a one time thing and do not do anything for future earnings which is why the company would rather pay out bonuses than wage increases.

#### **General Update**

A few 201 members went to the IUE conference and attended different training workshops. We had the pleasure of listening to multiple guest speakers, Chris Smalls was one of them. Each speaker had something to say that deeply resonated with me and should with all of us, "It's not just to clock into work every day, we have to organize to be able to push the needle." This statement speaks volumes on the transition we need to make and each one of us should be having conversations with our brothers and sisters as we prepare to head into negotiations in 2023. The only way to push that needle is to do it together and be willing to sacrifice and fight for what we deserve. A common saying, "if you don't like your job find another one," Just like Chris decided, rather than just look for another job, we need to make our jobs better not just for us, but for our coworkers and our families! "We as a Union have the power to make change if we are ready collectively, something has to be done and we are only able to get it done collectively." This applies across the board, when we are negotiating, when we are having bad boss problems, when the grievance procedure needs support and pressure from the floor. We have seen results locally when we stand together! We all have work to do, and this work has to be done for us to advance. These statements do not speak to just one of our units, they speak to all 201 and the working class. The only guarantee that exists in our struggle is if we do nothing we will get nothing! We have LWWTP negotiations coming up in a few short months. We have AVBG and GE National negotiations in 2023. We are currently in the middle of negotiations with the Saugus Public Library and in Market Based Wage negotiations with GE. Let's get to work!



shops and services.

# **OFFICIAL NOTICE**

LOCAL 201 IUE-CWA (AFL-CIO)

## **COMBINED SHOP STEWARDS &** MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## NEXT MEETING AUGUST 16, 2022

IN PERSON AT THE IUE CWA LOCAL 201 UNION HALL **112 EXCHANGE STREET** LYNN, MA 01901

FIRST SHIFT	
SECOND SHIFT12:30 P.M.	

THIRD SHIFT MAY ATTEND EITHER MEETING.

#### AGENDA:

- FEATURED PRESENTATIONS: I.
  - 1. 30+ YEAR PIN AWARDS
  - 2. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS
- II. GENERAL BUSINESS:
  - 1. MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP MEETING
  - 2. POLICY BOARD
  - 3. TREASURER'S MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- III GE REPORT
- IV. AVIS/BUDGET GROUP REPORT
- V. AMETEK REPORT
- VI. VEOLIA WATER REPORT
- VII. SAUGUS LIBRARIANS REPORT
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS

#### Signed.

ADAM KASZYNSKI, President JUSTIN RICHARDS, Business Agent

# WARNING: GE is cutting healthcare



# for eligible family members of employees

Did your family lose your GE healthcare? Tell GE to come clean about how many families it has cut off from healthcare

If you have lost coverage or are having issues, please contact 201 VP Tom O'Shea at 781-598-2760

Sign the petition demanding GE reinstate all healthcare now for all eligible family members



Printed in House with Union Labor



Call GE Benefits at 1-800-252-5259 to ask if your family is still enrolled in GE healthcare

# Navigating <sup>≗</sup> College Search

with Dr. Karen Droisen

## Monday, August 22 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm At the Saugus Public Library Registration Required

Navigating the college search is stressful, especially if it is your first time doing it. With college counselor and tutor Dr. Karen Droisen's expert help, parents and high school students can master the art of applying for college. By the end of Dr. Droisen's presentation, the steps from making a list of college choices, writing the personal essay, and finally hitting the submit button will feel manageable and even exciting.

Dr. Droisen graduated from Columbia University with a degree in English and earned her PhD from the University of Virginia. After teaching English at the college level, Dr. Droisen opened K A D Tutoring and College Counseling and is a member of the New England Association for College Admissions Counseling (NEACAC).

# Parents and students are both welcome to attend this free event.

Navigating the College Search is being offered in person and by Zoom.

To register to attend in person, please either email sau@noblenet.org, call 781-231-4168 ext. 3107, or visit the Reference Desk.

### To register for the Zoom meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwudO6hpzsrGt-GVGvEZqs7gg7q5k\_NKs8rz



## Alcohol & Drug Abuse Affects Everyone – Recovery Does Too.

Alcoholism, drug abuse and compulsive gambling can affect everyone it touches...at home, in the workplace, and in the community, if someone in your family or yourself needs help, please contact the Employees Assistance Program.

> All calls are strictly confidential Derek White 781-584-7641

# IUE-CWA Local 201 RETIREES COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

No Meeting in August. See you in September.

For more info call Kevin 781-367-7822

Kevin D. Mahar, President Edward Walczak, Financial Secretary

## Listed Below Are Open Positions as of August 1, 2022 at Lynn GE.

You can apply for these jobs at GEcareers.com.

- 6- Electricians
- 4- HVAC
- 3 Repair Controls
- 1 Sheetmetal
- 3 Experienced Machinists
- 3 Welders





# AS THE ROTOR TURNS

By BOBBY ELDRIDGE LAT&O/Logistics Executive Board

As a lifelong Lynn resident, I grew up hearing what a great place General Electric was to work for and how hard it was to get a job there because there was a line of people every day putting in applications. Fast forward some years, the happy work force that in some areas were as close as family is going away, the line of people down the street looking for a job is gone and Managers coming from the floor knowing the parts, are being replaced by someone that is only here for 18 months then moving on. GE views their Company as a plug and play business and it is not. Getting rid of piece work was a bad business move as much

as the Company said it wasn't. It worked; you never had a delinquent part when there was piece work. Taking away the double bubble was a bad business move. They took away the employees' incentive to work extra hours so the Company could get their engines out on time. General Electric was the Company you wanted to work for and retire with. Now you see people leaving by the droves. What is that telling you? GE is not the benchmark for a good job anymore and they only have themselves to blame.

#### LATO

I just want to congratulate Rawlyn "Grady" Fyfield on his retirement, Enjoy and good luck.

There has been an issue with the Company shutting off the air conditioner in the bldg. 29 breakroom on second shift. The problem has been rectified and shouldn't be an issue going forward.

Another issue that has been brought to my attention is that people are being instructed to skip operations out of sequence to keep production going. We do know that GE has a "stamp as you go" policy, we do not skip ahead. If you are being instructed to do that put in an NCR and get a steward or call me down the hall and I'll handle it.

T700 is being held up by a cooling plate issue in bldg. 64 and after talking to the operators over there the reason is that their production specialist is holding up the plates because he is fighting with quality. Good job holding up production because you think you are the smartest guy in the room. If the operators say the parts are good, and quality says they are good, the parts are good, and need to be shipped over so we can get to work.

#### Logistics

Construction on the new bathrooms has started and they are scheduled to be completed by September. This is going to be an inconvenience for everyone in the logistics department. The Company is telling the Union that people can use the bathrooms in building 32. The Union has requested putting porta potties outside so that some people don't have to walk as far. Please be patient.

I hope to see you around the shop. Bobby

#### SYMPATHY

The sympathy of IUE-CWA Local 201 Officers, Executive Board, Members, Retirees and Staff is extended to the family and friends of GE retiree Ramon "Ray" Sawyer on his recent death. Ray worked in 2nd 74 and retired in 2020.





Dear Local 201

I am writing to thank IUE-CWA Local 201 for your donation to the 38th Annual Bread and Roses Festival, which will take place on the Campagnone Common in Lawrence on September 5, 2022.

As always, we will host a varied program, reflecting Lawrence's past and present diversity. Besides enjoying the musicians and dancers, visitors will be treated to trolley tours, ethnic foods historical demonstrations, pony rides, and much more.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of individuals and organizations like yours. We are happy to acknowledge our supporters in our program book and on our website. If you have any questions about the Festival, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Pellerito Committee President

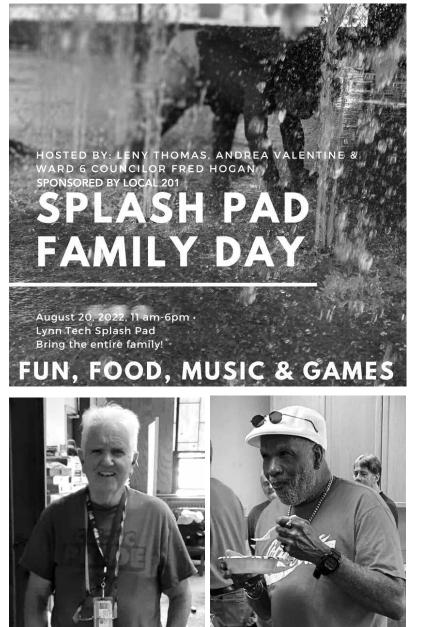


Dear Local 201

Hello brothers and sisters!

I want to talk to everyone about my recent trip to Las Vegas to attend the IUE-CWA annual division meeting. This is the yearly meeting attended by leadership from every local that I was lucky enough to be invited to due to being in this year's mentorship program. I was there representing Local 201 with Adam Kaszynski, Justin Richards, Jay Daley, Billy Stephanides and Jorge Rivera. First thing I want to say is just how amazing it was, from the division meeting itself to the classes I attended. It was exciting hearing from national leadership, it served as a good reminder of why we do what we do as a union, and why our solidarity is so important. Speaking of solidarity, it was impressive and inspiring to see that many people in one room be united for a common cause, and that cause is worker power. It was the common theme of the meeting and it's something that's beneficial to all of us. Discussed were all of our recent victories, in a time where our victories seem few and far between, the IUE-CWA has been hard at work. Things such as newly unionized workforces, more plans for substantial growth, etc. I was able to converse and network with leadership from other GE locals, as well as multiple other locals that share our same issues. There were multiple classes from organizing to health and safety to help our leaders improve their skills and share different experiences. It's something I hope that every member has the opportunity to experience at least once during their career as a union member. All in all it has validated my belief in this membership and our labor movement and reminded me of just how much work we have left to do.

In solidarity, Chris Moody



Congratulations Phil Quigley 50 Years at GE and Local 201

Rawlyn "Grady" Fyfield Enjoying his Retirement Party



Visit our website @ www.baystateeyeoflynn.com

Use your Davis Vision benefits every year! Versace, Gucci, Coach, Rayban and many more!

Comprehensive Eye Examinations including computerized testing equipment such as Auto-Refraction, Visual Field Analysis, Fundus and External Cameras that assist us in testing for Glaucoma, Cataracts and Diabetes. Please contact our office to verify your eligibility and to schedule an eye appointment.

> Dr. Petya Damyanova, Optometrist 427 Lynnway Lynn, MA 01905 (781) 599-2773

FREE PARKING

**EVENING AND** 



Health & Safety Notes

By CARMEN DEANGELIS Local 201 Health & Safety Director

#### **COVID Reporting**

This information is meant to help members navigate current COVID reporting guidelines.

**Confirmed Positive**: If you test positive call the number on the back of your badge (513-243-2100). The number will get you to the Aviation Response Center. The person will ask you basic information and give you a return-to-work date that is based on one of two questions

"When was your onset of symptoms?" and "When did you test positive?", your original 5-day quarantine will start from the earliest date.

If after 5 days you have no symptoms, return to work, and wear a mask for 5 days.

If you have symptoms (fever, body aches, etc.) after original 5 days call the GE Medical Center (781-594-2218), stay home till symptom free. Up to 5 more days (total 10)

**Contact Tracing:** If you are named as exposed to someone with COVID-19 (contact traced) and you are not considered fully vaccinated, the company will send you home for 5 days (unpaid). After 5 days and no symptoms return to work and wear mask for 5 days.

**Fully vaccinated** is currently interpreted as: 1) boosted **OR** 2)

complete series of Pfizer or Moderna within the last 6 months **OR** 3) Johnson & Johnson within the last 2 months.

If you are contact traced and considered fully vaccinated stay in work and wear a mask for 10 days. If symptoms show up get tested.

If you are contact traced, I highly recommend taking a Covid-19 test. Call me for help early on if you have questions or are asked to go home. Carmen 617-462-7310

#### Logistics Bldg: 63, WZ 90, 42 & 29

Special Thanks to Susan Maher for years of service as a Union Elected Safety Representative. Since 2018, Sue worked to make our shop floor safer for our members with a strong set of values and ability to care for others. We wish Sue continued success and thank her for mentoring our newest member to the Joint Health & Safety Team, Armand Conti. Armand is well known as a Safety Committee Member with a positive interest in helping others. His past resume reflects an ability to handle difficult challenges with confidence. I'm thankful we continue to have Local 201 members like these who will step outside their roles here to support our Joint Health & Safety Program.

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Contact person.       603-433-1331         003-433-1331       www.peasedev.org         603-433-1331       www.peasedev.org         SHOT GUN       Thursday, Aug. 18         9 hole Scramble, 9 hole Best-ball, 9 hole Alt. Shot       Registration         7:30am       \$100 per GEEAA member, Retirees \$100, \$130 per non-GEEAA         7:30am       \$100 per GEEAA member, Retirees \$100, \$130 per non-GEEAA         Mail to: GEEAA, C/O Tom Bishop:       P. Dot 148         W. LYNN. Ma. 01905       W. LYNN. Ma. 01905         E-mail; tom.bishopgeeaa@gmail.com       Contact person,	GE			
9 hole Scramble, 9 hole Best-ball, 9 hole Alt. Shot 7:30am START TIME S100 per GEEAA member, Retirees \$100, \$130 per non-GEEAA Checks Payable to, <u>GEEAA</u> Mail to: <u>GEEAA, CO Tom Bishop:</u> <u>P.O. BOX 188</u> <u>W. LYNN, Ma. 01905</u> E-mail; tom.bishopgeeaa@gmail.com Contact person, Team Phone#	2 Pe	rson T	<u>'eam Event</u>	
	N	9 hole Scra 7:30am START	\$100 per GEEAA member, Retirees \$100, \$130 per n Checks Payable to, <u>GEEAA</u> Mail to: GEEAA, C/O Tom Bishop: P.O. BOX 148, W. LYNN, Ma. 01905	DEADLINE JULY 28 <sup>th</sup>
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Team #2: Player #1 Player #2	Team #2:	Player #1	Player #2	

Moving Violation			
MANAGEMENT DOING BARGAINING UNIT WORK			
Name of Culprit			
Date of Violation			
Time of Violation			
Description of Work Being Done			
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# LPS/M&E Report

By ARTIE AMIRAULT Crafts Executive Board

# WE MAKE JET ENGINES!

Hi Everyone,

Hope everyone is having a great summer while trying to stay cool in this heat. There isn't too much time left so let's enjoy it with our families while it lasts.

We continue to see the Company investing into the infrastructure of the plant as well as the continuation of new machinery being installed in all the buildings around the plant. These are all good things that are happening here and are hopefully a sign that there are more good things to come and a long future here at the River Works. A person I know who reads the paper says I never have anything good to say about the Company and its content is always full of sunshine and rainbows. Obviously the second part he's being sarcastic and my response to him is "Hey give me something good to write about". So, I figured this time I'd try and start off positive.

A few weeks ago, the Company brought in a speaker from corporate to speak to everyone in the auditorium above the cafe. Not sure how well it was attended as the time slot that I went to might have had 30 people. Anyways, he came to tell us how safety and

quality here in Lynn is everybody's responsibility and he told about two incidents where the Company knew that there was a potential hazard or quality defect that might lead to a catastrophic event and yet was passed and people either got hurt or died because a part in an engine failed and the engine blew apart. He also stated that you (management or union) should not be afraid to stop the process if you find something that could be detrimental or potentially catastrophic to the engine and people's safety and that even if no one here in Lynn will listen to you that you could reach out to him personally and he would look into it. After all, we do make jet engines, commercial and military, and people fly in planes with our engines every day without even a thought or hesitation because they trust that we make a quality product here in Lynn. Let me just say that again. WE MAKE JET **ENGINES!** 

With that said. The country is changing rapidly with inflation, the cost of living and for some reason a shortage of workers. It's a worker's market and people are going out and getting what they want and shopping around for a job that not only fits them best but also is going to pay them accordingly for the job that they are going to be performing. We continually keep hearing about companies giving their employees substantial raises as they know this is the situation and that if they want to keep the quality workers they have they will need to pay them accordingly. The pay scale based on jobs at this point in this country is way out of whack and GE is falling behind quickly only compounding a problem they already have with retention and I personally know of hiring. people who have recently changed jobs for better pay. One person power washes buildings for a company and makes \$38 dollars an hour. The other works at a dental office as an administrator as well as doing minimal clinical assisting and is making \$34 an hour with a potential raise in the near future. Both have a high school education and no additional schooling. Some of us went to school for years, have licenses, and years of experience and make only \$4 an hour more. They are literally making R18 and R22 money with none of that and no progression steps. Good for them.

#### WE MAKE JET ENGINES!

And again, people trust us with their safety every day without a blink of an eye. As it was so clearly pointed out by our visitor. Is it me or does something just not add up?

It's time for the Company to wake up, stop the bleeding and attrition, find a way to attract the top machinists and tradesmen, and invest in its current employees like its investing in the infrastructure and machinery. Train them appropriately and pay them accordingly for the jobs they are performing. Farm parts back in, gain control of their processes, and put material in front of its workers. That way we can produce quality, safe engines and act like the shining star they claim to be. How does the slogan go?

"We are GE. We invent the future of flight, lift people up and bring them home safely"

How about this GE. Lift your employees up first. You know, the ones who help make it possible for you to invent the future of flight, lift people up and bring everyone home safely.

Finally, in case you missed it the first three times

WE MAKE JET ENGINES!

## We Need Medicare for All

Massachusetts Medicare for All is legislation which guarantees to all residents of the Commonwealth complete health insurance coverage at reduced cost. It does this by creating one public insurance plan for all Massachusetts residents that covers ALL medically necessary costs for physical and mental healthcare, dental, vision, and hearing costs, and long-term care. There would be NO premiums, NO copays, NO co-insurance, and NO deductibles. The only cost to workers would be paying 2.5% of wages - and the first \$20,000 of income is exempt. The cost to employers is 7.5% of payroll or 8% if the employer has 100 or more workers and the first \$20,000 of payroll is exempt. If any GE worker adds up what they pay each year for health insurance versus what you would pay under the

MA Medicare for All plan the savings to workers would be huge. And, unions can negotiate that the employer pays our 2.5% and the savings to employers would be so large that even if the employer paid our 2.5% it would still mean huge savings for employers... including all public employers whose insurance bills taxpayers pay for. It would be a savings to us as workers and as taxpayers. It is difficult to understate how big a social benefit this would mean to all of us. It would be the most significant social and workplace benefit since the 1965 passage of Medicare and Medicaid and in all respects far eclipse it as seniors and the poor would, as well, greatly benefit from the passage of such legislation. The agency, Healthcare Trust, that would administer the program would be an independent

authority and have the ability to negotiate drug prices to lower Rx costs and up to 2% of the Trusts budget would be used initially to provide additional services, training, and education opportunities for workers transitioning from health insurance jobs to healthcare or other employment. As someone who has negotiated countless plant closing agreements, the vast majority of workers only get 60 days' notice to change their jobs and their lives, workers under this legislation affected by going to a public health insurance system would receive a lot of notice and have more resources than we've ever had before.

In a recent UMass Lowell poll 86% of the Commonwealth voters who would vote in a primary have a favorable view of a public health insurance system. We can gain this benefit without having to rely on

anti-union right-to-work Congresspeople and Senators who block any significant working-class legislation that goes before Congress. We can do this here, ourselves, in Massachusetts. This is a matter of unions, civil rights and justice organizations, senior organizations, faith groups, etc. to demand our state representatives pass and enact a basic benefit that would benefit not just a few wealthy billionaires or even just a few people. It would benefit ALL of us. I encourage you to check out www.MassCare.org for more infor-mation on the campaign or www.laborforsinglepayer to see what the national campaign is up to

Peter Knowlton

UE General President, retired Former Member GE Negotiating Committee



# VP's Column

By TOM O'SHEA Vice-President/ Recording Secretary

#### Punch In and Punch Out

One of the most important takeaways from the Union New Hire Orientation that I try to impress on new hires is to always punch in when you get to work and punch out **any time you leave the plant**. It is most important when leaving the plant. If you go to lunch and leave the plant, even if it is for under 18 minutes, you must punch out and then punch back in when you get return to the plant. The Company has been cracking down on this and you could be disciplined for not punching. Please, make sure you punch in and punch out. **Local 201 Retirees Council** 

For many years the Local 201 Retirees Council has existed. And for many years Kevin Mahar has been president of that organization. And Kevin is still the president. They meet monthly and conduct the business of the retirees; and varied is that business. For over 30 years they have been involved in a national campaign to advocate for the GE retirees. Between attending the annual shareowners meeting, to meeting with the Company in Schenectady every year, they have pushed the Company to pay attention to the people that made the Company great. The people that spent their lives working for GE.

Through continued fighting they have secured at least two thirteenth pension checks. Bonus checks the retirees would not have gotten had it not been for the organization advocating for the retirees.

When the Company cut off the post-65 healthcare coverage the Retirees Council worked tirelessly to support those affected.

- Lin

It is still dealing with the fallout from that blow. The Company tried to soften the takeaway by providing a stipend for some of those affected. But getting that stipend and navigating the red tape has been difficult. Without the Retirees Council it would have been impossible. There are still thousands of retirees out there that don't even know they are eligible for the \$1,000 stipend or how to use it if they do.

I write this because I want to make our current members and others aware of the work that is being done and the work that still needs to be done. None of this happens by chance. If this group of volunteers did not exist, things would be a lot bleaker for the retirees.

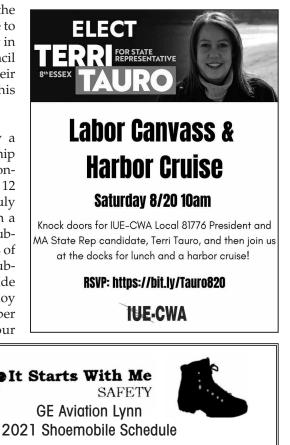
Like the leadership of Local 201, the Local 201 Retirees Council needs people to step up to lead. If you have any interest in the future of the Local 201 Retirees Council the local needs you to step up. Attend their next meeting in September. Watch this paper for time and location.

#### July Newspaper

The month of July is traditionally a slow month. We do not hold a membership meeting unless an emergency arises. Constitutionally we are required to publish 12 issues of the local 201 newspaper. This July we decided to experiment and publish a version totally out of the 201 hall. Our publisher takes vacation the first two weeks of July and was going to be a week late publishing the paper. The decision was made to try doing the issue solo (we also employ a layout person for the paper). The paper turned out to be a 4-page version of our regular paper. I thought it came out well and appreciate the help from the local 201 staff and volunteers for making it happen. As you can see, we are back to our regular format and will continue with this for the foreseeable future.

#### SYMPATHY

The sympathy of IUE-CWA Local 201 Officers, Executive Board, Members, Retirees and Staff is extended to the family and friends of GE retiree Catherine Godlewski on her recent death. Catherine was the wife of GE retiree Walter Godlewski. Walter retired out of the Gear Plant in 1992. Catherine retired in 1994.



Gubernatorial Candidate Maura Healey with Nefty Alvarez in May

August 24th	6
September 14th	6
October 12th	6
November 16th	6

 6:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 South of 40

 6:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 South of 40

Please notify your EHS Leader to get approval to purchase at one of the participating offsite vendor stores. You can also purchase shoes online at Lehigh safety shoes.

> Please inquire with your area EHS Leader or Suzie Dozier at extension x7705



# **LCM Executive Board**

By JOSEPH TIRONE LCM Executive Board

#### **Bringing Light**

LCM seems very slow lately, moral seems down throughout the shop, I've been saying since I took this job that we need major pay increases. The Boston area is one the most expensive places to live. Our families are seeing the cost of everything going up from food to gas, housing, etc. We go to work every day and make quality engines for this country, we work through the pandemic, we work long hours away from our families, and what do we get in return for all our hard work? Well General Electric throws pennies at us and then they want us to be happy to pick them from the floor, well I don't know about you brothers and sisters, but I don't need pennies I need dollars to help my family through these tough times. "GE, over the last ten years you've taken everything from us, double time, piece work, good health insurance, pensions, you even took fair wages with this two-tier wage system. It's time to wake up and see the light GE". So, I Joe Tirone, LCM board member of Local 201, will show you the light.

This week our union brothers and sisters at Boeing St. Louis stood strong in solidarity and accepted a great 3-year contract but only after overwhelmingly voting to reject the first offer on July 24. By staying strong they obtained a fairer modified offer. Now, here is the light I'm talking about General Electric, I'm shining it right at you so put your sunglasses on because it's bright, so bright it will actually fix your plant here in Lynn. Boeing got:

• An average of 14% general wage increases over three years, in addition to cost of living adjustments

• No change to existing health insurance plans.

• Elimination of their two tier wage system (now imagine how they realized their two tier system didn't work)

• Boosts of auto progression rate from 50 cents to 65 cents per hour twice a year

• Lead pay and off-shift premium increases

• Sick, parental, and funeral leave improvements

So, I showed you the light General Electric, it's time to take your sunglasses off and shine that light on Local 201, Lynn Mass. We have our sunglasses ready I promise, a little dusty and old like most of our machines, but we are ready. Show us that you care about your employees and give us a fair national contract like Boeing did. Make us proud again to work at General Electric.

A lot of new members lately, it's nice meeting all of you on the shop floor, ever have any questions, do not hesitate to ask you stewards for information or if you see me on the shop floor stop me, we can talk. People have been asking me what the GE absentee policy is, so here it is.

## From Lynn Unpaid Absence Policy

Listed below are the steps for corrective action to be taken or the accumulation of unpaid absences. At each step of the process, the area steward will be notified.

#### Contact Report

1 occurrence of unpaid absence First Latter of Concern

#### First Letter of Concern

1 additional occurrence of unpaid absence (rolling 52 weeks begins)

#### Contact Report

1 additional occurrence of unpaid absence within a rolling 52-week period **Second Letter of Concern** 

1 additional occurrence of unpaid absence within a rolling 52-week period (copy of letter provide to UR and Union notified)

#### **Contact Report**

1 additional occurrence of unpaid absence within a rolling 52-week period

### Last Chance Letter

1 additional occurrence of unpaid absence within a rolling 52 week period (copy of letter provided to UR and Union notified)

#### Termination Letter

1 additional occurrence of unpaid absence within a rolling 52-week period (Union notified prior to issuance of letter)



# Letter to the Editor

#### LOCAL 201 HISTORY PROJECT

Dear Former (or present) member of IUE-CWA Local 201,

Local 201 has played an important role in our community; in the IUE-CWA (and prior to that the UE) and in the New England labor movement. IUE-CWA 201 has been one of the most prominent leaders in negotiations with the GE for the betterment of all. As a participant in Local 201, you have something to say about what happened when you were active; what you accomplished; and what you were thinking about. A new generation needs to hear your thoughts.

Local 201, in cooperation with the University of MA-Boston, and the Lynn Museum\Lynn Arts has launched the Local 201 History Project. It has four parts.

1) Identify and catalogue existing material about Local 201; whether in libraries or individual collections; 2) Arrange to digitize the material e.g. the Electrical Union News or other documents; 3) Identify individuals to be interviewed as we build an oral history of the local; 4) Acquire individual collections of papers.

Contact our committee:

(1) Do you have any material? (2) Are interested in being interviewed or want to suggest someone? (3) If you just want to talk about the project and the local's history.

#### CONTACT

Adam Kaszynski; President IUE-CWA Local 201 781-598-2760 email at akaz@local201iuecwa.org Frank Emspak, former Executive Board member; (Wilmington) IUE local 201, 608-215-6701; frankemspak@gmail.com

#### Signed,

THE LOCAL 201 HISTORY PROJECT Committee Adam Kaszynski; President IUE-CWA Local 201 Doneeca Thurston Director LynnMuseum/Lynn Arts Nick Juravich; Associate Director, Labor Resource Center UMass Boston

Frank Emspak; Emeritus Professor; School for Workers, University of Wisconsin

## **IMPORTANT GE NUMBERS**

GE Benefits Center - 1-800-252-5259 or benefits.ge.com GE Dental Benefits Claim Center -1-888-529-8474 Health Coach from GE - 1-866-272-6007 Pension Benefits Center - 1-800-432-3450 GE Payroll Center -1-800-315-1082 GE Retirement Savings Plan (RSP) - 1-877-55-GERSP (1-877-554-3777) Savings Accounts (HRA/FSA) - 1-888-303-3006 GE Disability Benefits Center - 1-800-392-0789 (Option 1) GE Leave Administrator -1-800-392-0789 (Option 2) GE Vision Care Benefits Claim Center - 1-800-433-9375 GE Prescription Drug Benefits - 1-800-509-9891 GE Education Center for Tuition Reimbursement -1-800-992-0406 GE Travel Center - (800) 866 4382



## Business Agent's Column By JUSTIN RICHARDS

Business Agent

#### **GE Report**

Contract surveys are out, take the time to complete the survey and add any additional comments. The very first question is probably the most important one, "what are we willing to do to get a fair contract?" Unions across the country have succumbed to concessionary contracts over the past couple of decades and now we see a major shift in the labor movement. Workers are willing to take action and not settle for less. I believe we are at a point as our brothers and sisters were 90 years ago when unions fought and won benefits that we are afforded today. They won those fights and now we have some of those same fights again, fair wages, dignified retirements, reinstating wage protection language (COLA) and more. Nothing has ever been given, everything that we have now was fought for! Let's get ready and prepare to take that fight to them!

As we all know GE is not the sought-after job it once was. We have all seen a revolving door of management over the past few years. When a new manager comes into your area, let's make sure we give them a nice warm welcome to our proud union shop! We take direction from our immediate supervisors and only them. We are not required to engage in friendly or personal conversations with the boss. Give me my work assignment and go on your way. I would suggest if the boss tries to engage in any conversation other than job assignment, end it and get a steward! GE is trying to train these cell leaders to break down our solidarity as they see it growing day by day. Remember, UNITED WE STAND, **DIVIDED WE BEG.** 

#### **Avis Budget**

The Company had tried to send one of the members home on the basis that the member was being insubordinate. After gathering the facts and concluding the Company failed to even establish insubordination we stepped in and in-

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Thursdays are Union T-Shirt Days. Show your Solidarity and wear your Union T-Shirts



### continued from page 1

reviews and no doubt 2 more COLA increases before contract expiration. The next review which would have been effective in Dec 2022 would have covered October 2021-October 2022 and captured the biggest price hikes. Without the COLA we left \$1.07 on the table so far, which is \$2,225 over the course of a year just in straight time earnings. That would be very helpful right about now, and would have been even more so by end of contract. We have surveys out in the shop, you must tell the bargaining committee what you want. If you agree that COLA is an important demand this contract include that on your survey. We are a democratic organization, and your voice is what matters. "Successorship Language"

Another item on the survey is the question of successorship language. Here is the problem, we have seen a number of plants sold over the years and have to start from scratch on a new contract with the new employer. New employers typically throw out the GE contract and try to take everything back as we have seen in other businesses, Lighting and Appliances for examples. Successorship language would mean that if one of our plants is sold to a new employer, they have to recognize the GE contract. Plenty of plants never thought they would be in this situation, and then they were. At the division meeting we met workers formally under GE contracts, whose plants or businesses were sold, that did not have successorship language and the result was brutal. With the proposed split of GE, successorship should be on every GE Union worker's mind. It doesn't cost the Company anything, and if they don't plan to sell plants off, they never have to worry about it. It will give sold off plants a contract to start from, instead of nothing.

#### New Steward at Ametek!

A warm welcome to the new Ametek Steward Randall Blakelock. He is signed up for the IUE-CWA Steward training taking place out in western MA later this month. Welcome Brother!

#### Local 201 Negotiation Updates Market Based Wage Negotiations at GE

**President's Column** 

By ADAM KASZYNSKI

President

At the beginning of MBW Negotiations last month, at least 2 non-union GE shops on the Market Based Wage system went to a 6-year progression. Interesting timing. Our goal is to reach a 5-year progression. If management wants members to seriously consider aspects of their proposals, we have informed them they need to be looking at a shorter progression. Negotiations are on hold for the next couple weeks. This should give management time to adjust their proposals accordingly. If we cannot reach agreement by the end of these negotiations, the next modification period will be in June 2023 – we feel it is in management's best interest to get this done now. With the current job market, we have members' kids entering the workforce without a degree making more than R-19s. If this system is really "Market Based", the market is clearly signaling GE Lynn has a major wage issue. Fix it.

Currently there are 522 members on Market Based Wage progression, and they have no pension. Both sides need to work towards a solution to not only attract and retain workers but reward the hard work of all of us that showed up to make the Company money during a global pandemic. If our members "worked from home" GE would be out of business. 7 years is too long for equal wages.

#### Saugus Public Library Contract Negotiations

Things are moving along in library negotiations, but as we like to say, "show me in writing". We aren't there yet. We will be calling a zoom meeting in August to go over where we are at, as that could change in the next week or so. There is a clear path to a fair contract. In the past the trick was sometimes to get the town to put pen to paper. I have no reason to assume that will be an issue this time based on recent sessions, but it's still too early to call it. Stay tuned.