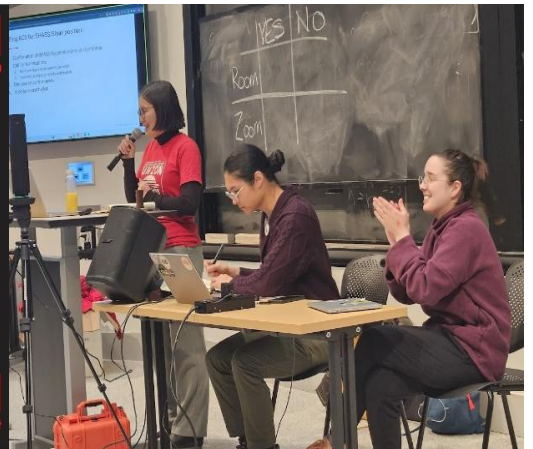
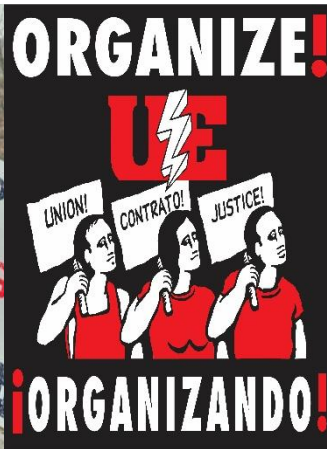




**EASTERN REGION**

**Spring Eastern  
region meeting**

**April 26, 2025**



**THE MEMBERS RUN THIS UNION**



**UE Local 123 Verona VA.** Straight out of the gate from our last Eastern region meeting we were in Staunton VA. to support UE Local 123. On November 4<sup>th</sup> a trip to the Shenandoah Valley was necessary to show solidarity and support for UE 123 at Daiken Corporation.

A rally was being held in support of multiple issues. The employer was infringing on the contract in several ways. UE members were being disrespected on the shop floor. Even being cussed at by management. A big issue was not providing workers with their classification upgrades when they were doing the work and meeting all contractual requirements to earn an upgrade. Several dozen employees were denied their proper upgrades.

There were numerous other contract violations which the union had grieved. Grievances about union representatives being retaliated against. So, workers do what workers at UE Local 123 always do. They took to the streets to let everyone know how poorly workers were being treated. The media turned out and gave a fair reflection of the workers' struggle. After the rally the environment improved to a degree. The union ended up taking their wage theft grievance to arbitration and we are proud to report that the Local won that case resulting in thousands of dollars to dozen of UE members.

The following day was election day. It's also election day for UE Local 123. They open the polls at 7 AM and close them at 7 PM. It's a great opportunity to have good conversations with rank-and-file members as there are often long spells where members aren't available to vote. So, the Region President sat for a couple hours with their election committee and some voters to talk about the union. Everyone appreciated the time, attention and pep talk. They were each provided with a "Them and US unionism" pamphlet and some Eastern region newsletters.



(l to r) Jesse Gwinn, Connie Thompson, Rhonda Colvin.



**UE Local 667 East End Food Co-op, Pittsburgh PA.** the struggle to end the genocide in Palestine is never ending. UE Local 667 (East End Food Co-op) and UE Local 696 (Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania) take the lead in this struggle. UE 667 members have a committee dedicated to peace for the Palestinian people. They go to every Co-op board meeting which they speak as members of the co-op, as representatives on the Board at the Co-op, as Union members and leaders. They set up tables outside the Co-op for member owners to sign their petition to ban Israeli products from their shelves. They are well on their way to getting the signatures they need. They also attend full meetings of the Co-op members to get petitions signed. They need to sign petitions to present to the board to get the question brought up for an actual vote by the Co-op membership.



(l to r) unknown supporter. UE 667 VP Syd Blackwell, Fritz Geist Chief steward



### **UE 696 Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania Pittsburgh PA**

is always in the street with members showing up at rallies to oppose the genocide in Gaza. UE 696 members Chris Gridley and Crystal Grabowski came to the St. Patrick's day parade where the Irish citizens greeted us very warmly with their solidarity. Obviously, the people of Ireland are very familiar with oppression and occupation. Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey came over and was one of the only politicians that stopped by during the St. Patrick's Day parade. He wasn't afraid to stand with us. The Zionists in Pittsburgh are very strong but decency in Pittsburgh is also very strong. UE Local 696 and 667 have also attended several events at the University of Pittsburgh, at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and at an Israeli weapons supplier -Arconic.



On the right in green with masks are UE 696 members (1 to r) Chris Gridley and Crystal Grabowski



(1 to r) Dustin Leonard, Tony Hall, Nate Yhelka and Joebob Smith

### **UE Local 690 Kenson Plastics, Chippewa PA**

Kenson Plastics is a maker of plastic parts for the airline industry and others. They report that their employer is investing heavily in the business. Kenson is building a new complex in New Brighton PA. which is near the current production facility. The new location will primarily be for research and development, but it is expected that hourly workers will transfer to perform production and maintenance duties. The company is also expanding at its

current location and building a huge warehouse on the current property.

**UE Local 610 Wabtec, Greensburg PA.** Elected leadership gather for their Executive board meeting prior to meeting with their members. This group is in Greensburg PA and produces rubber & thermoset components used in various rail, industrial and other transportation market applications.

They have just begun contract negotiations. On the first day of negotiations, they had a button day. They have their contract support committee and phone tree set up and will be updating us all at the Eastern region meeting.



## **THE MEMBERS RUN THIS UNION**



**In Greensburg PA.** the Letter Carriers union were joined by a dozen other unions including UE to oppose the trump musk / doge assault on our post offices. FIGHT LIKE HELL was the rallying cry. UE Local 610 President Rob Mickinak was there with retired UE 610 member Vince Stern. Hundreds of others showed up. The US Post office is older than the United States itself and is written into the Constitution as a “service” to the people of our country. The Post office is not and should

not ever be a privatized. The Post office delivers to all Americans. Private corporate leeches do not deliver to about 50 million Americans because they live in small rural towns that are not profitable to deliver to. If the Post office is privatized these 50 million Americans would be crushed in additional costs to have mail delivered. Rob was also building coalition with other unions including the Vice President of the Westmoreland County Central labor council, Robert Geiger.



**In Pittsburgh** a similar rally was held a couple weeks later. Once again FIGHT LIKE HELL was the rallying cry. Nina Mulroy from UE Local 696 Planned Parenthood of Western PA. joined UE Eastern region President George Waksmunski and a dozen other retired UE members, former and current UE staff. A couple hundred folks came out with another dozen unions and marched around the Post office area. It was loud and the event was well covered by the Pittsburgh media. We also made contact with a couple allies in the labor movement including the President of the Westmoreland County Labor council Michael Hartung. The energy was

high, and it was also foreboding dangerous times like we have not seen in this country since 1900’s. Every person in every conversation expressed how concerned and determined they were to fight our fight because we are all under attack. Nina, Al Hart and the President of the Westmoreland County Labor council Michael Hartung are pictured above.



**UE LOCAL 506** led the charge in Erie PA. standing in solidarity with the letter carriers also. The same scenario played out in Erie. FIGHT LIKE HELL. Hundreds of people and dozens of unions were participating. Erie PA really is a union town by the look of it with arguably the largest turnout of any of the three areas. UE Local 642 (Harborcreek youth services) and UE Local 683 (American Iron and Metal – AIM) also

participated in the event. This was particularly important for UE 506 as the Letter carriers union (and several dozen other unions) supported UE 506 strike during their strike.



**UE Local 274 in Greenfield MA.** is an amalgamated local including members at Kennametal and one of the oldest locals in UE. Unfortunately, they received an announcement In January that the plant would be closing. Final closure is planned by June although that could be extended. The Local leadership was bargaining to try and get a severance package which was not part of their contract. The



Eastern region sat in for two sessions. This plant was originally known as Greenfield tap and die. During its heyday the plant employed 3500 workers. The plant currently has about 75 union members. This is another company where the company refused to invest and as time went on, they said they couldn't compete. Meanwhile the union members produce massive numbers with machinery that was bought and paid for decades earlier. It is just a bitter day when thinking UE members will no longer be going in and out of the plant doors. Workers at Kennametal produce precision industrial products.



(l to r) Eric Dietz, Marc Avery, Dave Deskavich, Fred Williams, Shawn Coates,

**At the Fall 2024 Eastern region meeting** delegates from UE Local 625 sat down with delegates from UE Local 150 to seek support for an event in Raliegh NC. UE 625 is in Greensburg PA. They make industrial circuit breakers for Hitachi energy that are fundamental for the nation's electrical grid system.

Plans were made and the region supported UE 625 and one of their members, Sharon Johnston (in pink) by providing a ride to Raliegh NC. for a rally at corporate



(l to r) Brea Perry, Sharon Johnston, Yifan Li and Nyssa Tucker

headquarters. The Local had already engaged in a 1-day warning strike to send a message.

When we first arrived, our intention was to rally and hand deliver a letter to corporate management. We scoped out the place which had little security. We found that we could get to all the floors, but we could not get past the locked doors. So, our delegation began knocking on doors. It didn't take long for some self-identified alleged pinhead security person to track us down and tell us to leave. Poor fella lost his mind a little. He was quite confrontational. We told him we were not leaving, and he retreated behind locked doors to call every cop in the country. We could hear him on the telephone talking about the rowdy trespassers. As we knocked on each door employees who answered would not take our letter or the



knock was not responded to. We moved on to the next floor and began knocking on doors. We could hear a commotion underneath us as we were getting on the elevator to go to another floor. We could hear the other elevator door opening as we moved on to another floor. As we finished knocking on the last floor and getting on the elevator to leave, we once again could hear the posse chasing us. It was a story of the keystone cops. In a minute we were out the door and marching in the rally.

Special shout out to the UE 150 President Willie Brown and the members of UE 150. The pinhead security guard really focused on Willie as a strong black man. UE 150 turned out about 20 of their members. Although Sharon has been active in a lot of protests as a UE 625 member, she had never participated in such a direct confrontation including security. Within 24 hours the company and the union reached a tentative agreement which the members ratified. Thank you, UE Local 150 and great job, to UE Local 625 for such a militant aggressive struggle.

**On February 20<sup>th</sup>**, UE members from Massachusetts and Connecticut met for a steward training session. As region President I was so thrilled to meet so many rank and file members from various locals that had never been to a training before. There was such great energy and struggle sharing that I believe everyone walked away more informed and inspired.

We covered all the basics of what a steward is and what it means to represent our members. This included but not limited to Weingarten rights, Shop floor power, talking to coworkers about the union, filing and processing grievances, keeping a consistent logbook of incidents even if not necessarily a grievance, Article 1 Recognition, listening carefully and a whole lot more.



Back row (l to r) Tim Trocchi UE 222 (27), Dave Kyle UE 243 Assa Abloy/ Sargent, Angela Weiss UE Local 248 Old Rochester Schools, Pamela McBride UE Local 274 Greenfield City hall/Library, Jess Cole, UE 274 Greenfield Cilty Hall/Library, Joseph Pizzuto UE 222 (25) New Britain Dispatchers, Front row (l to r) Andrew Palmer FRTA local 274, Don Williams UE 243 Assa Abloy/Sargents, and Patrick Cappaerillo UE 269 Irving Paper.



**At UE 256 in Cambridge MA. (M.I.T)** I stopped by to attend the Local membership meeting. The room had maybe 50 members present in the room and an unknown number online. A well-run meeting with high energy and organization. An organizing report and a steward report for the year in review with many successful

grievances, reinstatements and recovery of subsidies in the thousands of dollars. As an ongoing recruitment of stewards exercise, the local asked current stewards to come forward and explain why they love being a steward. Several stewards came forward and just gave the best reasons







for being a steward. One member said **“I love being a steward because I get to hang out with all the coolest people”**. He was referring his fellow stewards and union officers. The Local promoted several activities and events. One member to member event was called a “stitch & b\*tch”. This is an event that allows workers to come together and talk about issues, tactics and solutions while knitting or crocheting various items. The local is beginning preparations for their second contract which is now a year away. A theme they focused on is that

### **“This year we prepare to win next year’s contract”.**

This is so spot on. They are working on surveys now, doing new member orientations now, contract education and member sign up. They are starting to get members focused on the issues now and develop plans to agitate around those issues well in advance of the start of negotiations.

One event was to raise awareness of the recent cuts of Federal funding that directly impact higher education nationwide. Every institution of higher education that does research for science, medicine, environment, air, water, forestry etc. is being devastated. Institutions of higher learning are making very hard decisions to stop research, cut it out



altogether or even whether to allow college grads to continue their journey toward higher education. Our countries institutions of higher education and our ability to be on the cutting edge of Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is being destroyed by the cuts that Trump and Musk have enacted. These cuts will quickly send our nation’s ability to lead the world into a tailspin since we cannot develop anything past the wheel without STEM.

UE 256 led a rally at two Federal buildings with dozens of other unions. UE Local 256 provided the sound and several dozen union members to attend the event. We chanted, we marched, we screamed, and we made ourselves heard. It was an awesome display of union power.



UE Recording Secretary  
256 Deepti Kannan

**UE Local 255 Hunger Mountain Food Co-op (Montpelier VT.)** Unfortunately, I did not get a picture when I visited for a leadership meeting. The Local has a definite sense of energy and growth. They are hoping to send 5 or 6 folks to the Eastern region meeting. UE President Toby Madrone is running a very effective local in partnership with her other officers. They have a new Financial Secretary, Ethan Jones, who is now being trained. They discussed how to give others in the local some small tasks or mentoring to bring them along. They also discussed streamlining their communications so important items don’t get lost in chit chat communications. I walked the floor with Toby and met several UE 255 activists who were great to talk to.



**UE Local 203, City Market in Burlington VT.** I visited each store twice. I walked the floor and engaged in discussions with some members who noticed my UE 506 sweatshirt or the UE banner I was dangling around. The members I spoke with were highly satisfied with their recent contract and proud to be UE. If I saw someone with a UE 203 T shirt I made a point to talk with them. At the southside store I ran into Gary Stuard who is their V.P. and a member of the UE Eastern region Executive board. Gary was excited about the visit, and we discussed the horror of what is going on in our country. It all comes down to workers being organized to fight back against the forces of fascism and autocracy.

**UE 228 LDRM SCA Local. Portsmouth New Hampshire** UE 228 members went to the State capital in Concord NH to fight against a proposed “Right to work” law and won. They came out on a very cold February day in Concord. There was also a blizzard the night before which ran into the morning. UE Local 228 had almost a dozen members drive more than an hour to the capital.



(l to r) UE 228 Chief Steward Shane Tassineri, Former UE 228 President Dee Towne and current UE 228 President Jane Shepard-O'Connor.

More than a dozen unions came out with a total of about 300 members. We rallied outside and listened to various speakers provide the energy to sustain us. New Hampshire is generally a safe place when it comes to opposing “right to work for less laws”. This year that was not the case and there was real concern that the law could pass. The power of the people overcame the people in power.

The rally ended at 10:00AM and we all filed into the capital to observe democracy in action. About an hour in the legislation was brought to the floor. Some spoke in favor and others spoke in opposition. Those speaking in favor were boo’ed by the crowd and we were warned several times to remain quiet. In the end the legislation and New Hampshire remains a “non right to work for less state”.

About a week later we found out that UE 228 Chief Steward Shane Tassineri (pictured) was being terminated for a DEI violation. See more about Shane’s termination on Page 14.



Holding 2 UE flags are UE 228 members Keith Correll and Brittany Elliot Correll

**THE MEMBERS RUN THIS UNION**



**In March our members at GOLD UE local 261** (Hanover NH.

Dartmouth College) were meeting to discuss recent attacks that our members were facing. These attacks included funding cuts, threats to free speech and an attack on international grad workers and students.

Recent graduates were reporting how the Federally funded jobs that they were just hired for were now being eliminated. This was due to trump/doge slashing of Federal jobs. These cuts and job losses impact every facet of human life and existence.



Another big issue was a math grievance that was headed to arbitration. When the Local concluded their recent strike, folks in the Math department were given extra assignments to make up for work missed during the strike. The problem was that they were not getting paid for the work. The local was planning various activities to support the Math grievance but recent events have overcome the focus. The Arbitration is scheduled for October. What a disgrace that the system allows these abuses to go on so long before workers find justice. The delays benefit the employer in that our members grow frustrated as time goes on and rightfully so. We just have to turn that frustration into action and not dismay.

More recently one of our members at UE 261 had his status terminated. Xiaotian Liu is a citizen of China. Homeland Security terminated his status for no reason at all. Lui had never had a traffic violation let alone a crime in the United States. With his F-1 visa terminated he is no longer permitted to work on campus or anywhere. There are now at least 2 more folks at Dartmouth who have had their F1 visas suspended but UE local 261 has not received any information on who these folks might be.

Workers are under attack everywhere. The intent of the attack is far reaching in that it's one thing to lose your job but to have your free speech terrorized into silence is another. Pride flags are being banned. DEI channels are archived. Transgender folks are living in fear for who they are. There has been an ongoing fear on campus of ICE agents jumping out at any moment. **As of April 16<sup>th</sup>, 600 International grad students and grad student workers have suddenly found their F1 visas are terminated.** They can be picked up and deported at any moment and some have been.

Due to contract language the Local is banned from striking or work stoppages but that is not stopping them. They are working with other groups and unions on campus to demand the College not allow ICE on school property. One such union is the SWCD. An Independent union that successfully bargained the right to engage in sympathy strikes. The Student Worker Collective of Dartmouth supported GOLD UE Local 261 when they went on strike and UE 261 is doing all it can to support the SWCD as they press in negotiations to ban ICE from campus.

**WORKERS UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED**

## **TRU - UE Local 197 (Johns Hopkins University) Baltimore MD.**

Amidst unprecedented attacks by the federal government, TRU-UE Local 197 members are standing up to protect each other. We sent the following demands to our employer, Johns Hopkins University, insisting that the university step up in defense of our international community and for the broader defense of the academic freedoms of our students, faculty, and graduate workers.

Our demands in brief are to declare Johns Hopkins University (JHU) a sanctuary campus, end surveillance on the student body and dismantle the Johns Hopkins police force, support the non-US citizens on our campus, commit to fully funding all ongoing research and training projects, and lastly to publicly affirm the university's support for academic freedom, rigorous scientific inquiry, and its commitment to evidence-based research and clinical practice.



Recently, over 40 members gathered for a five-hour organizing meeting to collectively create a strategy for our union to win these demands through rank-and-file action. In the meantime, we have been fighting the firing of workers without cause and running Know Your Rights training in collaboration with local organizations. Finally, TRU-UE 197 members have continually shown up at mass protests fighting federal funding cuts and for the liberation of Palestine. We will continue to fight and are looking forward to seeing other locals at the Eastern Regional Meeting!



**AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL**



### UE 506 union hall, Erie PA.

We had a great sub region 1 training session with nearly 25 members present from 5 different locals. Our folks at UE Local 300 CGSU (Cornell) came the farthest. Local 300 members gave a presentation on strike preparation as they are in negotiations and the trump

environment will make this a most ominous situation. UE local 300 members Ewa Nizalowska and Jawuanna McAllister began the presentation on strike preparation along with UE 506 business agent John Miles. The room got a chuckle out of the panel explaining that locals need to identify the “big nuts”. In other words, what are the most important issues facing our members. The conversation also led to a discussion about preparing for a strike.



The workers need to see you preparing and drawing the members into the struggle. That’s when they engage. The employer needs to see and hear you preparing so they take you seriously. Start with smaller activities such as surveys, buttons, agitational leaflets, stickers, petitions, marches, rallies, etc. Understand it is a marathon and not a sprint so a calendar should be considered from the strike deadline backward. Developing allies in the community is also important. An easy place to start is visiting the local food bank. Schedule some food drives a couple times a year. Seek out other unions, social justice groups, right-minded religious groups, unions that are in the area, etc.

We heard a lot from our siblings at UE Local 300 CGSU about their struggle to get a first contract. Their employer has dug in and so has the union. A strike is possible. **UPDATE UE Local 300 CGSU reached a tentative agreement on or about March. 28<sup>th</sup>. Additional details on Page 15.**



UE Local 642 members Brittany Hutchinson and Brian Desanto (Harborcreek Youth services) Harborcreek PA., UE Local 684 member Joey Moreno (TEMCO) Northeast PA., UE Local 683 Nicholas Gnan and OJ Hammond (American Iron and Metal AIM) Erie PA., UE Local 335 President Scott Schindler (Haier) Buffalo NY.



(l to r) Mike Pino UE 269, Matt Braddon UE 222, Wayne Carey UE 269, Adrew Palmer and Forest Wilkinson UE 274

**UE Eastern region, sub region 6** had a recent training in Springfield MA. It was a perfect meeting. We had first time participants, second time participants and 1 veteran activist. The size of the group allowed everyone to actively participate and interact in a most productive way. They came from UE Local 269 Erving paper mill, Erving MA., UE Local 222 sub local 27 in Glastonbury CT. UE Local 274 Amalgamated local at Franklin Regional Transit authority in Greenfield MA.

Some topics and victories covered were getting the employer to recognize Jewish holidays as well as Christian holidays. Another was dealing with unsafe working conditions and at Irving paper mill (UE 269) bosses exploiting new hires. At Local 274 we found some good topics to organize around such as access to a microwave, breaks, and clean and private restrooms.

By the end of the meeting workers were sharing their contact information and pledging to support each other. Now they have an email chain to stay in touch.



**On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025** there was a lot going on in Westmoreland County. Nationwide there were protests in several hundred cities and towns to oppose Donald Trump and Elon Musk's cut to critical funding. In Greensburg PA. I ran into Sharon Johnston from UE Local 625. This part of Pennsylvania leans trump and in the surrounding area is trump country.

The streets however were packed with several hundred protesters opposing the insane cuts to everything that serves the citizens of this country. It was loud. Nonstop honking of car horns in support of the demonstration. All four corners and all the sidewalks leading to the main intersection were packed with people.

At about the same time a strong group of UE members were attending a steward training a short distance down the road in Mt. Pleasant PA. These were also UE 625 members. The training ran about 2.5 hours. The members were also counseled on just how dangerous these times are for workers and their union. We will need to learn that we are going to need to fight for everything. This includes things in our contracts that we take for granted.



(l to r) Alex McFadden, Ray Pocratsky, Todd Spargur, Joe Stader, Stephanie Brangard, Jeff Hood, Brooke Emert





## RING THE BELL- SOUND THE ALARM

Brothers, sisters, union siblings we have never seen or could ever have imagined a time in our country as we are seeing now. We can see how the German people were indoctrinated in the Nazi ideology and complicity to the atrocities of the second world war.

The disaster that is the Trump administration is even worse than we feared. Freedom of speech is under attack. People are getting kidnapped and deported without due process for simply speaking out against genocide. Kidnappings on the streets of the United States by law enforcement. Terrorizing all communities across the board. International students, Black, Brown and all people of color, LGBTQ+, etc. An American citizen has been unlawfully sent to El Salvador and the Supreme court is ignored. People are getting fired for using pronouns, people are getting fired for non-pronouns ( No – None). The groundwork has been laid. What happens to them will happen to us.

Regardless of community, all sectors of the working class are under attack. The elderly, infants, students, unions, the poor, the sick, the disabled, the marginalized and others are all going to suffer even more than ever before.

Workers' rights are under attack. The NLRB is crippled. FMCS is crippled, Federal employee unions are getting wiped out with the stroke of a pen. EEOC and OSHA are already underfunded and weak. Mine safety is being crippled; Consumer protection agencies are getting wiped out. Organizations designed to detect corporate fraud and insider trading also crippled.

The environment is under attack. Initiatives such as the Green new deal and the Green locomotive project are now a far greater lift while Trump is in charge. Even worse, environmental protections everywhere are being rolled back.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are being gutted. Institutions of higher learning are being blackmailed to silence dissent. Billions of dollars are being withheld if institutions of higher learning do not bow to this autocratic government. This is not America.

The Democrats are no better. In the end they serve the same Capitalist masters. Going back to Democratic control is status quo at best and that was always a lie. Time and time again we see the Democrats sell us out. There always seem to be just enough of them that side with Republicans to sink our cause. On the rare occasion they don't sink us then Democrats play their capitalist role and water down the legislation to be fundamentally flawed.

We need a third party. We need to build it. We need to lead that movement. The bosses have two parties, we need one. We need a Labor party that addresses working class issues without distraction. A party that addresses wages, education, benefits, environment, healthcare, retirement, diversity, equity, inclusion, fairness, etc.

As always, UE has the answer. The answer is in the Preamble of our Constitution. We unite all workers in aggressive struggle. We need to organize every member in every shop at every level. Our national union, our region and our locals must work together. Our locals need more support to carry out the program that is adopted at our National Convention(s).

We no longer have the luxury of business as usual. We must understand that the times have changed and be prepared for the moment. We need an organizing plan that is even bolder than ever. We must organize workers on a scale that has not been seen in almost 100 years. We must be fearless because we no longer have fear as an option. We need to find new and creative ways to welcome in massive numbers of new members into our class struggle. We must not be afraid to call on the members that run this union to lead this union. **In solidarity George**

## **FIRED FOR “NO/NONE”?** **Yes—this really happened. In America.**

UE Local 228 represents federal contract workers at the National Visa Center (NVC) in Portsmouth, NH. These workers are employed by LDRM, a private contractor processing visa and passport applications for the U.S. Department of State (DOS). The jobs are covered under the Service Contract Act (SCA)—which sets wages and benefits.



For the past seven years, Shane Tassinari has served as the Chief Steward of the local—a tireless advocate for members and a relentless presence in grievance meetings. In January 2025, the federal government issued a vague Executive Order requiring federal employees and contractors to return to onsite work and remove “gender ideology identification markers” from public-facing communications. LDRM rushed to enforce the policy—but never defined it.

Shane had never used pronouns in his public-facing communications. In fact, his supervisor reviewed his internal Microsoft Teams profile and marked him compliant. But frustrated by how the policy was being weaponized to intimidate workers, Shane updated his internal-only status—viewable only by coworkers—to say: “NO / NONE. I give a duck.”

It was not a violation. It was not public-facing. And management never once told him it was non-compliant. Then came the ambush. There was no warning. No conversation. No investigation. Just hours before LDRM made the decision to terminate him, Shane was on a labor relations call with the very same managers—and not one of them mentioned any problem. That night, without notice, Shane was called by HR and told he had been fired for violating a government directive. When he asked what rule he had violated, they told him: *“Close enough for DOS.”*

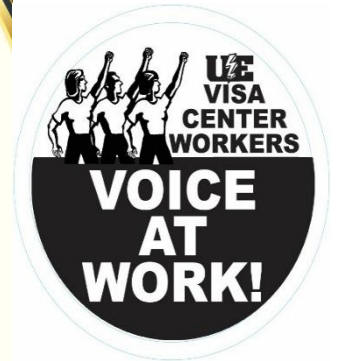
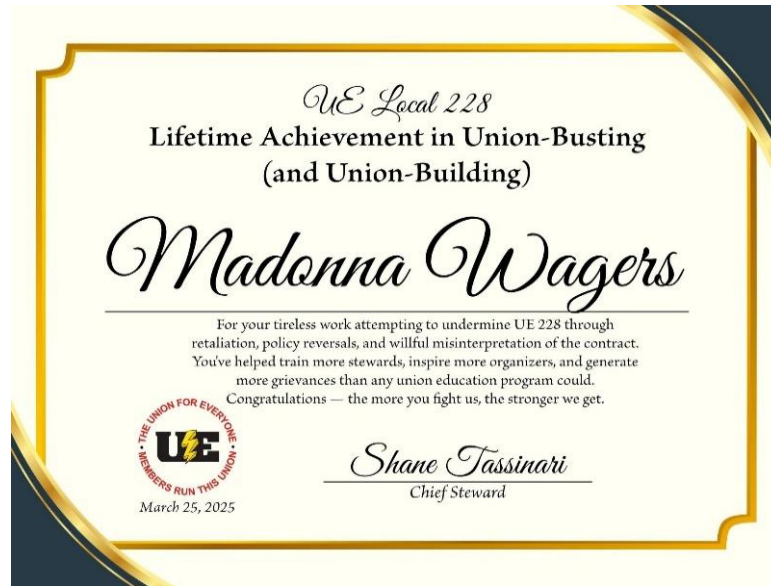
LDRM claimed the government had forced their hand. But when workers confronted DOS directly during two all-hands town hall meetings in March, DOS officials confirmed: DOS did not request Shane’s removal. DOS is not blocking his return. In other words: LDRM lied. The timing is no accident. Shane’s firing came just days before the union was preparing a major organizing push in response to the company’s revocation of telework. This wasn’t about a Teams status—it was about power. It was about silencing a union leader before the next round of collective action.

UE 228 responded immediately. Members rallied, filed grievances, organized actions—and during a DOS town hall, local stewards and members presented LDRM Program Manager Madonna Wagers with a “Lifetime Achievement in Union Busting” award. She smiled and accepted it—until she read it. Here’s the best part: Shane is still the Chief Steward. He’s still filing grievances. Still representing members. Still forcing LDRM to answer for their decisions. His case is headed to arbitration, but we already know what happened. Management thought firing a steward would shut us down. Instead, it reminded us why we fight.

**At UE 228, we don’t fold.**

**We organize. We escalate. We look out for each other.**  
**And as always: We keep our ducks in a row.**





### UE Local 300 CGSU Cornell Ithaca NY



CGSU-UE Local 300, graduate workers at Cornell University, ratified their first contract yesterday with a 97 percent yes vote! The local attributed the win to the mass participation of graduate workers in building a strike threat. The contract includes 12 weeks of parental leave, union security and a hard-won union shop provision, 5 days of immigration-related leave, and an almost 8 percent raise.

The members also won free bus passes, dental and vision insurance coverage, a \$750 matriculation bonus, just cause for employment-related discipline and protections for both academic and non-employment discipline, and a strong international employee rights article that ensures timely processing of immigration paperwork. Local 300 leadership said in communication with their members that the contract, "represents a significant improvement in the conditions of graduate workers at Cornell especially as we prepare to fight the threats to our funding and marginalized workers, and puts us in a position of strength to fight for more in the future."

In an interview with the Ithaca Voice, member of the bargaining committee Ewa Nizalowsk said, "It's particularly inspiring and moving that this has all happened at a time where higher education really is under attack." (Article copied from the UE Facebook page).

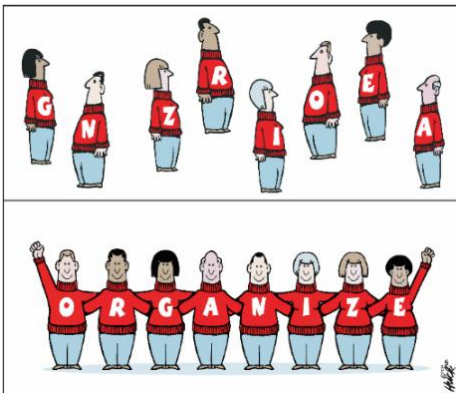
April 2025 UE EASTERN REGION

## UE Preamble

**We, the Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (UE), realize that the struggle to better our working conditions is in vain unless we are united to protect ourselves collectively against the organized forces of the employers.**

**Realizing that the old craft form of trade union organization is unable to defend effectively the interests and improve the conditions of wage earners, WE THE ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS (UE), form an organization which unites all workers on an industrial basis and rank and file control, regardless of craft, age, sex, nationality, race, creed or political beliefs, and pursue at all times a policy of aggressive struggle to improve our conditions.**

**We pledge ourselves to labor unitedly for the principles herein set forth, to perpetuate our union and work concertedly with other labor organizations to bring about a higher standard of living of the workers.**



This QR Code is priceless for all members. It takes you to all 80 of our UE stewards. A UE steward is a 25-minute read on fundamental and critical topics for all union members. If you want a place to quickly research an issue you're dealing with then check here.

**The next UE Eastern region meeting** will be held in concert with our UE National Convention in Chicago Illinois. The date for our next Eastern region meeting is August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

These meetings in August will be extremely important given the current state of affairs in our country. We will be discussing several constitutional changes and elections for National officers.

**THE MEMBERS RUN THIS UNION**