



From the Prez.....

Inside this issue:

<i>Mortgage Assistance Hotline</i>	2
<i>Legal Services</i>	2
<i>Legal Services continued</i>	2
<i>AFSCME, UAW Join Forces in New Hampshire</i>	4
<i>AFSCME, UAW continued</i>	4
<i>AFSCME Local 1067 Scholarships</i>	4
<i>June Calendar</i>	5

It just takes opening the newspaper or turning on the news to hear that times are tough economically not just in Massachusetts but within the United States. For many of our members, the skyrocketing gas prices and mortgage crisis are not just news headlines but problems they and their families are worried about.

Part of belonging to a union is belonging to a family, a family of brothers and sisters who stand by each other during good times and bad. In this month's *Buzz*, we have featured a few programs that are available to our members: mortgage assistance and legal services. You can find other



programs on the International's website at www.afscme.org as well as on the Local's website at www.afscme1067.org. On either page, just click on member benefits.

One of the programs featured on our Local website is Mass

Buying Power, a group-purchasing program that provides discounts on a wide range of consumer goods and services. Some popular discounts include home heating oil, and auto discount programs. For further information, check out our Local's webpage.

Many of our state colleges and community colleges also have Employee Assistance Plans which are another resource for programs that are available to you and your family.

The programs are there for you in times of need and are confidential.

Table Officers

- President Lisa Field, Fitchburg State College
- Vice President Denise Brown, MCLA
- Treasurer Marzi Carolopoli, Berkshire CC
- Secretary Tommie Corbett, Northern Essex CC
- Parliamentarian Dave Charbonneau, Greenfield CC
- Trustee Jim Klim, Massachusetts CC

What's new with PHENOM From www.phenomonline.org

Summer is on the horizon and PHENOM has been hard at work during the last month to help pass an amendment to increase MASSGrant, the state's main need-based financial aid program.

The amendment passed

through the House budgetary process with a total increase of approximately \$2 million, a significant victory for public higher education in a tight fiscal year!

The Senate later considered another amendment to in-

crease MASSGrant by an additional \$5 million but this did not pass. In the coming weeks, it will be considering an addition to the Senate Ways and Means budget to grant MASS-Grant a dedicated earmark in the budget, which it does not currently receive.



Mortgage Assistance Hotline
 From www.afscme.org/members

Act now if you are facing mortgage payment problems

If you are a homeowner worried that the next change on your adjustable rate mortgage (ARM) will put payments out of reach or facing financial trouble that you may make you fall behind on your mortgage payments, the Union Plus Save My Home Hotline may be able to help.

You can arrange a confidential, free consultation with

expert housing counselors who can provide advice, help you find answers and develop an action plan to get your financial house in order. Don't wait until it's too late-call 1-866-490-5361, any time day or night.

Mortgage Assistance Grants

MMI (Money Management International) has created a Preserving Homeownership and Savings Education Strategies (PHASES) program through a \$1 million grant from

HSBC, the provider of the Union Plus Credit Card. PHASES grants can assist qualified homeowners in participating states who are experiencing temporary financial distress and who are past due on one or two mortgage payments. Grants are available to homeowners in 15 states including **Massachusetts**. Call 1-866-490-5361 for more information, any time day or night.

For attorney referrals, see the Union Plus Legal Attorney Search at www.afscme.org/members or call 1-888-993-8886.

Legal Services: Free and Discounted Legal Assistance
 From www.afscme.org/members

There are times when you may need legal help or you simply have a legal question. Perhaps you've purchased a product that has turned out to be a "lemon", are faced with signing a complicated legal document, or need expert advice on a problem.

Through this exclusive union-

members-only program, you get the legal advice you need at rates you can afford-and most often for free. According to surveys, 75 percent of the matters brought to attorneys through the Legal Service are handled without charge.

This service allows members of participating AFL-CIO unions

to consult an attorney on personal legal matters or to prevent a legal problem. Union-approved lawyers at 1,300 law offices are available.

Here's what the Legal Service offers:

- No enrollment fee
- Free review of select

Legal Services Continued



documents

- A free 30-minute consultation-in person or over the phone
- A free follow-up letter or phone call
- A 30 percent discount on additional services

"The Union Plus Legal Service" is designed to meet the needs of working people." said Union Plus President Leslie Tolf. "The program offers free and discounted legal advice-without complications. It helps members avoid the high cost of legal assistance while providing them with service

from an attorney they can trust."

The Union Plus Legal Service does not cover matters involving union-related organizations or officials. Attorneys are not obligated to take a case and may decline if they choose.

*AFSCME, UAW Join Forces in New Hampshire
May 23, 2008*

From The Greenline, www.afscme.blog.org..Reposted from the AFL-CIO Now Blog

Employees at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) are seeking a voice on the job through a historic coordinated effort by two unions-AFSCME and the UAW.

Kelly Hinton, an eight-year financial support specialist, says, "This is great news for all UNH employees. We feel that the two unions working together will be a good fit for the University alongside of the faculty union. Working to-

gether with AFSCME and the UAW means we are united and stronger."

Says Lonnn Sattler, a veterans coordinator who has worked at UNH for 26 years, "This is a terrific opportunity for us to have a real, effective voice on the job. With two great unions working together, we can make UNH a better place to work."

Last year, the state Legislator passed legislation allowing state employees, including those at

UNH, to form unions and bargain with their employers when a majority of workers sign union authorization cards.

AFSCME and UAW agreed to coordinate organizing efforts and support the negotiating teams of all UNH workers who are successful in forming their own local unions and bargaining units. Under the agreement, clerical, technical, skilled trades, and administrative employees and certain



AFSCME, UAW continued

supervisory employees will be eligible to join AFSCME. Service and professional staff, adjunct faculty members and some supervisors will be eligible to become part of the UAW.

Both unions say the partnership will help the workers. Says Bob Madore, director of

UAW Region 9A, "Our goal is to help workers who want to form their own unions. By combining our resources so we can work with AFSCME, we can be even more effective."

Alva Arellano, AFSCME's director of organizing in New England, says, "This is the right approach for UNH work-

ers and for our two unions. We're going to help UNH workers join together so they can have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives and improve the important public services they provide."

General Membership Meeting at Fitchburg State College on June 21 at 10AM. All members are invited. We hope to see you!

AFSCME Local 1067 Scholarships

AFSCME Local 1067 will award (8) \$500 scholarships this year (2008). The applicant must be a member of AFSCME Local 1067, a child of a member of AFSCME Local 1067, or the legal dependent of a member. The applicant must also be a full-time student pursuing a degree at a two-or four-

year College or an accredited institution beyond the high school level. Applications must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2008 and will be awarded at the Local's Executive Board meeting on August 12, 2008. In addition to the application, an essay must be attached. The essay of 250

words or less, written by the applicant, must explain his/her achievements, aspirations, and goals. Please send to:

President Lisa Field

PO Box 414

Templeton, MA 01468

Contact your stewards for info.

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We're on the Web

[Www.afscme1067.org](http://www.afscme1067.org)

Making Public Higher Education Happen in
Massachusetts



AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, is the largest union for workers in the public service with 1.4 million members nationwide. AFSCME organizes for social and economic justice in the workplace and through political action and legislative advocacy. AFSCME represents a diverse group of service and health care workers in the public and private sector including nurses, EMTs, bus drivers, child care providers, and librarians.

Local 1067 represents over 3,000 clerical, technical, maintenance, trades, storekeepers, and public safety employees at the 9 state colleges and the 15 community colleges in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

June Calendar



June 2

Greater Southeastern Mass. Labor Council Screening of Michael Moore's 'Sicko'

Start: 6:30 PM End: 8:30 PM

June 3

Membership meeting and lunch at Greenfield Community College for AFSCME members

June 10

Local's monthly E-Board meeting

Mass. AFL-CIO Organizing Roundtable

Start: 9:30AM End 11AM

June 11, 2008

Membership lunch at Salem State College

Professional development day for members at Middlesex Community College

How to Run a Union Meeting and more...Parliamentary Procedure Workshop with Patti Legault-Frank

Labor Guild, Weymouth

Start: 9AM end 1PM

June 12

Contract negotiations at Worcester State College

June 15

Happy Father's Day

June 17

Bunker Hill Day

June 20-June 22

22nd Annual WILD Summer Institute

June 21

General membership meeting for ALL Local 1067 members at Fitchburg State College at 10AM

Massachusetts and New Hampshire AFL-CIO Labor to Labor Walk

8:30 AM to 12:30 PM