

HUCTW turns 20!

On May 17, 1988, the historic vote took place that formed our union. To celebrate, we're planning a year of commemorative events starting with a big celebratory party. You're invited to join fellow union members for cake and fun on May 15. For details, see the invitation at: www.huctw.org/scrapbook/bdays/2008_bday.htm

Housing Assistance—Small Loan Programs

In the new Agreement, the existing **Rental Transition Loan Program** has been expanded to cover more types of housing situations. Through these programs, members meeting the requirements as described in the program guidelines are eligible to receive zero-interest loans. New programs include the **Homeowner Moving Expenses Loan** and the **Home Emergency Hardship Loan** for renters and homeowners.

For details on eligibility and how to apply, see www.huctw.org/housing

Transportation Fund

A new program resulting from our new Agreement, the Transportation Fund provides assistance to members with extremely high commuting costs, including Longwood Area parking, private commuter bus lines, parking in MBTA garages, and purchase of T-passes for Zone 6 and above. The fund operates on 6-month cycle, with deadlines on July 15 and January 15.

For details on eligibility and how to apply see www.huctw.org/transportation

Education for Dependents—Ongoing Work

In last year's contract negotiations, much attention was paid to issues of training and education, including discussion of college tuition benefits for the children of members. The new Joint Working Group on Life-Cycle Programs will make recommendations on this and other issues. It's important that we keep the conversation going on this important topic, and we're looking forward to further discussions in the Life-Cycle Group and throughout our community..

Union Green Group

A recently formed union Green Group has met to discuss ways to use our collective energy, to collaborate with other Harvard organizations, and to promote sustainable practices at the University and to encourage the Harvard community to care for the Earth. To learn more, please write to laura.ebenstein@huctw.org

Academy Conference Report

The Academy of Workforce Education is one of the joint committees of HUCTW and the University. The Academy focuses on issues of education, development, and career mobility, including development of programs as well as related issues such as access to and time for training.

In February 2008, the Academy sponsored a joint conference, bringing together 200 union, management, and human resources staff from across the university to share best practices and the strategize about challenges.

A report on the conference is now available at: www.huctw.org/joint_work/committees/academy

Health Care Issues Update

A **new open letter** from HUCTW is available with updates on current health care issues affecting HUCTW members, including discussion of the university's consolidation of health care plans. To read this document, as well as previous communications and useful links on the topic, please visit: www.huctw.org/healthcare

Problems with **Medco** have been reviewed carefully in the University Benefits Committee (UBC). While some medications increased in cost, three times as many drug co-pays decreased in cost. The overall effect is a significant reduction in employee costs for prescription drugs. In addition, as of April 15, all employees who previously had access to 3-month prescriptions at the pharmacy have had that access restored.

New Contract and July 1, 2008 Salary Increase

PDFs of the 2007-2010 Agreement, the Personnel Manual, and a Summary of changes in the new Agreement are now available for download, with links at www.huctw.org. Printed copies of the booklets have arrived and are being distributed to all members across the university.

Our next salary increase will take place on July 1, 2008. For a FAQ explaining details of our salary increase program, as well as the 2008 Calculator for calculating your own increase, please see: www.huctw.org/salary

Please note!

Our e-mail addresses have changed. General box addresses are below—for individual addresses please call us or e-mail huctw.info.

huctw.info@huctw.org

huctw.training@huctw.org

huctw.childcare@huctw.org

huctw.edfund@huctw.org

Harvard Union
of Clerical &
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Workers

PHONE: 617-661-8289

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www.huctw.org

If you don't have web access, give us a call at 617-661-8289 and we can get any of this info to you!

OFFICE LOCATION
&
MAILING ADDRESS

15 Mt Auburn St
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Announcements

Congratulations!

HUCTW President Tasha Williams and her husband Carl Darling are the happy parents of a healthy baby girl. Tamia Marie Darling was born on February 24, weighing 7 lbs., 2 oz. HUCTW officers and staff will be covering Tasha's duties while she is on maternity leave.

Voter Registration Cards

If you are not already registered or have moved recently, we encourage you to update your Massachusetts voter registration. In order to vote in the November 2008 presidential election, you must be registered at least 20 days prior to the election. The HUCTW Office has a supply of voter registration cards, and we'd be happy to send you one—just call or e-mail us at huctw.info@huctw.org

Academic Enrichment Fellowship Update

This program supports academically-oriented extracurricular activities for the children of HUCTW members. In our new Agreement, the scope and age range (now 5-18) of the fellowship has been expanded. The yearly application deadline for the 2007-2008 cycle is August 1, 2008. See the HUCTW web site for detailed guidelines and the application form.

Education Fund and TAP Workshops

Our new Agreement has brought significant improvements to the TAP and Education Fund programs. HUCTW hosts workshops to help members make the best use of these educational benefits. A list of current dates is available on our web site. To attend, please RSVP to huctw.edfund@huctw.org

Reclassification and Other HUCTW Workshops

HUCTW hosts several workshops, including the popular Reclassification Workshop. Workshop descriptions are listed on our web page. To be added to the list for notification when a workshop is scheduled, send an e-mail indicating which workshop you're interested in to: huctw.training@huctw.org

AFSCME discounts and scholarships

HUCTW members are eligible for discounts and services through the AFSCME Advantage program: www.afscme.org/members/71.cfm
There are also several scholarship programs available to members and their children: www.afscme.org/members/852.cfm

HUCTW Organizers

Lynn Wang DeLacey
Laura Ebenstein
Randi Ellingboe
Martha Fuller
Joie Gelband
Thomasin Guenard
Bill Jaeger

Adrienne Landau
Marie Manna
Shamim Morani
Rachael School
Ann Sjostedt
Donene Williams

HUCTW Officers

President: Tasha Williams
Vice-President: Gloria Buffonge
Secretary: Kasia Razynska
Treasurer: Wanthani Briggs

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