

2023 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE



We greet all of the Labor Guild community with hopes that all have passed restful holidays in preparation for the new year 2023! There are plenty of exciting developments for the Guild, including our chance to introduce young and energetic staff and a website that has been nearly entirely rebuilt in the interests of sharing information and registering students for our Labor School classes.

A few days before Christmas, I found myself being asked to track down both a catering manager (odds of contact: not good!) as well as a senior administrator for My Brother's Keeper, a not-for-profit that shares a parcel of land with our Congregation of Holy Cross residence adjacent to the Stonehill College campus.

As I am familiar with the loading dock at My Brother's Keeper, I entered among the many Santa's Elves and other volunteers busily packing their gifts for area children in order to obtain an enthusiastic reference for **Andrew Staiti**, our new Office Manager!

Long-time indescribably valuable Manager **Mary Gendrolis** is generously training Andrew to assume this cornerstone position at the center of our organization. She is delighted to be able to spend even more time with her grandchildren in the area. What a privilege to note the presence of our new Boyle Fellow **Bruce Tran**! Bruce arrives with a handful of degrees from UMass – Boston and a strong presence with the South Asian Workers' Center. We welcome both Andrew and Bruce, who will introduce themselves elsewhere in this edition of Labor Life.

Please take a moment to review the biographies of our 2022 Cushing-Gavin Awardees, who are also included here: **Sister Tess Browne, SCN, Nicole Decter, John Folcarelli, and Myles Calvey**. I found the experience of meeting the recipients and preparing them for our zoom remote presentation in December deeply rewarding.

We are so very close to launching our new website, with so many "bells & whistles" that I hesitate to begin describing them. Over the past months, long-time consultant **Matt Ulvila** has patiently explained the critical improvements that will facilitate Labor School course selection, registration, and tuition payment. One cannot help recalling Gene Wilder's character in Young Frankenstein as so much work approaches

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THE LABOR
GUILD

SCHOOL OF LABOR
MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

SPRING LABOR SCHOOL STARTS 2/27

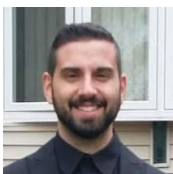
Evenings: 6:30-8:30 pm

JOIN US VIA ZOOM



Class descriptions and
registration online at:
laborguild.com/events/

WELCOME NEW GUILD STAFF



Andrew Staiti, Office Manager

Andrew Staiti is a native of Canton, MA, where he currently makes his home. A 2014 graduate of Stonehill College in Easton, MA, Andrew completed a year of faith-based volunteer work with a program named The Franciscan

Volunteer Ministry after graduation. Upon his return home, he took a job with My Brother's Keeper, a small Christian charity with strong ties to the Stonehill community that serves families in need in much of the Southeastern part of the state. After making a slight career change, Andrew is proud to return to a job that has roots in Catholic Social Teaching, and that makes an impact in the surrounding community. He looks forward to his time as office manager and finding ways to make new connections as well as strengthen existing ones for the betterment of The Guild and the Labor movement in general.



Bruce Tran, Boyle Fellow

The Guild's newest Boyle Fellow, Bruce Tran is interested in promoting social justice for the middle and working class. As the son of Vietnamese refugees fleeing the Vietnam War turned into American citizens,

he understands the need to advocate for immigrant rights, critical study of politics (both international and domestic), and history. Growing up, Bruce observed the world from the perspective of a first-generation immigrant. He witnessed the hard labor performed by his parents to live a decent life as a middle-class family without outside assistance. To improve the standard of living for all, Bruce believes that helping those at the bottom will improve all lives in the long term. Bruce holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's in American Studies from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 CUSHING-GAVIN AWARDEES!



LABOR AWARD

Myles Calvey

Business Manager, Financial Secretary, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2222

Born and raised in Somerville, Massachusetts, Myles and his lovely wife Janet raised their four children in Belmont, Massachusetts.

Myles started his career with New England Telephone Company in 1968 and learned from the experienced guys the value of looking out for each other. He became the shop steward and began to look after his fellow workers. He earned two degrees from Boston College, working by day and going to school part-time.

He was later elected Vice President of Local 2222, and in 1988 he was elected Business Manager. In 1991 Myles became the first Business Manager of Local 2222 ever to be re-elected. He has been re-elected every three years since.

In 2005 Myles became the first Business manager from the telephone branch of the IBEW to ever be elected to the International Executive Council. In his role as System Council T-6 Chairman, he has negotiated countless CBAs and other agreements, always standing up against corporate greed and fighting for working people.



MISSED THIS YEAR'S CGA CEREMONY?

Stream the entire event on our YouTube channel.



LABOR ATTORNEY AWARD

Nicole Horberg Decter, Esq.

Segal Roitman LLP

Nicole ("Nikki") Horberg Decter is a partner at Segal Roitman, LLP, where she has practiced since 2007. Her practice is exclusively dedicated to securing equity and dignity for all workers. Nikki represents Union clients in all phases of labor-management relations and provides a full range of advocacy in negotiations, litigation, and legislative and regulatory drafting. Nikki also represents individuals and groups of employees in wage and hour and anti-discrimination litigation.

Nikki is exceptionally proud to be a "social movement lawyer" and savors collaborations with her clients in furthering economic justice. Her institutional clients include the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the Massachusetts Building Trades, the Boston Building Trades, the New England Gas Workers Alliance, as well as local unions and individuals throughout Massachusetts engaged in the transportation, utility, medical, and education industries in the building and construction trades, and in the public sector. Nikki has also collaborated with immigrant workers centers, including Fuerza Laboral and Metrowest Workers Center, and non-profits such as Justice at Work and Greater Boston Legal Services to advance workers' rights.

In addition, she serves on the board of Building Pathways, a pre-apprenticeship program expanding access to building trades careers for women and people of color in Boston, Massachusetts.

Nikki began her legal career as a legal fellow in the General Counsel's Office of the AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C., and continued her advocacy of unions and individuals at Pyle, Rome, Lichten, and Ehrenberg, P.C., before joining Segal Roitman LLP. She is a graduate of Brandeis University (B.A.), the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana (M.A.), and Boston College Law School (J.D.). She lives with her exceptionally thoughtful, patient, and kind husband and her two precious daughters in Brookline, Massachusetts. They make all of this work possible.



MANAGEMENT AWARD

John Folcarelli

Vice President Employee Relations, Student Transportation of America

John is Vice-President of Employee Relations & Compliance for Student Transportation of America, Inc., a school bus transportation company with 22,000 employees in the United States and Canada. At STA, John represents the company in labor negotiations, arbitration, mediation, and advising on employee relations matters.

Prior to joining STA, John served as Deputy General Counsel for Steward Health Care System LLC, which purchased the former Caritas hospitals, including St. Elizabeth's Hospital. There John was responsible for labor, employment, and business matters. At Steward, John had a close working relationship with 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, and the Area Trades Council, among others.

Before going to Steward, John was a labor and employment attorney for First Student. That company was the successor to Laidlaw, Inc. (both school bus transportation companies), where John was Director of Human Resources responsible for the Northeast Region, including states south to Florida and Louisiana and west to Pennsylvania.

John began his management career as an Examiner and later Manager of Labor Relations for Conrail's and its successor Metro-North's passenger rail operations in New York City. While working at Metro-North, John attended law school and before receiving his degree joined Morgan, Lewis, and Bockius's New York office, where he became an associate after graduating. In 1988 John moved to Milton, Massachusetts, and joined Edwards & Angell's (now Locke Lord) Boston office.

John's initial experience in labor relations was as a Shop Steward for AFSCME Council 94 while in graduate school and working full-time at the Doctor Joseph Ladd school in Exeter, RI, as an institutional attendant. As the son of the late Giovanni Folcarelli and Jane Walsh Folcarelli, his father served as Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island from 1964-1966 and was a longtime leader in the labor community. He was Executive Director of AFSCME Council 94 for many years. John speaks to the witness value that his father provided in support of labor, while his own experience in labor advocacy and management responsibility speaks to the importance of human values and community in labor-management relations.

John lives in Milton, Massachusetts, with his wife Patricia. He has four grown children, Meg, Jack, Francesca, Anna, and one grandchild, Gilberto Alessandro Bortolussi. John is an elected Trustee of the Milton Public Library and Milton Town Meeting Member.

John is the current president of the Greater Rhode Island Labor and Employment Relations Association. He has been a Board member since 2012. Until his term expired after nine years, John was a Board member and recently, Vice President of the Disability Law Center Board in Boston, MA.

John is a member of the Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and Pennsylvania Bars.



THE BOYLE AWARD

Marie-Thérèse "Tess" Browne, S.C.N.

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Mass Interfaith Worker Justice

Marie-Thérèse Browne, S.C.N. (Sisters of Charity of Nazareth), "Tess" or Sister Tess, is a long-time practitioner in Social Justice Organizing, beginning with the National Farm Worker Ministry assigning her full-time staff with the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO in Wisconsin, and Texas. Tess was inspired by boycotting farmworkers who invited her to leave the classroom and join them on the picket line in solidarity with their struggle for dignity and justice.

She engaged in several organizing and legislative campaigns in Wisconsin, California, and Texas, where she was Director of the National Farm Workers Service Center in San Juan, Texas. Tess co-coordinated successful campaigns to ban "El Corbito", the short, handled hoe, and to bring toilets and clean drinking water to workers in the fields. After training with the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project farmworkers in Texas, Tess and others initiated voting rights and policy campaigns.

Tess was an Organizer with the Committee for Boston Public Housing. She was statewide Organizing Director for the Mass Action for Women Audit, as a follow up to the 1995 Beijing UN Conference on Women. She was also coordinator of HELP (Healthy Environment Leadership Project), an interfaith environmental justice organizing project at Episcopal Divinity School.

As part of the Catholic Sisters Collaborative, and Saint Katherine Drexel Parish, founding members of GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization), Tess continues supporting GBIO organizing for criminal justice, affordable health care, and housing. From Massachusetts Interfaith Worker Justice beginnings, she deepened her commitment to worker rights, intersectionality, and dismantling systemic racism. This work moves on through Jobs with Justice; and Advisory Boards of the UMass Boston Labor Resource Center, the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, and the South Asian Workers Center. Students in UMass Labor and Gender Studies and at The Labor Guild inspire and challenge Tess to keep going.

A native of Trinidad and Tobago and a U.S. Citizen, Tess received her BA from Cardinal Stritch University, and a master's degree from UMass Boston, College of Public and Community Service; and was a Merrill Fellow at Harvard Divinity School. A former high school Biology and French teacher, Tess thanks her mom, Dorothea for her gift of faith, and acting with the others for the common good of the wider community. Being a sister of Charity of Nazareth, she tries to live out charity rooted in justice, to care for the earth, and to be in solidarity with oppressed persons, especially women.

IN MEMORIAM

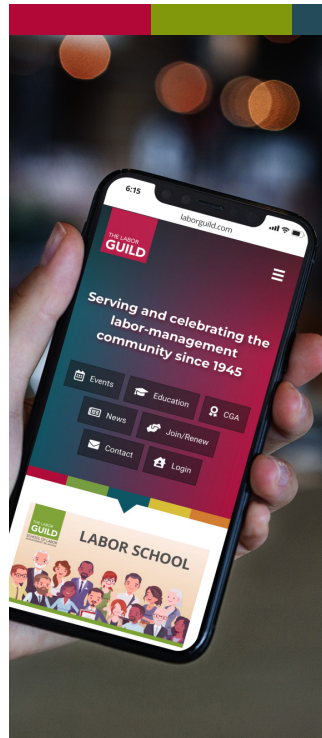
We celebrate the lives and great accomplishments of these cherished Guilders. All were wonderful friends of the Guild. It was an honor and blessing to know each of them.

Joan (Carey) Santa Maria - With regret, we note the passing of a daughter of Dorchester who contributed immeasurably to the Labor Guild for so many years. Fr. Marc joined with Fr. John Currie of Saint Patrick Parish in Roxbury for Joan's Funeral Mass. The seven sisters- Joan's daughters- and many more family and community members joined at this gathering. Joan is remembered for her many contributions, particularly from the era of the monthly Labor Life publication.

Virginia Tisei, Esq. - Virginia was a 2003 CGA Award Winner. As a teacher in the Boston Public Schools, Virginia became active in the Boston Teachers Union. She later received her J.D. from the New England School of Law and began her career as an attorney, primarily focusing on labor relations. She worked for W.R. Grace and for the City of Boston: Consumer Affairs and Licensing as Director of Labor Relations and Director of Labor Relations for the Boston School Department. Virginia served for many years on the West Roxbury Neighborhood Council and 27 years on the Air Pollution Control Commission. Virginia was dedicated to those with developmental disabilities, serving as President of GBARC as well as a board member of the Massachusetts Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

Thomas Birmingham - State Senator Tom Birmingham of Chelsea is remembered for many levels of advocacy in Massachusetts, highlighted by his 1996 election as President of the Senate. "Senate President Thomas Birmingham was an incredible public servant dedicated to moving Massachusetts forward," stated Gov. Maura Healey. "He had a towering intellect and curiosity and an ability to connect with a range of people. Though he walked through rooms of power and privilege, he stayed true to his roots and never forgot where he came from or what mattered." Senator Birmingham had kept his Labor Guild membership current since 1982.

Tom Gunning - A recipient of the 2000 Cushing-Gavin Award, SMACNA's Executive Legislative Advocate of the Year (2008, 2015), SMACNA's Chapter Executive of the Year in 2001, the Roofing Industry's Clarence Carr Award, the Boy Scouts of America "Good Scout" Award and the 1st annual Good Guy Award. His hard work was celebrated by all who knew him, and he dedicated his life to advancing the construction industry. His loss is felt by many.



Check out our redesigned laborguild.com website!

Packed with new features, enhancements, and improvements

- New membership portal for easier sign ups and renewals
- Updated calendar and events
- Streamlined user interface for better usability
- Google translate integration
- More features and benefits coming in 2023

Executive Director Update - Continued from pg. 1

completion, yet Matt remains thorough in his explanations. More to follow!

There are many examples of outreach programs and grant opportunities that the Guild assumes or partners in, with the benefit of reaching beyond the original parameters. We recently concluded a Workplace Safety and Worker Well-Being grant with partners MassCOSH and the Mass Nurses for the Catholic Health Foundation.

As some funds will be carried over due to savings in the zoom presentations, we

are proposing to develop a further partnership with some of our providers and the Labor Assistance Professionals, who are ably assisted by both **Hugh Boyd** and **Frank Callahan**.

Also on the near horizon, Labor School Faculty Member and Arbitrator **Mike Loconto** will represent the Guild in Washington, DC, as the Catholic Labor Network sponsors a seminar on arbitration and Church teachings. So good to note that this is part of the USCCB Social Ministries Gathering, (the national Bishops conference) taking place in person again. Bon voyage and safe travels, Mike!

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