

## New Business Item Form - 2023

**NBI # --**

*To be filled in by MSCA*

**MSCA Purchasing Union-made Goods**

**May 4, 2023, 9:16am**

### NBI NAME

**Charlotte Haller**

### Date and Time

**Worcester State University**

### Delegate Making the Motion

**Vicki Gruzynski**

### University Affiliation

**Worcester State University**

### Delegate Seconding the Motion

### University Affiliation

*According to the MSCA Standing/Special Rules:*

*With the exception of items on the agenda, all substantive motions shall be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer.*

## MOTION

### MOVED:

**Whenever possible, the MSCA will purchase union-made and union-printed goods and merchandise. The MSCA will employ union print shops to print merchandise, goods, apparel, posters, and/or signs.**

### SUBMITTER'S RATIONALE:

Solidarity among unions has long been expressed through purchasing the "union label." We demonstrate our commitment to the struggles of other workers in the apparel trade and print industries by taking the extra time, and spending the little bit of extra money to purchase union-made goods. This can also serve as education for our members to explain the importance of union movements elsewhere, the impact of union organizing, and value of solidarity. The caveat "Whenever possible" is included because the apparel industry is largely non-unionized and it is quite difficult to find and source union-made t-shirts (and many "ethical/union label" lists treat union made and American made as the same thing), though I did find the one listed below, although the fabric might be questionable. If clothing is murky ground, that's not true of print shops and it is relatively easy to find and use union print shops to print t-shirts, posters, and other "swag."

### DUES IMPACT:

In terms of the budget impact, many members would rather have a single, union-made t-shirt rather than several sweatshop-produced cheap ones. So in terms of budget, maybe choices can be made to reduce quantity and instead create items that have lasting value and use and which have less environmental impact as well.

**This change will not require an increase in dues.**

### SUBMITTER'S COST & WORKLOAD ESTIMATE:

Gone are the days when you could simply "look for the union label" and go about your day, confident that you were supporting organized labor. However, the AFL-CIO does maintain a website that indicates products that are union made (and they acknowledge that some of these products are made in both nonunion and union shops). But, the perfect should not be the enemy of the good.

Website of union products: <https://unionlabel.org/do-buy/>

Union t-shirts: <https://unionshirtsupply.com>

The work to research and select union-made and union-printed option: 2-3 hours

The cost of union-made goods over non-union goods can vary greatly (Lays potato chips are union made but not significantly more expensive). The Department of Labor has estimated that unionized workers earn 15% more than non-union workers. <https://www.dol.gov/general/workcenter/union-advantage> But when there is a density of unionized workers, the wages for everyone, unionized or not, rises. And, I think we all know that the price of things is not exactly correlated to the wages paid the workers who make them. But if we assume a 15% higher cost for unionized goods, if the MSCA normally spent \$5000.00 on "swag," that would mean an increase of \$750.

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS** must be submitted to the Presiding Officer prior to the commencement of the meeting. Those submitted by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3 will be distributed to the delegates at prior to the meeting. New Business Items **WITH** budgetary implications will be acted upon prior to adoption of the annual budget and the dues for FY2023-2024. A new business item **WITH** budgetary implications is defined as any activity or action that would result in an additional expenditure of more than \$500 by the MSCA. New Business Items **WITH** budgetary implications will be considered in the order in which they are received but before other New Business Items **WITHOUT** budgetary implications. Other New Business Items **WITHOUT** budgetary implications will be considered during the meeting in the order in which they are received.

Submit to [president@mscaunion.org](mailto:president@mscaunion.org)

If you have any questions, please contact JJoanna Gonsalves, Vice President of the MSCA at [vicepresident@mscaunion.org](mailto:vicepresident@mscaunion.org).