

Part-time workers need a union full-time. The reasons are many, but most important is respect for us as human beings as well as for the good work that we do. Too often management sees part-time workers as nothing more than an opportunity to cut costs and benefits and this has shoved the working person back in time to the day when there was no job security, no sick time, no pension. And too many men and women are working hours reminiscent of 19th century textile mills in an attempt to string together two and three part-time jobs to make a real living.

Still, we are not in the same place as the women who stood for bread and roses. We only have to look around to know what can be gained in union. We just have to step up and stand beside our full-time brothers and sisters.

I can't think of better advice than that our full-time colleague Karen Cox of Middlesex offers on this page: "Do yourself a big favor and reach out today, call, e-mail or talk with your local MCCC officials." I would only add don't shirk

opportunities to serve in union office. With nearly a thousand part-time unit members, we need to be a part of leadership, and the journey can be a surprising amount of fun.

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