## The State of the Union(s)

Alumni Speaker Series: Rand Wilson to Visit Buxton on MLK Day

Rand Wilson (Buxton '72) has been working with unions since the early 1980s. He has played a pivotal role in unions and workers rights campaigns across industries and levels of government. Wilson will be joining the Buxton community on MLK Day (Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>) at 4pm in the Buxton Theater to talk about the current state of the union(s) – touching on both the activity of labor unions today, and also a critical look at the future of the government and the changes ahead.

Most recently, Wilson was elected as a Massachusetts delegate to the Democratic National Convention in July 2016. Prior to Hillary's nomination, he helped coordinate Labor for Bernie – a wide network that chose to put its support behind Bernie, in opposition to the national unions such as the American Federation of Teachers, the Service Employees International Union, and the National Education Association who all

threw their support to Hillary. Labor for Bernie was comprised of six national unions, 100 local unions, and 50,000 union activists. Wilson is currently building *Our Revolution*, an organization to move the work of the Bernie campaign forward.



Wilson has spearheaded many successful efforts in labor organizing, including founding Massachusetts Jobs with Justice, where he led efforts for universal healthcare legislation and against NAFTA trade deals. Wilson was the chief spokesperson during a 1997 strike of members of the United Parcel Service, resulting in the creation of 10,000 new jobs and increased funding in pension plans.

Currently, Wilson works as the Communications and Policy Director of SEIU Local 888, a statewide union of nonprofit workers, higher education, and public service. He is an accomplished writer on strategies for building workers' political power, and we are delighted to have him join us at Buxton on MLK Day.