

SEIU Local 517M Bylaw Change Proposed

The SEIU Local 517M Executive Board at their May 21, 2009 meeting has proposed the following change to the SEIU Local 517M By-Laws (proposed changes are in bold and CAPS):

Article VI: ELECTION OF OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Section 7: *The Secretary/Treasurer of the Union shall be responsible for the conduct of the Election and shall arrange for printing, distributing, collecting, counting and tabulating of ballots and announcing the results thereof to the Executive Board and Members as expeditiously as possible. The Election of Officers shall be by mailed secret ballot **OR AN ALTERNATE METHOD AS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD** to all voting Members. Ballots shall be mailed at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the date of counting. Any candidate for office may have an observer present at the counting of the ballots. The candidate receiving the most votes for any office shall be elected to the office.*

The Executive Board recognizes the need to gain efficiencies in the election process and is exploring the introduction of technology into the voting process. This By-law change will be voted on by the Executive Board at their July 23, 2009 meeting.

Temporary Layoff Days for State Employees

Most State Employees received notice of temporary layoff days for the following dates: June 19, July 6, July 24, August 7, August 21, and September 4. The Scientific and Engineering Unit received notice of seven permanent layoffs in the Department of Agriculture to commence on June 8th. The Technical Unit received notice of permanent layoffs in the following Departments to commence June 8th: Agriculture – 1, Community Mental Health – 4, Corrections – 1, Management and Budget - 1. Each Department is charged with notifying its employees of detailed plans which should include any deviations from the general notice of temporary layoff days from the Office of the State Employer. There will likely be some operations that must continue and employees will be required to work. Any questions regarding alternate work schedules, overtime, Plan A and anything else should be directed to your steward or the SEIU Office. SEIU continues to remind the State of Michigan that employees have already given over \$600 million in savings back to the State over the last several years through banked leave time, previous temporary layoff days, wage freezes, increased healthcare premiums, reduced overtime pay, etc. and that there are many other ways for the State to save money. SEIU members have identified several ways to save money including the obvious – high cost of sub-contracting – and the leadership will continue to work on informing the politicians and the public on these facts. Read more information on Temporary Layoff Days at: http://www.seiu517m.org/Furlough_Day_Update_May_20_2009.aspx

SEIU Holds Lobby Day at Capitol

On May 7, 2009, over 100 members from SEIU Local 517M and SEIU Local 1 participated in the Second Annual SEIU Lobby Day at the State Capitol in Lansing.

http://www.seiu517m.org/politicscope/2009_SEIU_Lobby_Day.aspx

SEIU Members Win Director's Award in Department of Transportation

Three SEIU Local 517M members were recognized by the Department of Transportation for their outstanding work by being presented with the Director's Award. In the Professional, Specialist Category the winner is Ann M. Lawrie, a Resource Specialist with the Project Planning Division in Lansing. In the Professional category, the winner is Hugh McNichol, a Transportation Planner in the Project Planning Division in Lansing. In the Technical Category, the winner is Joseph Muscat, an Engineering Technician in the Metro C & T Lab. Congratulations to these members on their work to the citizens of Michigan.

Flint School Secretarial Unit Vote Yes on New Contract

The Flint Schools Secretarial unit voted 72 Yes to 1 No for a new four year contract.

SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting

The SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting will be a “backyard picnic” theme and will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2009 at the Local 517M Lansing Office on Michigan Avenue. There will be an abbreviated Executive Board meeting, special guests and great food and fellowship. The Board meeting starts at 11:00 a.m. with the afternoon program starting at around 1:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Cindy Wilson at 517.482.1737 / 866-517.SEIU or cwilson@seiu517m.org by July 8th.

Legislators Hear the Union Perspective

Change to Win Michigan sponsored the popular “Representative Miller Brown Bag Lunch” at the Capitol on May 19th. Change to Win Michigan Chair and Local 517M Executive Vice President Phil Thompson along with the other Change to Win leaders spoke on budget issues and the impact on working families. Thompson focused on public employee issues and the background of Change to Win educating legislators on the make-up of the federation and the Change to Win political process.

State Employee Regional New Steward Training Held

A new steward training was held in Marquette on May 19, 2009. There were five Technicians who attended the training and one Scientist. The training was facilitated by the Technical Division Grievance Chairman, Jeff Morgenthaler. Since we had only one steward in each division for the entire Upper Peninsula, this will help tremendously. We want to give a big THANK YOU to those who attended and to Jeff for facilitating the training. We will be holding training in other regions of the state. If you are interested in attending please e-mail Cheryl Bollinger at cbollinger@seiu517m.org.

Technical Division Educational Training Funds Available

There are still funds available in the Technical Division Educational Training Fund. This fund was negotiated in the last contract. The maximum which can be requested by any one person is \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars). Please take advantage of this negotiated benefit. The form with the criteria is on-line on our web site at: <http://www.seiu517m.org/Admin/Assets/AssetContent/87657323-d468-4ff7-a068-4d93028fed5f/546bfa9e-94e2-495f-9d30-54cc81f55e47/ad96de16-1fa1-418a-a746-3f2c1f5f9379/1/TechEDTform111708.pdf>

City of Detroit Employees Will Hold Unit Picnic

The City of Detroit Employees unit is having their 3rd Annual Summer Extravaganza at Belle Isle Park, Shelter #6 on Saturday, July 25, 2009. The event will be held from Noon and end at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy and afternoon of food, games, prizes, COPE raffle and more. Music will be provided by DPW's D.J. Dave! There will also be a school supply give-away. Please bring donations of at least one canned good which will be donated to local homeless shelters in the community.

New Members Organized at Ottawa County Head Start

Employees at Child Development of Ottawa County/Head Start voted 47 Yes to 26 No to organize and join with SEIU Local 517M. The unit of approximately 80 workers has established a bargaining committee and will be in negotiations soon for their first contract. One of the workers, Jean Struntz attended the May 21st Executive Board meeting and expressed her excitement to be a part of SEIU. Congratulations and welcome!

SEIU Local 517M Golf Outing

The SEIU Local 517M Golf Outing is being held on Thursday, August 6, 2009 at the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. Cost per foursome is \$280. Contact Dave Corrie for more information at corried@seiu517m.org. You can get the registration form on our website at: http://www.seiu517m.org/SEIU_517M_Golf_Outting.aspx