

State Budget Crisis

On April 28th SEIU was notified that the Governor expects to issue a budget cutting Executive Order on May 5th to address the potential \$1.2 billion shortfall for the current fiscal year. SEIU will be working on getting details and assuring that the contract language is followed. All three SEIU Local 517M contracts limit temporary layoff days to six per fiscal year. As soon as there is ANYTHING more to share, it will be posted on the website at www.seiu517m.org and sent out via e-mail.

SEIU continues to inform the state of other areas where cost savings can be achieved in state employment without involving state employees. Keep submitting your suggestions, as they all have merit – from large sub-contracting costs to overpaying for supplies. Submit on our website Blog at <http://www.seiu517m.org/blog/Default.aspx>.

SEIU Members To Bank of America: We Deserve A Voice

SEIU, MoveOn.org and other community groups collected over 70,000 “Taxpayer Proxy” demands to the Bank of America shareholder meeting calling on it to: fire CEO Ken Lewis; support strong banking reform; eliminate predatory lending practices and unreasonable fees; support the Employee Free Choice Act to ensure workers have a voice to speak out for consumers and improve working conditions; and provide affordable healthcare to bank workers so they are not forced to rely on tax-payer funded public health programs. The Proxy demands will be presented at the Bank of America shareholder meetings in Charlotte, NC.

"The American taxpayers didn't cause this economic crisis but we sure are paying the price," said SEIU Secretary-Treasurer Anna Burger. "We're watching our savings disappear, our debt pile up, and our retirement vanish. Taxpayers have had enough, bank workers have had enough, and it's past time to hold big banks like Bank of America accountable if we are going to create an economy that works for everyone again."

In Michigan, Local 517M members in Saginaw approached Bank of America customers as they entered the drive thru at the Bank of America service center on Michigan Avenue, who were more than willing to sign a proxy form to be heard. View event pictures at: http://www.seiu517m.org/SEIU_Members_to_Bank_of_America_We_Deserve_A_Voice.aspx

UPDATE: On April 29th a majority of Bank of America's shareholders voted to oust Ken Lewis as Chairman of the company's board. "Shareholders and the American people have given Ken Lewis an overwhelming vote of no confidence and he must resign as CEO immediately," said SEIU Secretary-Treasurer Anna Burger.

City of Muskegon Members Ratify New Contract

City of Muskegon members in two bargaining units ratified new three year contracts. The Muskegon DPW unit gained wage increases in each of the three years, improvement in licenses pay, and several language improvements.

The Muskegon Clerical unit also gained wage increases in each of the three years. Holidays prorated for part-time employees, Bi-lingual payment increase, child care emergency leave language, and an improvement to the existing vacation language.

City of Muskegon Arbitration Award

The City of Muskegon has been ordered to reinstate one of our members who had been unjustly terminated. The Arbitrator ruled that there was no just cause for termination. The arbitrator put the employee back to work and awarded full back pay and benefits, totaling over \$50,000!

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

AFRAM National Convention Highlights

AFRAM recently held their National Convention. SEIU AFRAM Caucus President and Saginaw City Chapter President Andy Johnson was elected by acclamation as President of the Central Region AFRAM Caucus. This also makes Andy an Executive Vice-President on the AFRAM National Caucus. The SEIU 517M AFRAM State Caucus also won the award for Most Outstanding Caucus in the Central Region. We were honored for the work we have been doing over the last two years.

Upcoming Calendar of Events for May, 2009

May 7 – SEIU Lobby Day at the Capitol. Contact Steve Reck for more information at sreck@seiu517m.org.

May 21 – SEIU Local 517M Executive Board Meeting.

May 26 – State Employee Chapter 16 meeting. Visit http://www.seiu517m.org/test_cal/Ch_16_Meeting.aspx for more details.