

SEIU Local 517M E-Former – February 2010

Reforms – Reforms – Reforms!

SEIU's national mantra is "Building Better Communities through Quality Public Services." But, as budgets continue to shrink, it is increasingly difficult to hold the line on "quality public services." GOP Leader Bishop is proposing major cuts including mandated 20% insurance co-pays and an across the board 5% wage cuts for all public employees. Democratic Leader Dillon is proposing "pooling" all public employees into just a handful of health insurance plans with no opportunity to bargain benefit levels. Now, Governor Granholm is pushing legislation to modify state and school pension plans.

Obviously, our SEIU Local 517M Leadership and Staff have a "full plate" as we continue to represent our SEIU membership's interest in all of these important issues.

Stay close to our website at www.seiu517m.org and sign up for instant e-mail communications by providing your personal e-mail address to info@seiu517m.org.

Banked Leave Time

The Banked Leave Program began the pay period beginning January 24, 2010. Two hours of pay per pay period will be deferred and banked starting on that date. If you are less than full time, the banked leave time will be pro-rated. For those employees working a Plan A schedule, you must use your banked leave time as you accrue it. You may request to reduce your Plan A schedule by two hours so that you remain working the same number of hours. There has been no notice of any temporary layoff/furlough days for SEIU members at this time.

Hartford Head Start Workers Negotiate Their First Tentative Agreement

After a five year battle that included court battles and Unfair Labor Practice charges, the approximately 115 workers at Hartford Head Start in Detroit have concluded negotiations for their first Tentative Agreement. "It was a hard battle, but the membership finally prevailed", stated SEIU Local 517M Staff Attorney Howard Gordon. This Tentative Agreement now goes before the membership for a ratification vote.

Human Services Support Unit Holds Membership Meeting

A general membership meeting was held at the Cadillac Place Building in Detroit on January 19, 2010. Issues discussed ranged from mandatory overtime, the contract ratification vote and implementation, and donation to the Haiti relief effort. Read the notes here:

http://www.seiu517m.org/state/hss/Meeting_Notes_from_the_January_19_Cadillac_Place_Meeting.aspx

AFRAM Caucus Donates School Supplies

Members of the SEIU 517M AFRAM Caucus donated funds to purchase school supplies for 3 to 5 year olds in the Head Start program at Claytor School in Saginaw. It's the second year in a row the caucus has donated supplies to schools and students in need.

“It’s our duty to help out where we can, times are hard for families and we need to support these children with all the resources we have”, said Saginaw Region AFRAM Caucus President Daveda Quinn.

The classroom teacher is SEIU 517M Region 1 Secretary Betty Nash. “School funds are constantly being cut, so we need all the help we can get. I appreciate what the AFRAM Caucus has done for my classroom, my kids are very grateful that someone cares about them. Thank you AFRAM.”

Saginaw Food Drive Organized By AFRAM

Time has come to help our local Rescue Missions with a canned food drive. All donations will go to the Saginaw Eastside Soup Kitchen and Saginaw Rescue Mission. Please drop off your non-perishable and canned food to the SEIU Saginaw Office (1420 S. Michigan) now through March 31, 2010. SEIU AFRAM will pick up a collection of 10 or more items. For more information on pick-ups, you may call us at the SEIU Saginaw Office at 989-797-4243 or 989-714-9739.

Advanced Steward Training Held



SEIU Local 517M held its Advanced Steward Training at Shanty Creek January 31 through February 1, 2010. Fifty advanced stewards attended and extensive training and information was presented to them. Information was presented by the SEIU staff on a variety of issues currently facing public employees in Michigan. In small groups, the stewards taught each other the topics to help them with grievance handling. Topics included Just Cause, Terminations, American with Disabilities Act, Preparing for Arbitration, Information Gathering, and Difficult Issues in Labor Representation. Sue Browne from the Blue/Green Alliance gave a presentation. The Blue/Green Alliance is a coalition of Labor and the Environmental community striving for green energy and green job creation. In addition, on Sunday State Representative Dan Scripps (D-101) addressed our stewards to welcome them to Northern Michigan and discuss environmental issues.