

David Corrie

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To: David Corrie
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SEIU Local 517M
Michigan Public Employees

SEIU Local 517M E-Former - March 2010

State Employees Under Attack - SEIU Members Need To Take The Offensive

SEIU was one of the principle funders for the recent Charles Ballard Study which has been a game-changer to many decision makers in discussions about the so-called "Cadillac benefits" and wage levels for state employees. In addition, we are working very closely with coalition and allied groups to get our message through to members in the legislature regarding the 3% wage increase as well as the proposed pension plan modifications. We just recently started a public employee support campaign through the media with response editorials this past week in both the Detroit News and Crain's Weekly. Our very best pr, is not billboards and paid advertisements which simply make members feel good but do very little in the public's mind-but rather member-to-family-to-neighbor-to-local press about the quality services we provide for the public.

We are in the process of distributing proto-type *letters to the editors* for members to sign on to and send to their local papers-all across the state. In addition, we are actively looking for members who are willing to commit to some basic training for delivering this message through an earned media approach. Finally, there is no silver bullet for this process-we simply have to roll up our collective sleeves and get involved on our own behalf. That means every one of our members should already be on the phone to their respective House and Senate member "demanding" that they vote NO on any attempt to reject our negotiated 3% wage increase or to make major changes to our pension plans without input from our Union. It's a pretty simple message-yet Legislators have heard from very few state employees up to this time EXCEPT from those who are not scheduled to receive a pay raise this October.

Get the latest information at: http://www.seiu517m.org/State_Employee_Pay_Raise_Update.aspx

House Takes Action to Reject State Employee Pay Raise

Rep. Chuck Moss (R-Birmingham) introduced House Concurrent Resolution 42 on Tuesday. This resolution would reject the unionized state employees negotiated 3% pay increase scheduled to take effect October 1. This 3% wage increase was part of a three year contract negotiated and ratified in 2007. The 3 year contract included a 0% wage increase the 1st year, 1 % the second year and a 3 % for the upcoming final year.

Bill Nowling, press secretary for House Minority Leader Kevin Elsenheimer (R-Kewadin) told MIRS that "this is something that just has to be done. The Governor was told not to negotiate pay raises but she did anyway and

then baked it into her budget." Nowling went on to say that "negotiating this pay hike was just wrong-headed thinking."

HCR 42 has 28 Republican co-sponsors and one Democrat. Both the House and Senate have until April 11th to pass a resolution by a super majority vote in order to reject the increase.

Contact your Senator and Representative and ask them to not support any resolution to reject your pay increase and honor the contract that was negotiated in good faith. State employees have already saved the taxpayer \$3.7 billion including \$3.3 billion in wages, \$143 million in pension costs, and \$300 million in health costs. When will enough be enough?

Senator Proposes Public Employee Pay Cut

Michigan Senator John Pappageorge (R-Troy) has introduced Senate Joint Resolution U Entitled "Public Employee Pay Cut" which, in summary, would:

"Cuts the pay of all public employees in the state by 5 percent. Am. Sec. 10 of Article I, Secs. 12 and 48 of Article IV, Sec. 23 of Article V, Secs. 3 and 18 of Article VI, Sec. 9 of Article VII, Secs. 5, 6 and 7 of Article VIII and Sec. 5 of Article XI of the Michigan Constitution. Adds Sec. 8 to Article XI. "

It has been sent to the Committee on Reforms and Restructuring. A full copy of the Bill can be viewed at: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/jointresolutionintroduced/Senate/pdf/2010-SIJR-U.pdf>

Congressman Mark Schauer Meets With SEIU 517M Members



Congressman Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek, 7th Congressional) had the opportunity to meet with members and staff in Lansing on February 19th. He discussed the status of Healthcare reform, the extension of unemployment benefits, a jobs bill and his agreement to co-sponsor H.R. 2104 the Safety, Efficiency and Accountability in Transportation Projects through Public Inspection Act. This act requires public employees perform the inspection on all state and local transportation projects. Its passage will ensure that public safety is protected, transportation funds are not wasted and projects are delivered in a timely manner.

Pictured Left to Right: Amy Lipset (MDOT), Bryan Grochowski (DNRE), William Land (MDOT) and Congressman Mark Schauer.

Saginaw Mental Health Members Win New Contract

SEIU Local 517M members working at the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Agency have a new 2 year contract. There were some modifications to additional hours for the Family Services Unit. Also, raises for full and part-time employees will be received as one time payments twice this year.

Human Services Support Unit Holds Lansing Membership Meeting

The HSS Unit held a general membership meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2010 in Lansing at the Lansing Call Center.

The items discussed included: another extension of unemployment benefits, denied overtime for the Limited Term Intermittent Unemployment Intermittent Examiners in the Lansing Call Center, the modification to our

Collective Bargaining Agreement, and Michigan's budget issues.

Staff in Lansing was concerned with the overtime assignment that omitted them from possibly working two (2) days of overtime. President Patrick advised members that the union has discussed this issue with management and are continuing to do so regarding the disparity in allowing overtime for LTI UIEs. It was explained that overtime is not based on seniority but the ability to do the work being performed.

Members inquired how the LTI UIEs would be laid off and if they had the right to bump someone with lesser seniority. They were informed that LTIs do not have bumping rights. In regards to the layoff procedure, that decision is up to management.

Members were advised that the Civil Service Commission had approved the contract ratification. This means that with the pay period ending 2/6/10 staff was paid for 78 hours and 2 hours of Bank Leave Time (BLT) was placed into their bank. This will continue for 17 pay periods for a total of 34 hours.

Tammy Cruickshank Wins Technical Unit Steward of the Year Award



The Technical Unit Steward of the Year Award was presented to Tammy Cruickshank. This award was presented at the Annual Steward Training on February 2nd. Tammy has worked tirelessly serving her fellow technicians. For almost two years she was the only steward in the entire Upper Peninsula, driving as much as 300 miles to represent a member. (Pictured L-

R: Tammy Cruickshank receives her Steward of the Year Award from Arnold Beller, Grievance Committee Co-Chair.)

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 517M

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