

New Officers and Executive Board to Lead Local 517M

The following is a listing of the new Local 517M Officers and Executive Board whose term began November 1, 2009. Each Region/State Unit will be responsible for filling their remaining 517M Executive Board positions as per the SEIU 517M Constitution & Bylaws and the various Region/State Unit Constitution and Bylaws.

Officers

Local 517M President – William Ruhf
Local 517M Secretary/Treasurer – Lynda Roberts
Region 1 Divisional Vice President – Andy Johnson
Region 2 Divisional Vice President – Ray Clover
Region 3 Divisional Vice President – Yolanda Langston
Region 4 Divisional Vice President – Eric Johnson
Human Services Support Unit Divisional Vice President – Phillip Patrick
Scientific and Engineering Unit Divisional Vice President – Karl Hausler
Technical Unit Divisional Vice President – Jerry Ketchum

Other Named Executive Board Members

Region 2 – Dave Levett
Region 2 – Dwayne Betcher
Region 4 – Hattie Young
Region 4 – Brenda Greene
Human Services Support Unit – Denise Edwards
Human Services Support Unit – Roseanne Seemann
Technical Unit – George Heath
Technical Unit – Mike Mandrick

The following positions need to be determined by a vote of the respective Region/State Unit Boards.

Region 1 – 2 additional positions
Region 3 – 2 additional positions
Scientific and Engineering Unit – 3 additional positions

All Board Members will be sworn-in at the first meeting of the new Board on Friday, November 20, 2009.

Complete election results are available on the Local 517M website at:

http://www.seiu517m.org/Results_of_the_SEIU_Local_517M_Union_Election.aspx

Grand Haven Schools Ratify New Contract

On September 26th the custodial, maintenance, food service and bus driver members ratified a new two year agreement. There were no changes to insurance, and they were able to win a wage increases each year. Ratification vote was unanimous for first time in unit's history. The Contract covers 115 members.

Wetlands Protection Program Saved



On Thursday, October 15th, Governor Granholm signed a bill that will keep the program that protects Michigan Wetlands within the Department of Environmental Quality. Some were calling for the program to be turned over to the Federal Government. A coalition of labor and the environmental community fought the transfer of services. This legislation protects about 70 Scientific and Engineering Unit state employees. Thank you to all the members who sent letters to their legislators and to SEIU State Council Legislative Director Cynthia Paul for all their work on this issue.

City of Detroit Members Ratify Contract

City of Detroit members held a ratification vote on Monday, October 26th to ratify the 2008-2012 Agreement after months of rigid bargaining with Detroit Mayor David Bing. The Supervisory and Non-Supervisory vote was 24 Yes and 8 No and the Professional and Technical Unit vote was 4 Yes and 1 No. These were very tough negotiations in light of the financial straits that the City of Detroit is in and a very anti-worker administration. The Unit faced wage concessions which included 26 Budget Required Furlough Days for 3 years. The bargaining team struggled with the idea knowing that these cuts will hit the membership hard and will have some effect on our retired members. The membership voted for this contract, not because it was a good contract; they voted for this contract because terminating our contract amongst other disadvantageous our bargaining unit faced would have been detrimental to all of us in the end.

Show Down In Chicago



Tuesday, October 27th, wrapped up a three day long protest aimed at the American Bankers Association conference, held in Chicago. Local 517M staff Darliane Green-Blackmon and GiGi Perkins attended along with hundreds of others came from all over the nation to hold banks accountable for the harm they have done to the national economy. Prominent speakers included the Reverend Jesse Jackson and SEIU Secretary/Treasurer Anna Burger. The protesters were asking the Association to repay the bailout funds that our tax dollars paid for, that these financial institutions to help and bail out the people in their time of need through this economic downfall and jobless economy, and that the banks help and bailout the people instead of increasing the amount of foreclosures and interest rates. As this is an ongoing issue, we must keep a community voice and action marches going locally and nationwide in order to make our voices be heard, especially in this time of need and economic stress.