

Union Election Update

There has been some confusion in regards to the on-line voting process. On the Union Election Postcard, a period appears at the end of the web address. PLEASE DO NOT PUT THE PERIOD AT THE END OF THE WEB ADDRESS WHEN TYPING IT INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER.

Please note that state employees may vote electronically at work only before or after work. Breaks and lunch periods are NOT AN APPROVED TIME TO VOTE. This is a change from the language on the postcard that you received. The election period for both paper and electronic voting ends when ballots are tallied on October 5, 2009 at noon.

Dearborn Heights School Members Ratify New Contract

Cleaning and Maintenance Custodians in the Dearborn Heights Schools unanimously ratified a new two year agreement on September 16, 2009. The contract contains insurance changes, no wage increases but features a **No Layoff** clause from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010!

DEQ Layoff Notices Received

The Union received specific layoff notices for the Department of Environmental Quality. After a quick review, there are 13 employees who are slated to actually be laid off and 36 who have been notified that they have a choice between bumping into another position or be laid off. The seniority list used to determine the bumping chain can be found on our website. A meeting was requested with Human Resources to review the bumping chain and assure that it follows Article 12 of the Agreement. The Employer can choose which positions it eliminates and that starts the bumping chain. Until we have that information, we can't determine accuracy. If there are errors in seniority, etc. a grievance will be filed. A meeting will be scheduled for affected members to ask questions and obtain information. Please contact [Cindy Mason](mailto:Cindy.Mason@seiu517m.org) at the SEIU Office if you have questions. Seniority list is at: <http://www.seiu517m.org/admin/Assets/AssetContent/87657323-d468-4ff7-a068-4d93028fed5f/546bfa9e-94e2-495f-9d30-54cc81f55e47/f958f4db-3177-4b93-b0d1-1796ab098024/1/h21senioritylist91509.pdf>

Executive Vice President Testifies on Public Employee Health Care

On Thursday, September 10, 2009 SEIU Local 517M Executive Vice President Phil Thompson testified before the House Standing Committee on Public Employee Health Care Reform. This committee is chaired by Representative Pam Byrnes (D-Chelsea) and is currently reviewing the public employee health care reform proposal sponsored by Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford Township). This proposal would pool health care for all public employees at the statewide level and not allow for individual units and employers to bargain over health care. SEIU is opposed to this concept. To read the testimony, click on: http://www.seiu517m.org/SEIU_Testifies_on_Dillon_Health_Care_Bill.aspx

SEIU Local 517M is on Facebook

We are now on Facebook! Local 517M will be using our Facebook page to share links to news stories, notice of upcoming chapter meetings, and to get member feedback on issues. You can sign up to be a fan by searching for "SEIU Local 517M" in the search box in the upper right hand corner of the Facebook page. If you are not already on Facebook you can visit www.facebook.com to create a profile. This can contain only the most basic information about yourself until you become more familiar with the tool. Then, like many of us, you'll likely be posting photos, links to stories, and status updates daily! When you have a profile on Facebook, only those people that ask to be your friend and you "approve" will be able to see your personal information. Thus, you have complete control over who sees what you put on Facebook. Then, simply search for your friends, interests, organizations, causes and more in the Search box to start making connections.

SEIU Local 517M HSS Unit Members Participate in Labor Day Parade

Submitted by Phillip Patrick, HSS Unit President

The 2009 Labor Day Parade was well organized and went very smoothly considering the large amount of union members and their families who were in attendance. It was a fantastic event and a lot of fun for all who attended! Members gathered at the SEIU Michigan Healthcare Union headquarters immediately following the Labor Day march.



The names of the union members from left to right are Phillip Patrick, HSS Unit President, Denise Edwards, HSS Unit Vice President, Mary Patrick, and Marrion Miles, HSS Steward. The children in the photo are kids who participated in the parade march.

SEIU had the largest contingency of members who participated in the Labor Day Parade. Overall, SEIU members represented approximately 1300+ participants in the event which was, by far, the largest union group present!