

SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting

The SEIU Local 517M Annual Leadership Meeting was held at the Local's Lansing Office on Thursday, July 23, 2009. Over ninety members attended to hear speakers and engage in discussions on various topics. Various speakers and video presentations followed from Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, SEIU International President Andy Stern, Congressman Mark Schauer, Secretary of State Candidate Jocelyn Benson and Lt. Governor John Cherry.

A "Point / Counterpoint" style debate was held on healthcare between member Brian Grochowski and Charlie Bauer. Discussions and small group exercises were held on the SEIU Member Strength campaign of building the union through participation.

Retiring members Dwints Bowman, Saginaw Public Schools, Region 1; Bill Ford, DELEG, Human Services Support Division; and outgoing Local 517M President Ann Mapes, Department of Agriculture, Scientific and Engineering Unit, were recognized for their service to the membership.

To view more of the story and view pictures, click:

http://www.seiu517m.org/2009_SEIU_Local_517M_Annual_Meeting.aspx

SEIU Local 517M Member of the Year

The SEIU Member of the Year award was presented to Yolanda Langston at the 2009 Annual Meeting. She works for the City of Detroit, is a Unit President, Region 3 Secretary and Local 517M Executive Board Member. Yolanda has proven herself extremely skillful in leadership and representation. "We are all proud of Yolanda and her accomplishments in representing the membership of Local 517M" said Howard Gordon, Region 3 Program Coordinator. She was presented the award by President Ann Mapes (photo in annual meeting pictures).

Governor Directs Reduction in Personal Services Contracts

SEIU Local 517M has been meeting with the Office of the State Employer and state legislators to reduce the use of outside contractors. This is an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars. On July 28, 2009 the Governor offered an Executive Directive "to reduce contract spending by 5 to 10 percent, places a moratorium on new or expanded personal services contracts, and severely limits the use of temporary employees". All state unions are scheduled to meet with the Governor's representatives on August 17th to discuss the impact of the Directive. SEIU had requested a thirty percent reduction for FY 2009-10.

Government Efficiency Committee to Hold Last Public Hearings

The Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency is preparing to issue its final report to the citizens of Michigan on how to consolidate, streamline, and make more efficient the functions and services conducted by state agencies. Some preliminary recommendations include, the reduction in the number of position classifications, health care comparisons with private sector workers, exploring privatization of state services, and compensation level market surveys. Hearings will be held in Marquette, Grand Rapids, Detroit and Lansing. Click for dates and locations of the meetings:

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

Region 1 to Hold Member Picnic

The SEIU Local 517M Region 1 Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 22nd. The picnic will run from Noon - 3:00pm at Bliss Park which is located at the corner of N. Michigan Ave. & Houghton in Saginaw. Food will be provided. This event is for SEIU MEMBERS ONLY and their families. Contact the Region 1 office at 989-797-4243 for more information.

Looking for Something to Do On Your Furlough Day?

Court One Athletic Clubs are offering a "Free Weekend Fun" open house and summer poolside party on August 7th, 8th, 9th for state employees and their families including use of all facilities. You must show your pictured State ID card and sign-up at the front desk. Click for more details:

<http://www.seiu517m.org/assets/assetcontent/87657323-d468-4ff7-a068-4d93028fed5f/546bfa9e-94e2-495f-9d30-54cc81f55e47/aac089cc-f3bb-4268-bcf8-3955509e2b32/1/CourtOne%20-%20Pool%20party%208-789-09.pdf>

MSU Tennis Center is having open houses on August 7, 21 and September 4th from 10 a.m. to noon. Open-court time (free tennis during open house) and 1-hour Cardio Tennis sessions (your first time is free) are being offered. You must show your State ID upon entry. Registrations for Cardio Tennis required. Click for more details: <http://www.seiu517m.org/assets/assetcontent/87657323-d468-4ff7-a068-4d93028fed5f/546bfa9e-94e2-495f-9d30-54cc81f55e47/97310000-da33-4bfe-a474-b80fae145075/1/MSU%20Tennis%20-%20furlough%20days%20.pdf>

City of Detroit Unit Picnic Held

On Saturday, July 25th the City of Detroit unit held their annual picnic at Belle Isle Park in Detroit. Members were encouraged to bring school supplies for needy children in the area. Enough supplies were collected for _____ children.

State Unions Request Independent Report

The Coalition of State Employee Unions has retained the research expertise of MSU Economics Professor Charles Ballard to prepare an "Executive Summary" report which details the aggregate value of "concessions" that state employees have generated since 2002. Meetings have been held at SEIU's Lansing office. It is anticipated that the findings of this report will be distributed to the media and legislature in early August.

Pharmacy Techs Honored

Two Technical Unit members were recognized in the July edition of the Bureau of Health Systems newsletter for the Michigan Department of Corrections as Outstanding Employees.

REGION I PHARMACY ASSISTANT, SHANNON AYERS

Shannon is a remarkable employee who has taken total responsibility for her job. She took over a system that was in total chaos, straightened it out, developed a new system for ordering the medications that decreased the work load immensely, and took over every task related to the ordering, sorting, bagging, and dispensing of medications. Shannon is a cheerful and positive individual who is extremely dependable, dedicated, hardworking, honest, and has great integrity.

REGION III ZENATTA GARDNER – PHARMACY ASSISTANT

Ms Gardner, a pharmacy tech at Mound Correctional facility (NRF) is always smiling and has never once raised her voice in the clinic area. Her positive attitude is infectious and keeps other staff smiling. She is honest and always chooses to do what is right. Zenatta has covered for other positions when staffing was short. She stepped up to the plate and assisted in any area she could. Never once did she complain or say it was not in her job description. She goes above and beyond for the other staff.

Congratulations to Shannon and Zenatta for their achievements.