

SEIU Local 517M E-Former - December 2014 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

In this Issue:

Lawsuit Activity – Oral Arguments Scheduled in State Employee Cases
New Staff Director Hired
Food Donation Drive in Saginaw
Saginaw Township Bus Drivers Vote to Join SEIU 517M
Human Services Support Unit Reflects on a Busy Fall
Members Only Benefit – 2015 SEIU Scholarships Now Available
2015 SEIU Local 517M Calendars Now Available
SEIU International News
Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for December, 2014

Lawsuit Activity – Oral Arguments Scheduled in State Employee Cases



We have been informed by the Michigan Supreme Court Clerk's Office that oral arguments in the Right to Work and 4% pension cases will be set for January, 2015. The specific date/dates will set in early December. Currently they are looking at January 13 and/or 15, 2015. We will notify the membership when it is officially scheduled.

New Staff Director Hired



SEIU Local 517M is pleased announce the hiring of **Liza Estlund Olson** as our new Staff Director. Liza comes to us bringing public sector experience ranging from the Lansing Mayor's Office and Director of the Lansing Management Services Office to State employment with the Unemployment Insurance Agency and Workforce Development. Liza will oversee the daily operations of the Local and direct the staff. Welcome Liza!

Food Donation Drive in Saginaw

SEIU Local 517M members in Saginaw are partnering with the Saginaw East Side Soup Kitchen and Good Neighbor Mission for a food donation drive. Please bring your non-perishable food items to the Saginaw SEIU Local 517M Hall (1420 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw) by December 19th and donations will be given to the East Side Soup Kitchen.

Saginaw Township Bus Drivers Vote to Join SEIU 517M



By a 14 – 0 margin, bus drivers in the Saginaw Township Community Schools voted to join SEIU Local 517M. The drivers were previously represented by the Teamsters and are joining with the custodial and security staff that SEIU

Local 517M currently represents. This will increase our strength at the bargaining table on behalf of a larger membership.

Human Services Support Unit Reflects on a Busy Fall



Amy Davis-Comstock, President
Human Services Support Unit

As the HSS President, I have been busy in October and November. In October, Vice President **Denise Edwards** and I met with LARA Director **Mike Zimmer**. During the meeting we discussed our concerns about getting decisions made by UIA management, the Annual Leave percentage, and management's solution to the UIA's "at-risk" status. It was a great introduction to meeting the new Director. In November, I attended one of the LARA Unplugged sessions with Director Zimmer. Director Zimmer indicated a curriculum is being developed to train managers and that the union would be involved in the planning of the Labor/Management piece of that training.

The Workforce Development Agency has meetings with their staff several times per year. Denise and I have met with the members of the Veterans Services Division and the Agricultural Employment Services Division during these semi-annual meetings. The issues brought forward at these meetings will be addressed at our Labor/Management meeting with the WDA management in December.

I attended a meeting with the Indian Outreach Workers from the Department of Human Services. It was a very positive experience, with many questions from the members in that unit. Some of their issues will be addressed at the next Labor/management meeting with DHS management, but several of their concerns will need to be addressed at the bargaining table.

Denise and I have met with three new employees, either at new employee orientation or at membership meetings. All three new employees signed the membership cards.

Grievances have been filed on several issues for LARA including attendance and the dress code, one of which is pending arbitration regarding recall.

I look forward to giving monthly updates, so please stay tuned.

Members Only Benefit - 2015 SEIU Scholarships Now Available

Through five different scholarship programs, SEIU awards 51 scholarships that enable SEIU members and their children to pursue their educational goals at accredited colleges, universities, and technical schools. Scholarship applications are available starting December 1, 2014.

SEIU scholarships are open to SEIU members or their children. To be eligible to apply for any SEIU scholarship, membership must be for three continuous years as of September 1, 2014. All awards must be for the academic year(s) awarded. Scholarships will be awarded without regard to the sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or disability of any applicant. Scholarship awards are limited to one per household. Applications must be filed online by midnight March 2, 2015 or postmarked March 2, 2015.

Online Applications and information: <http://www.seiu.org/a/members/fulfill-your-college-goals-with-an-seiu-scholarship.php>

2015 SEIU Local 517M Calendars Now Available

Click on the link to download the state employee or school and local government 2015 calendars.

State Employee Calendar: <http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2014/11/2015calendarstate.pdf>

School and Local Government Calendar:
<http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2014/11/2015calendarslg.pdf>

SEIU International News



Retirement Security For All Campaign

The economic crisis -- and the Wall Street excesses and corporate abuses that drove it -- has put a secure retirement at risk for everyone. Instead of cutting pensions for public employees and force more retirees into poverty, we're working together to help deliver retirement security to more people. To get more information on this campaign, click on: <http://www.seiu.org/retirement-security/>

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for December, 2014

- December 3 – Executive Officers Meeting
- December 4 – Technical Unit Board Meeting
- December 4 – HSS Grand Rapids Membership Meeting
- December 10 – COPE Committee Meeting
- December 11 – Saginaw Schools Chapter Meeting
- December 12 – State Outsourcing Committee
- December 12 – HSS Kalamazoo Membership Meeting
- December 13 – Saginaw AFRAM Chapter Christmas Party
- December 15 – Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Meeting

For more information on the above events, consult our on-line calendar at:
<http://www.seiu517m.org/events/month/>

The monthly subscription for the E-Former is included in your membership dues payment and is intended for members in good standing of SEIU Local 517M.



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