

## SEIU Local 517M E-Former - February 2014 Edition

*Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!*

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### Local-Wide Steward Training in Lansing



Close to 85 member leaders attended the 2014 Leadership and Steward Training Conference in Lansing. The two day conference was a mix of member engagement skills training and back to basics steward skills training.

The mix of seasoned and new stewards covered the basics of grievance representation through interactive presentations, role playing and discussions. Topics such as the Duty of Fair Representation, Past Practice, Grievance Investigation, Grievance Writing and Processing, and as well as the new phases of their position brought on by Right to Work covering communicating with new members and recruiting them for membership. The training was conducted by SEIU Local 517M staff and leaders as well as SEIU International staff.



Visits from **Andy Potter** of the SEIU Republican Caucus and **Fred Miller** from the SEIU Michigan State Council gave the attendees a flavor of things beyond the Local. The COPE Committee discussed the importance of contributing as leaders and how to ask members to support COPE which helps them in the workplace. Gubernatorial candidate **Mark Schauer** stopped by to talk to the attendees about his plans if he was elected governor in November.



The Technical Unit presented their Steward of the Year award to **Tammy Cruickshank**. The award was recently renamed the Cheryl Bollinger Steward of the Year Award in honor of **Cheryl Bollinger** who worked with the Technicians first as the United Technical Employees Association and later with Local 517M. Cheryl passed away earlier this year.

## Region 2 Holds Regional Steward Training



Hardy souls from across west Michigan braved the winter weather and joined together on Saturday, February 22nd for a Regional Steward Training program, led by Region 2 leaders **Ray Clover** (Grand Haven Schools) and **Jan Goodwin** (Wayland Schools). Units represented included school districts, cities, head starts, and the State DSS division. (Pictured: Regional DVP Ray Clover

speaks to the group)

## Federal Labor Board Sides With Union

In May 2013, SEIU Local 517M and Kairos "Holy Cross" Healthcare were close to reaching a contract agreement when the company illegally walked away from the table. The Federal Labor Board sided with the Union but the company still refused to finish bargaining a fair contract.

The case was then turned over to the National Labor Relations Board who issued a complaint last year against Holy Cross Kairos for illegally walking away from the union negotiating table, and has now issued an injunction ordering the company to come back and finish bargaining a contract.

We hope the company complies so we can reinstate a good labor-management working relationship, and wrap up and vote on a new contract that includes important provisions on many things including wages, benefits, leave time, procedures for bidding on vacations and overtime and shifts, as well as rules for how Temporary On Call workers should be used and when they should be reclassified to permanent employees with full benefits and rights.

Stay tuned for updates...

For more information, contact SEIU Labor Relations Representative Darliane Green- Blackmon at (989) 797-4243 extension 19.

## SEIU Michigan State Council Endorses Mark Schauer for Governor

On Tuesday, January 28, 2014, SEIU members and leaders gathered at SEIU Healthcare Michigan in Detroit to listen to **Mark Schauer** speak and to announce that the SEIU State Council has endorsed him for Governor.

The SEIU Michigan State Council represents over 35,000 SEIU members in 4 locals in Michigan. SEIU members include state employees, school and local government employees, hospital, nursing home and home care workers, state corrections officers, and property service workers.

"Our state needs a Governor who will fight for regular people, not just the wealthy and the well-connected," said Schauer. "I'm proud to have the support of SEIU's hardworking members, from

home health care workers, to corrections officers, and unemployment caseworkers. As Governor, I'll always fight for good jobs and a strong middle class."

View media coverage of the event:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2014/01/mark\\_schauer\\_targets\\_right-to-.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2014/01/mark_schauer_targets_right-to-.html)

View video endorsements from Human Services Support Unit President **Amy Davis-Comstock** and City of Detroit Unit President **Yolanda Langston Johnson**:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXjArUjrjIY>

## Lawsuit Update

**3% School Employees Pension Lawsuit:** There were two different lawsuits dealing with the 3% pension contribution for school employees. Those cases are currently awaiting a decision by the Supreme Court to hear the cases.

**State Employee 4% Pension and Right To Work Applicability:** Those cases were granted leave to appeal by the Supreme Court and we are awaiting the announcement of the hearing dates.

## Laid Off Member Works on Behalf of the Unemployed



Human Services Support member **Vickey Tyson** worked as customer service representative for the Michigan Unemployment Agency. She lost her job due to state cutbacks and layoffs in late 2012. The sudden expiration of modest federal unemployment benefits on December 28, 2013 pulled the rug out from beneath 1.3 million Americans just like Vickey.

She traveled to Washington, DC to stand with President Obama during his January 7th address where he called on Congress to extend the federal EUC program, which serves as a lifeline for long-term unemployed workers.

Vickey is working with the SEIU campaign to lobby Congress to restore emergency unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed. You may have received an email from her in February asking you to contact your Senator to lobby for an extension of benefits.

This is another example of SEIU Local 517M members working to make our nation a better place!

## Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Vacancy

Are you a Scientific & Engineering bargaining unit member and you work for DTMB, DMVA, MDOC, or DHS? If so, we have a vacant position on our board of directors that represents our 70 members that work in those departments. The S&E Board meets bi-monthly at the union hall in

Lansing. This term expires July, 2015. If you are interested in filling this position please contact our staff coordinator **Howard Gordon** ([hgordon@seiu517m.org](mailto:hgordon@seiu517m.org)).

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