

SEIU Local 517M E-Former - April 2014 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

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Union Wins NLRB Appeals – Employer Forced Back to Bargaining Table

Nearly a year after Holy Cross/Kairos Healthcare illegally walked away from the bargaining table with Local 517M members in Saginaw, the Union has won "unfair labor practice" (ULP) charges filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) regional office in Detroit.

After the Labor Board ruled for the Union and issued multiple complaints against the company, Holy Cross/Kairos still refused to comply and took the case to trial. The Union won again, and then- in order to prevent more employer delays and legal appeals- successfully secured an injunction from a judge ordering the company to return to bargaining. Negotiations for a first contract resume on April 9th.

State Worker Survey Coming

Has the State Government's "Bureaucracy Busters" initiative eliminated inefficiencies in your department? Have management levels flattened and are contractors and consultants being reduced? If you say "NO," you're not alone. Keep your eyes open soon for a member survey that is truly looking for waste in the state, because thousands of front-line staff know where it really is.

Scholarships Started for Bay City Students

The McKinley Baty and Lori Winchell scholarships have been set up by **Kim Dukarski**, (hall monitor and Unit President of the Bay City Schools Chapter) at Central High School in Bay City. These scholarships were started in honor of two of our dedicated hall monitors. The programs each award a \$250 scholarship to a graduating Bay City High School senior who meet the defined criteria. Hall monitor fundraising efforts have supplied the scholarships for the past two years. There are popcorn sales on a regular basis, Kroger community rewards, and help with Pig Gig and St. Patrick's Day Parade to raise funds. Innovative ideas for fundraising are appreciated and they graciously accept any donations. Donations can be sent to Central High School, 1624 Columbus Ave., Bay City, MI. 48708, attn. Kim Dukarski-Scholarship.

COPE Campaign Kick-Off

COPE stands for the Committee on Political Education. That is our union's version of a PAC, a Political Action Committee. It is important to understand that dues can NOT be used to support a PAC, or as we call it in 517M: COPE!

Since this is an important election year across Michigan, we are rolling out a campaign to increase our contributions. There will be gifts based on donor level, recognition of donors at all levels, and a BIG "thank you" to the largest contributors for 2014. If you are interested in more information about how to contribute, talk with your local steward, elected union officials, or labor representative.

We are also looking for another member from each unit or region to be on the COPE Committee. This is a member-driven committee so you will be providing representation of your peers within your region or unit. If you are interested in attending monthly meetings, trainings, and talking with fellow members about how to donate, please contact your elected official, labor representative, or call **Amy Davis-Comstock**, HSS President and current COPE Committee Chair, at (989) 992-6841.

Thank you,

Amy Davis-Comstock, HSS President

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.

Community Involvement Opportunity in West Michigan

There is a community volunteer opportunity for members in Ottawa County / West Michigan in mid-April. The Grand River Green Up 2014 is scheduled for 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, April 19th. Several of the work sites will be in Ottawa County Parks, Bass River Recreation Area, and other spots along the Grand River. Volunteers will gather at Harbor Island in Grand Haven and will be transported to and from the work sites.

For details and to register, check out their website at: www.grandrivergreenup.com.

It's Time to Think of Golf?



Even though the weather isn't making it seem spring-like, it is time to get the clubs dusted off (you know, they are hidden behind the snow shovel) and start planning for the summer golf season. The annual SEIU Local 517M Golf Outing will be on Thursday, August 7, 2014 at Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. More information will follow but mark

your calendars now!

BlueGreen Alliance Report

On March 28, 2014 the Obama administration released its [Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions](#)—a part of the president’s Climate Action Plan. The following is a statement from BlueGreen Alliance Executive Director **David Foster**:

“The administration has taken important first steps toward curbing methane emissions—a gas that pound for pound has a 20 times greater impact on climate change than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period—and enhancing utility reliability. It’s also an important chance to further job creation potential and spur domestic manufacturing. We applaud the Department of Energy for advancing these important efforts and especially their solicitation of input from a broad group of stakeholders.

“Repairs and upgrades will inevitably be part of the solution to methane leakage and this is where the most significant job creation potential lies. The natural gas distribution system includes thousands of miles of aging pipelines that can be made much more efficient if replaced, creating tens of thousands of family-sustaining jobs along the way.

“The BlueGreen Alliance’s RECAP (Repairing Our Cities Aging Pipelines) program is already working to advance large-scale investments that will allow us to modernize our natural gas pipeline network and accelerate current efforts to repair America’s pipelines. We look forward to the many ways the Quadrennial Energy Review will help to advance this work.”

The BlueGreen Alliance is a national partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the number and quality of jobs in the clean economy. Launched in 2006, the strategic partnership now brings together major U.S. labor unions and America’s most influential environmental organizations and unites more than 15 million members and supporters in pursuit of good jobs, a clean environment and a clean economy.

Visit www.bluegreenalliance.org. Follow us on Twitter (@bgalliance) and like us on Facebook (Facebook.com/bluegreenalliance).

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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