

SEIU Local 517M

Michigan Public Employees



SEIU Local 517M E-Former

December 2012 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

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Lame Duck Legislative Attacks Expected

There is every indication that lawmakers intend to move so-called Right to Work legislation and other attacks on working families during the Lame Duck session of the Michigan Legislature.



SEIU members joined with other union members at the State Capitol building on November 29th to voice opposition to so called "Right to Work" legislation. Members lobbied their Senators and Representatives to make sure that their voice on the job is protected. (pictured left: Sen. Roger Kahn speaks with HSS Unit President Amy Davis-Comstock)

Please consider joining over 12,000 people in signing the on-line petition, urging legislators to rebuild our state, rather than tearing workers down. There is also a statewide mobilization in order to hold legislators accountable.

Click the link to sign the petition and check out the mobilization events:

<http://www.seiu517m.org/2012/11/26/lame-duck-legislative-attacks-expected/>

Judge Rules More of State Employee Retirement Changes Unconstitutional

Judge Joyce Draganchuk from the Court of Claims in late September granted the Coalition of Unions' motion for summary disposition and declared 2011 PA 264 unconstitutional based on the Civil Service Commission provision of the state constitution. She limited her ruling to the part of PA 264 that required employees in the defined benefit pension plan to contribute 4% of their pay. On Wednesday, November 28th, Judge Draganchuk granted the Coalition's motion to extend her ruling to cover the part of PA 264 that changed the mechanism for calculating overtime pay for the purpose of calculating an employee's pension by using a 6 as opposed to a 3 year average. She declared it unconstitutional too.

Labor in Action



Here we go, sisters and brothers, "Right to Work" legislation is being hurled at labor unions like a 90 mile-an-hour **Justin Verlander** fastball. There is no need to read between the lines on this matter. The Republican lawmakers are moving quickly to secure votes for a bill outlawing mandatory union membership as a condition of employment in public and private sector workplaces with collective bargaining agreements. At this point in time for Michigan, this legislation is wrong for our state. Representative **Tim Greimel**, D-Auburn Hills, said, "Pushing right-to-work is very toxic to the general atmosphere in Lansing and that means it risks losing the kind of spirit of working together across party lines that I think everybody in the state of Michigan wants to see."

SEIU locals and others mobilized this past Thursday with approximately 300 people at the Capitol. Our goal was to have open dialogue with legislators on why RTW was wrong for Michigan. Currently our continued hope is to facilitate constructive discussions around this issue so we are able to glean a better atmosphere for legislative and labor collaboration in our state. SEIU will continue to move forward on this critical issue. Rest assured that we will need your assistance in the next few days as we continue to monitor the situation. Check as frequently as possible for updates on your union website; www.seiu517m.org for the latest information available. A note of thanks goes out to all those who were present in Lansing on Thursday. SEIU cannot prevail in any of these matters without your continued member engagement.

In Solidarity,

Phillip Patrick, Executive Director

Board Member and Activist Passes Away



Bruce "Chuck" Bonar from the City of Royal Oak unit passed away on Monday, November 26, 2012 after a long battle with cancer. Chuck served in many capacities for the City of Royal Oak unit including Unit President, Unit Secretary/Treasurer, Chief Steward, and was a longtime member of the Bargaining Team having sat on 4 sets of negotiations. Chuck was a founding member of the School and Local Government Region 3 leadership and rose to the position of Region Secretary/Treasurer in 2009. He was first elected to the SEIU Local 517M Executive Board in 2006. He was also the Region 3 Member of the Year in 2005. Chuck was a strong believer in political action and was very active on the COPE Committee and raising money with the COPE Raffles and working the Local 517M Golf Outing. Chuck also served as the SEIU Local 517M Ethics Liaison. He will be missed. Rest in Peace Brother Bonar!

Members Donate Time to Detroit Area Food Bank

Detroit AFRAM members in the HSS Unit volunteered 2 hours of their time to Gleaners Community Food Bank (Dearborn office) on Monday, November 12, 2012 for their event, which was called "Double Your Donation Day". During this event, each donation that is received is matched \$1 for \$1 by a corporate sponsor.

That day's event was matched by the Ford Motor Company. During the 2 hours (1-3pm), that the members worked, they answered phones, collected personal and credit card information, and documented the amount of the pledge. The members collected a total of \$7,400 in pledges, which ultimately will become \$14,800 after the match by Ford!!

Those who participated were **Antonia Currington, Joey Combs, Raceine McDonald, Marsha Grayson, Juanita Mayes, and Stephanie Teamer**. This was just one of many initiatives that Detroit AFRAM members are undertaking to serve the community.

Annual Taylor Coat Drive Held

On October 20, 2012, Sax Pharmacy in Taylor once again joined with SEIU in our "Stuff A Bus Coat Drive". We got the bus half full but considering the weather we were very happy with the results. With the donations 50 new coats were purchased and distributed on November 7, 8, and 9 at the Union Hall. These coats were made available for Taylor School District students who are in need.

Saginaw AFRAM New Year's Eve Celebration

The Saginaw Region AFRAM Caucus will be sponsoring a New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31, 2012 at the SEIU Saginaw Hall (1420 S. Michigan Ave.). The festivities will begin at 8:00 p.m. The ticket price is \$20.00 for a single ticket or \$35.00 per couple. The price includes: Dinner, Champagne Toast, and Party Favors. This party is B.Y.O.B. Please contact the Saginaw office at 989-797-4243 with questions or to purchase your tickets.

Attention State Employees

The State of Michigan has launched a website called Bureaucracy Busters for you to post your ideas that could make the State a better place to work and for you to vote for other employees' ideas that you like. This is a great place to address some big issues, such as the arduous meal reimbursement process and a lack of a specialist track that parallels the managerial track. You will need your SOM email address to login, so keep in mind that your posts are not anonymous. Check it out at www.michigan.gov/miideas and get started!

Technical Unit Restores Schedule II Travel Status

A Grievance Arbitration was held on August 30th over MDOT unilaterally removing Schedule II travel reimbursement status for MDOT Construction Technicians. The arbitrator restored the Schedule II travel status to all of the technicians who were removed from Schedule II in 2012. The Technical Unit still has a Unfair Labor Practice hearing scheduled for the remaining issues of

reimbursement rate for personal vehicle use and the receipt requirement for per diem and "after 60 day rate" of reimbursement.

View the Arbitration Decision Here: <http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2012/11/schedule-II-decision.pdf>

Scientific and Engineering Unit Update

Integrity of the Bargaining Unit seems to be the flavor of the month right now. Employees outside of the Scientific and Engineering Bargaining Unit should not be performing our work. It can be done as temporary work relief, in the event of an emergency, to the extent that the duties are a part of the civil service job specification of the person's classification or as a matter of customary practice. That last exception is the most serious. It isn't uncommon for a supervisor to be performing Scientific and Engineering work and they claim it is temporary. As soon as they've been doing it for a long period of time, the employer can argue that it is customary practice. Please keep an eye out for non-bargaining unit employees performing our type of work. If you see it, contact the SEIU Office at cmason@seiu517m.org.

HSS Unit Grievance Update

The Union on behalf of its members, filed three (3) separate, et al grievances dealing with an exchange reassignment, bump cards, and recall. The grievances were filed at the Step 3 level with the Labor Relations Director in October and November of this year.

The Employer responded on all three grievances, denying them all. The HSS Unit Contract states that Step 3 grievances that are denied by the Employer are brought before the arbitration committee who determines if the issues will be taken to arbitration.

The arbitration committee will meet on December 17th. Their decision will be posted in the following edition of the E-former.

Members Only Benefit - 2013 SEIU Scholarships Now Available

Through five different scholarship programs, SEIU awards 53 scholarships that enable SEIU members and their children to pursue their educational goals at accredited colleges, universities, and technical schools.

SEIU scholarships are open to SEIU members or their children. The Bonnie Ladin Scholarship is also open to local union staff. To be eligible to apply for any SEIU scholarship, membership must be for three continuous years as of September 1, 2013. 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 1, 2013 or postmarked March 1, 2013.

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

2013 SEIU Local 517M Calendars Now Available

Click on the link to download the state employee or school and local government 2013 calendars.

State Employee Calendar: <http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2012/10/2013calendarstate.pdf>

School and Local Government Calendar:

<http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2012/10/2013calendarslg.pdf>



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