

SEIU Local 517M

Michigan Public Employees



SEIU Local 517M E-Former

October 2013 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

In this Issue:

State Employee Bargaining Updates
Saginaw City Council Adopts Foreclosure Ordinance
Unions Appeal State Employee "Right to Work" Decision
State Appeals Pension 4% Ruling
Saginaw Meet and Greet
State Employees: Roll Your Lump Sum Into Retirement Account!
AFRAM Sponsored Halloween Cruise
BlueGreen Alliance Report

State Employee Bargaining Updates

Bargaining updates are now posted on our website and using our bargaining app for Android and iPhone. Updates can be found at: http://www.seiu517m.org/2013/09/30/state-employee-bargaining-pdates/?preview=true&preview_id=3390&preview_nonce=18e06a1afe

The State has chosen not to bargain with the five state unions (SEIU 517M, AFSCME, MCO, MSEA, UAW) collectively. You three SEIU 517M bargaining units are bargaining economic issues (wages and health care) together as one unit. Each bargaining unit (HSS, S&E, Tech) has been meeting separately since August bargaining unit specific issues.

A number of membership meetings to discuss bargaining and mobilizing the membership around the negotiations are currently underway. Watch for the meeting nearest you and make plans to attend.

Saginaw City Council Adopts Foreclosure Ordinance



By Andy Johnson, SEIU 517M Secretary/ Treasurer

The New Solution for the City of Saginaw initiative is starting to pay off, literally. The recommendation and suggestions that have been submitted to City of Saginaw administrators from frontline employees are beginning to be implemented. These recommendations are creating revenue and cost savings for the City of Saginaw.

There were several recommendation made, but without a doubt the Foreclosure Ordinance is the Crown Jewel. On Monday September 23rd, 2013, the Saginaw City Council voted to adopt a Foreclosure Ordinance. This is the same Foreclosure Ordinance that was created by SEIU International Representatives. We have modified the original version of the Foreclosure Ordinance to address the needs of the City of Saginaw. This will create revenues on an annual basis, for the City of Saginaw's dwindling General Fund account.

This is a great day for SEIU 517M. It's also a great day for the City of Saginaw. We can now hold these banks accountable for the upkeep of their properties. We can also hold negligent landlords and property owners accountable. This Foreclosure Ordinance brings us hope that a better quality of life for the citizens of Saginaw is on the horizon.

This was not an easy task by any means. Getting this adopted took two years of researching, conference calls, lobbying and was met with some resistance from some City of Saginaw



officials. SEIU responded with a lost time program with Saginaw municipal chapter Executive Officers doing a lot of the ground work of gathering information. Research done by **Marianne Woods**, **Arvid Muller** and **Jack Schutzius** educated everyone, including City of Saginaw Representatives, on the value of a Foreclosure Ordinance. SEIU Community Organizer Chad Young did an outstanding job of lobbying City Council members for their support of our Foreclosure Ordinance. SEIU Legal Council was also there when we needed assistance.

(Pictured above: Our 2012 press conference to make the public aware of blight problems in Saginaw)

I would like to say thank you to all who worked on the New Solution for the City Of Saginaw Campaign including a very special thank you to Saginaw City Council member **Annie Boensch**. Ms. Boensch was the appointed Chairperson of the Foreclosure Ordinance Committee by the Mayor, **Greg Branch**. Ms. Boensch is also an SEIU endorsed City Council member. She stood strong on our behalf when some of her colleagues tried to making the passing of the proposed Foreclosure Ordinance difficult.

Thank you the following SEIU 517M lost timers who went above and beyond the call of duty in order to make the New Solution for the City of Saginaw Campaign a success.

Raquel Charboneau, Azola Williams- Saginaw Municipal Chapter
Amy Davis-Comstock, Roderick Pritchett – Human Support Services
Ernie Ahmad - Saginaw County Community Mental Health
Cheryl Merrill – Saginaw Public Schools
Brittney Young – Saginaw Headstart ISD

Unions Appeal State Employee “Right to Work” Decision

On September 11, 2013 the Coalition of State Employee Unions filed for Leave to Appeal of the Court of Appeals decision that stated that the new Right to Work law applied to Civil Service employees. It is our contention that the legislature has no jurisdiction and that only the Civil Service Commission can dictate what happens to state employees. More information will be coming as this case moves forward.

State Appeals Pension 4% Ruling

On Tuesday, September 24, 2013 the State of Michigan appealed the Court of Appeals decision received on the state employee 4% pension lawsuit to the Michigan Supreme Court. Here is their filing submission:

<http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2013/09/4percentappforleavesc092413.pdf>

We will keep you updated as to hearing dates and outcomes.

Saginaw Meet and Greet



On Tuesday, September 24, 2013 a Meet and Greet was held at our Saginaw Union Hall for candidates running for Saginaw City Council. The candidates were **Jeff Bookmyer, Michael Balls, Clint Bryant, Mark Johnson, Ricardo Longoria**, Buena Vista School member **Brenda Moore** and Human Services Support member **Roderick Pritchett**. They answered questions from a panel of members on their positions regarding

issues important to the SEIU membership.

State Employees: Roll Your Lump Sum Into Retirement Account!

There is a way to save for retirement and defer income taxes on your 1% lump sum to be received on 11/07/2013. You can place the lump sum into your deferred compensation account (either 401k or 457) by changing your ING contribution amount for one pay period.

The lump sum will be added to your earnings for the pay ending 10/26/2013 which you will receive on 11/07/2013. You can contact ING at 800-748-6128 or make changes to your contribution rate on your online account. Increase your contribution rate (by a percentage or dollar amount) between 10/14/2013 and 10/23/2013 to be effective for the pay period when the lump sum is received. Please remember to change back to your prior contribution rate between 10/28/2013 and 11/06/2013. It is a simple way to add to your retirement savings.

AFRAM Sponsored Halloween Cruise

The SEIU Michigan AFRAM Caucus will be hosting a Halloween Cruise and Motown Review Dinner/Dance on the Detroit Princess Riverboat on Saturday, October 26, 2013. Boarding will begin at 5:00 p.m. with the cruise between 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$55 per person/\$100 per couple. There will be a prize for the best Halloween Costume! Cost also includes, live Motown entertainment, cash bar and dinner buffet (menu includes: Carved Prime Rib, Crab Stuffed Salmon, Chicken Piccata, Vegetarian Alfredo Lasagna, Wild Rice, Cheese Tortellini w/Pesto Cream Sauce, Twice Baked Potatoes, Caribbean Vegetable Medley, assorted chilled salads, assorted breads/rolls, coffee and tea). For tickets, contact one of the following: **Andy Johnson** 989-714-2409, **Yolanda Langston** 313-346-3662, **Stephanie Teamer** 313-515-1935, **David Champion** 313-686-4971, **Shalaya Bryant** 313-303-9321.

BlueGreen Alliance Report

The U.S. is globally ranked 14th in infrastructure and is running an investment deficit of approximately \$3.6 trillion dollars through 2020. Overall, tepid response to our nation's infrastructure needs has earned a "D+" grade by the American Society of Civil Engineers in their latest infrastructure report card issued in 2013.

Repair America

Repair America is the BlueGreen Alliances campaign to address climate change and create good jobs. By addressing climate change — reducing carbon pollution — and getting the systems we rely on every day — to get us back and forth to work, supply our power, keep us safe from floods when storms rage, make sure we can call the police and fire during emergencies, and the institutions our children learn in — prepared for climate change, we

can create good jobs for workers, make our systems more efficient and reduce pollution, and protect our families and communities.

What is an Infrastructure Bank?

To close our investment gap and deliver the 21st century infrastructure America deserves, we need to find innovative ways to fund and build the vital projects that will improve the competitiveness of our economy, the efficiency of our services, safety of our built environment, and create good, American jobs.

The 2013 National Infrastructure Development Bank Act proposed by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) is a groundbreaking approach to solving our infrastructure deficit, which would leverage significant private investment to modernize our nation's infrastructure.

How It Works

The national infrastructure bank would capitalize \$25 billion of appropriations over 5 years, creating a self-sustaining entity capable of leveraging hundreds of billions of dollars in private investment by issuing direct loans and subsidies, loan guarantees, bonds and debt securities, borrowing on the global capital market at low interest rates and pooling infrastructure-related loans and securities on the market to spread risk.

The bank would direct investment to the following sectors:

- Transportation Infrastructure Projects — repairing and modernizing our transit systems, highways and bridges, airports and seaports, intermodal facilities, and passenger and freight rail networks.
- Environmental Infrastructure Projects – enhancing clean water and wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater management, dams, levees and flood control, open space management, solid waste disposal, hazardous waste treatment, and industrial site cleanup
- Energy Infrastructure Projects - retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency, building a smart grid, development of renewable capacity, and advancing energy storage
- Telecommunications Infrastructure Projects – improving our broadband and wireless communication systems

Projects funded by the infrastructure bank would be subject to Buy America provisions (requiring domestically produced iron, steel and manufactured goods) to ensure taxpayer dollars strengthen American manufacturing and construction sectors, and factor other benefits such as greenhouse gas reduction, public health, state of repair and efficiency improvements.



[Join Us on Facebook](#)



[Follow SEIU517M on Twitter](#)