

# SEIU Local 517M

Michigan Public Employees



SEIU Local 517M E-Former

June 2013 Edition

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

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## **School Employee Dues Lawsuit Update**

There has been some action by the Federal Court of Appeals on the union's lawsuit against PA 53. This law prohibits school districts from deducting union dues from the member's paychecks. The three member panel of judges ruled 2-1 against the members and ordered that the law be enforced as constitutional.

SEIU and other unions that represent school employees has filed an appeal requesting that all 16 judges of the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals meet as a whole and make a determination on the merits of the case. This request was filed on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Watch our website for more information as it happens.

## **Oral Arguments Scheduled in State Employee 4% Lawsuit**

The Michigan Court of Appeals has scheduled oral arguments pertaining to the state's appeal of **Judge Joyce Draganchuk's** decision in our favor on the 4% defined benefit contribution requirement and the change in computing overtime pay for pension purposes. The arguments will take place on June 12, 2013 at 10 am in Lansing. The panel of judges assigned to the case are Judges **Cynthia Stephens**, **Elizabeth Gleicher**, and **Donald Owens**.

## **Labor In Action**



## State Employee Bargaining Surveys

The three state employee bargaining teams will be distributing surveys to the membership as we prepare for negotiations with the state this summer. Surveys will be in either paper or electronic format and the member can choose which format best fits their needs. It is extremely important that you fill out this survey because the bargaining teams use this information to determine future proposals for bargaining. We are looking for a high percentage of returns this year so get involved and tell us what you think. These surveys will be distributed in the coming weeks.

## Members Hit the Capitol!



SEIU Local 517M held their annual Lobby Day on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at the Capitol. There was also a Member Organizer training held at the same time and the same location. Member organizers were able to test the training they received on their fellow members who attended Lobby Day. They honed their new skills that they will use in the new Right to Work environment by signing up individuals to continue to be members and to begin donating to COPE.

The members that were there for Lobby Day had individual appointments with their legislators to discuss important issues. At lunch, legislators stopped by to chat with the members in an informal setting and members were able to talk with them in a more relaxed environment.

View pictures from the event at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/54989632@N05/sets/721576333462955846/>

## Human Services Support Membership Meetings

The Human Services Support unit will be holding the following membership meetings this month:

Grand Rapids - Tuesday, June 18th: Grand Rapids RICC (1 N. Division) Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Lansing - Friday, June 21st: UIA Lansing PRO (5656 S. Cedar St.) 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Traverse City - Thursday, June 27th: Michigan Works! (1209 S. Garfield, Suite C) 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Topics that will be discussed will include the upcoming state bargaining sessions and the bargaining surveys. Also the new challenges being faced by union members due to Right to Work and site support. Unit leadership will be on hand to gain feedback on the surveys and answer questions that the membership has. Food and beverages will be provided at the meetings so please RSVP your attendance to Stephanie Teamer at 313-456-2911.

## Shift Changes, Overtime and Shift Differential for MDOT Employees in Construction

As the construction season enters the busy season, many members are being asked to work altered or different work schedules. Our agreement with the employer on these issues can be located in two areas of the contract.

*Article 17, Section 4 - Work schedules are defined as an employee's assigned shift, work days and days off. Schedules not maintained on a regular basis or on a fixed rotation basis shall be established as far in advance as possible, but at least (14) calendar days prior to the beginning of the pay period to be worked.*

**Changes in scheduled work shifts and other scheduling changes may be made no less than ninety six (96) hours prior to the implementation of the change.**

**...ANY change in work schedule not in compliance with this section shall result in compensation of hours worked outside the regularly scheduled shift at one and one half ( 1 ½) times the employee's regular rate of pay.**

*Article 24, Section 2, Shift Differential – Employees shall be paid a shift differential of five (5%) per hour above their base rate for all hours worked in a day if fifty (50%) percent or more of their regularly scheduled shift falls between the hours of 4:00 pm and 5:00 am.*

The intent of these agreements is to minimize the occurrence of these altered shifts or work schedules and compensate those members for the disruption of their time away from families and personnel obligations if they are assigned such duties.

## Aid Collected For the Victims of the Moore Tornado



A collection drive was started by SEIU Local 517M retiree **Lynda Roberts** for the victims of the Moore, Oklahoma tornado. Over 80,000 pounds of supplies were shipped. Load One Trucking of Taylor donated the trucks to get the supplies to Oklahoma as well as the drivers, packing materials and the labor to get the shipment ready. The supplies were routed through the City Rescue Mission in Oklahoma City for distribution to the citizens of Moore which is south of the city. The Mission has a warehouse that can store the items until they can be disbursed.

*(Picture: supplies are unloaded at the City Rescue Mission in Oklahoma City)*

## Retiree Update



In early 2013, **Mary Charley**, SEIU Local 517M Retiree Liaison was invited to join SEIU's international Retiree Advisory Committee (RAC) as the Local 517M representative. The RAC has monthly conference calls and meets at least once per year. Mary attended a RAC meeting in Washington, DC on May 1-3, 2013. The meeting was informational as well as a working meeting and included discussion of SEIU's priorities and decisions, and current issues. RAC members joined working groups to continue the momentum of the meeting, ensure the success of each Local's retiree group, and maintain consistency with the union-wide goals. *(Pictured L-*

*R: SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry and Mary Charley)*

Please contact Mary Charley at [mcharley@seiu517m.org](mailto:mcharley@seiu517m.org) if you are interested in joining SEIU Local 517M's retiree group.

### SEIU Local 517M Golf Outing is August 1st!



The annual SEIU Local 517M golf outing will be held on Thursday, August 1, 2013 at the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. The 4-person scramble will start with registration at 8:00 a.m. and shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$280 per foursome. More information and the registration form can be found at: <http://www.seiu517m.org/2013/04/26/local-517m-golf-outing/>

### Midwest Union Women's Summer School

The Midwest School for Women Workers is combining with the Southern School for Union Women this year for a training entitled "FOLLOW OUR LEAD: Leadership Skills for Union Women" which will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, from August 15, 2013 until August 18, 2013. Tracks will include leadership, collective bargaining, grievance handling, and FMLA & ADA. General session discussion will include topics such as "Why Unions Still Matter". **Michelle Kaminski** from MSU's School of Labor and Industrial Relations will be one of the instructors at the school. The cost of the school is \$350 plus hotel costs which are \$86 per night. Registration is open until July 12<sup>th</sup>. Information and conference registration can be found at: <http://www.iea.ualr.edu/lep/>



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