

SEIU Local 517M

Michigan Public Employees



SEIU Local 517M E-Former

August 2013 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

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Notice of Layoff Received in Corrections

On July 23, 2013 SEIU received a notice of layoff for health care members in the Department of Corrections. This notice was done in accordance with the notice provisions set forth in the Scientific and Engineering and Technical bargaining unit contracts. Layoffs were projected to commence no earlier than August 23, 2013. Individual employees affected by the layoff will be receiving notices 14 days prior to implementation of the layoff. SEIU will be meeting in the near future to discuss the impact these layoffs will have on bargaining unit members.

SEIU Low Wage Worker Campaign Targets Flint



The Low Wage Worker Campaign targeted fast food workers in Flint on July 31st with actions to try and win a livable wage for low paid fast food workers. Several SEIU members from the Flint area participated in this action. There are more actions planned in the Detroit, Saginaw and Flint areas. If you are interested in helping with the campaign, please contact **Howard Grigsby** at the Flint SEIU office at 810-230-9926.

Annual Conference Recap



On Friday, July 26th over 80 members gathered in Lansing for our 2013 SEIU Local 517M Annual Leadership Conference. It was a time to reflect on the achievements we were able to gain on behalf of our membership and to plan for the challenges that face us in the coming year. A review of the member engagement program, review of polling data of the membership, discussion about the International's low wage campaign and a discussion of how the union will

be working towards new contracts and signing up members in a Right to Work environment. There was also a legal update from Sachs Waldman attorney **Andrew Nickelhoff** on the status pending litigation that impacts the Local 517M membership. *(Pictured above: Shelby Warren speaks about his experiences during the Member Organizer program)*

Several guests stopped by speak and take questions from the members. Delta Township



Supervisor **Ken Fletcher** welcomed the members and talked about how his township was able to streamline operations without cutting pay or benefits to the township workers in the face of state funding cuts. Former Congressman **Mark Schauer** came by and discussed his candidacy for Michigan Governor. Wayne State Law School Dean **Jocelyn Benson** also stopped by to say a few words to the members. *(Pictured left: Mark Schauer being greeted by Technical Unit President*

George Heath)



Members that have stepped up to help their fellow members were also recognized. Awards were given to: **David Berridge** (S and E), **Joey Combs** (HSS), **Amy Davis-Comstock** (HSS), **John Eck** (Tech), **Paula Flood** (HSS), **Jan Goodwin** (Region 2), **Renee Johnson** (Region 1), **Yolanda Langston** (Region 3), **Sam McGee** (Region 1), **Brenda Moore** (Region 1), **Linda Palacio** (Region 1), **Vicky Tyson** (HSS), **Shelby Warren** (Region 3) and **Renee Wines** (Region 2). Also, **Betty Nash** *(pictured left)* from Saginaw Head Start was honored as the 2013 Member of the

Year.

Technical Unit President Election Notice

Nominations are now being accepted for the office of Technical Unit President. The term of office will commence November 1, 2013 and expire October 31, 2016. Nomination forms are available on the 517M website or by calling the SEIU Local 517M office at 517.482.1737. Nomination forms must be signed by the candidate and received by mail, personal delivery or fax (517-482-7870) no later than Tuesday, September 3, 2013. Ballots will be available to all Technical Bargaining Unit members no later than Friday, September 6, 2013 and must be received by the SEIU LOCAL 517M Lansing Office for counting by noon on Monday, October 7, 2013. The nomination form is available here: <http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2013/08/2013-president-nom-form.pdf>

Court Denies Snyder Ruling Request for State Employees

On Friday, July 5th, the Michigan Supreme Court denied Governor Snyder's advisory opinion request on whether Right to Work applies to state employees. There is currently a lawsuit in the Court of Appeals concerning the applicability of the law to state civil service employees and the Court didn't want to circumvent the lower courts and will hear the case in due time. The Governor believes that the law is applicable to state employees while unions contend that the absolute constitutional authority of the Civil Service Commission over all state classified employees prohibits its implementation. We will watch the case as it moves through the legal system and keep the membership updated.

State Employee Unit Specific Bargaining to Commence

The three state employee bargaining units will begin negotiating with the State over unit specific issues starting with a kick-off meeting on August 8th. These negotiations handle the topics of the contract that are not covered under the spectrum of economic issues such as wages and benefits. Economic bargaining is covered under separate bargaining sessions which, in the past, have been done in coalition with the other state employee unions. There is no timetable on the start of those negotiations.



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