

SEIU Local 517M E-Former - June 2014 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

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School and Local Government Steward Training in Saginaw



On Saturday, May 17th, members from across School and Local Government Region 1 assembled at the SEIU 517M Saginaw Hall for a day-long training for union stewards. SEIU 517M staff and executive officers instructed the participants in handling grievances and other workplace issues.

(Pictured Left: SEIU 517M Secretary/Treasurer Andy Johnson speaks at the Region 1 Steward Training)

Changes to SEIU 517M Lobby Day

June 18, 2014 was selected as the day SEIU 517M members would converge on Lansing to speak with their legislators. Originally, we did this in order to include our school members since generally summer break for schools would begin before that date. Unfortunately, several of our school units will be working on or past June 18th due in part to making up snow days which is pushing back the start of summer break. Additionally, our State Legislature in Lansing will be absent by our planned Lobby Day of June 18th. Therefore the day is being postponed and re-envisioned. We are planning a day of political action in August. This 'Political Action Day' will include a plan for 517M members who work in schools, local government, and the State of Michigan to lobby more effectively.

Stay tuned for further information in July's E-Former!

HSS Unit Steward Election Notice

Interested in becoming a Steward or an Alternate Steward or know someone who would be a good Steward or Alternate Steward? The nomination and election process for HSS Stewards and Alternate Stewards will begin on June 2nd and ends with the tallying of the votes on June 30th. Results will be in the July 1st E-Former. In order to make a nomination or vote you must be in dues-paying status as of pay period ending May 24, 2014. In order to run for Steward or Alternate Steward you must be in dues-paying status for one year.

A separate email will be sent when voting for the Stewards and Alternate Stewards has been made available online.

Find out what the eligibility requirements, nomination forms, job responsibilities, and a complete timeline of events, please click here: <http://www.seiu517m.org/2014/05/27/2014-hss-division-steward-alternate-steward-elections/>

Since our Stewards and Alternate Stewards fulfill such an important role it is equally important that all of us make our voices heard by voting for those who will represent us. Thank you in advance for your participation!

In solidarity,

Amy Davis-Comstock, President of the Human Services Support Division

Technical Unit Secondary Bargaining Update

As some of you are aware we have been in Secondary Negotiations relating to the expense reimbursement system. Those negotiations proved to be fruitless! The employer, specifically MDOT, was unwilling to bargain in good faith. Your bargaining team came into the negotiations with high hopes of updating a system that has become harmful to some of our members due to restrictions placed on us by the employer. Instead, we were confronted with an employer that had little desire, or authority, to do anything other than play numbers games, or ask for concessions. Your team showed examples provided by members of actual happenings from around the state. We also provided some fair, fresh ideas, and innovative procedures, even examples from other states. Yet even then the employer could not understand why our member can't drive or be on travel status using a system that hasn't been discussed, or adjusted in almost 30 years.

So we are again heading for Impasse bargaining. If you recall from our last contract, Impasse is when we go in front of an impartial panel set up by the Civil Service Commission. The panel will review documents and examples and make a decision that fits the situation. Please be assured that we will continue to fight for the best interests of all our members.

As always we remain stronger by sticking together!

In unity,

George Heath, Technical Unit President

State Employee Survey on Government Waste

Tired of hearing "we need to be leaner," but then our compensation gets the squeeze while department waste is all around? As front-line professionals who provide direct services, we know how to make our work most efficient and valuable to Michigan residents.

The State claims it values our input, but our suggestions don't come to fruition. After two years of discussions and two Union-authored reports, management ratios are still too heavy, and costly private contractors are still doing work that state employees could do for less.

We need to highlight old and new examples of departmental inefficiencies, waste, and other cost-saving measures. Please answer a few questions so we can keep pushing the State to get it right.

Go to the Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SE2014KingSurvey>

Lawsuit Activity – Court Grants School Lawsuit a Day in Court

On May 22nd, the Michigan Supreme Court announced that it will hear the lawsuit pertaining to school employees having to contribute 4 percent towards their pensions. No date was given for oral arguments.

Still no date for the start of oral arguments in the State Employee 4% Pension and Right To Work Applicability cases.

Annual Meeting Information

The 2014 Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing on Friday, July 25th beginning at 9:00 a.m. A light lunch will be provided to those attending the conference.

Please register your attendance by: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014ACReg>. This will help us make proper arrangements for handouts, lunch, etc.

We are expecting Gubernatorial Candidate **Mark Schauer** to join us for lunch.

There will be a 5K Run/Walk beginning at 6:45 a.m., for Local 517M members only, with the Local 517M President **Bill Ruhf**, starting from the Kellogg Center and touring the University grounds! Registration for the 5K will begin July 1, 2014. Watch the website for further details.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your labor relations representative.

SEIU Local 517M Golf Outing Set for August 7th



The annual SEIU Local 517M golf outing will be held on Thursday, August 7, 2014 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/2014/05/23/local-517m-golf-outing/>

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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