

## SEIU Local 517M E-Former - July 2014 Edition

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

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### **Saginaw Lights Up the City!**



Saginaw SEIU members collaborated with other union members, Michigan State Police, City of Saginaw Police, Consumer's Energy and United Way to join forces and unite our Saginaw neighborhoods with our Light up the City project. We developed this program to help improve communications and understanding across our community. Our goal is to help build a foundation for strong, sustainable neighborhoods and

offer discussion on how we can bring a united Saginaw into 2014 and beyond. Through collaborative programs like Light up our City, we will make our neighborhoods safer and build better neighborhood associations.

On June 25th, our Light up the City walk joined over 75 union members and other partners in the South-west Saginaw neighborhoods. Members walked in their neighborhoods to support and promote neighbor to neighbor conversations to discuss the challenges we face in Saginaw, and what are the solutions to those challenges. As we walked with our other collaborative partners, we handed out free compact fluorescent light bulbs that Consumer's Energy provided so that neighborhoods could light up their porches and display a solidarity for our program.

### **SEIU Local 517M Golf Outing Set for August 7<sup>th</sup>**



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/>

## Region 1 Contracts Ratified



Since February of 2013, SEIU Local 517M and Kairos "Holy Cross" Healthcare bargaining unit finally ratified on June 26, 2014 a one (1) year contract agreement effective March 1, 2013 through February 28, 2015. The bargaining unit was proud to officially have a contract and appreciate being a part of SEIU Local 517M. (Photo: Shalita Boutte and Tanaya Moore tally ballots in the Kairos contract ratification vote on June 26<sup>th</sup>.)

The members working for the Saginaw Housing Commission ratified a three (3) year contract agreement on June 12, 2014. Bargaining unit employees will receive a lump sum payment for each year of the contract duration effective July 1, 2014 through June 30 2017.

## Human Services Support Unit Steward Election Results

Here are the results of the recently held election for Human Services Support Unit Steward and Alternate Stewards.

Area 1 - Detroit – Cadillac Place (LARA/UIA) -

Area 4 – Grand Rapids LARA/UIA RICC -

Area 7 – Lansing – RICC (LARA/UIA) -

The following positions did not need an election due to the limited number of candidates running. They were declared the winner.

Area 1 – Detroit – Cadillac Place (LARA/UIA) - Stewards **Joey Combs, Kenyetta Harris**

Area 2 – WDA Southern Region – Vets Reps & MRS Employment Service Workers – Steward **Sean Sims**, Alt. Steward **Reginald Jones**

Area 3 – MEDC/WDA Statewide – MRS Interviewer – No Nominations received

Area 5 – MEDC/WDA – Agricultural Employment Specialists (Statewide) – Steward **Kevin Benson**

Area 6 – Saginaw PRO - LARA/UIA – Steward **Belinda Bell**

Area 6 - Saginaw RICC – LARA/UIA - Steward **Roderick Pritchett**, Alt. Steward **Rhonda Clark**

Area 7 – Lansing – PRO (LARA/UIA) – Steward **Sonya Robinson**, Alt. Steward **Cheryl Huff**

Area 7 – Lansing – RICC (LARA/UIA) – Alt. Steward **Alexandria Baron**

Area 8 – MEDC/WDA Northern Region – Includes Vet Reps and MRS Employment Service Specialists - No Nominations received

Area 9 – DHS/DDS Members (Detroit) – No Nominations received

Area 10 – DHS/DDS Members – (Kalamazoo) – Steward **Terrie Stevens**, Alt. Steward **Debbie White**

Area 11 – DHS/DDS Members – (Lansing) - No Nominations received

Area 12 – All other areas – Steward **Ellina Simmons-Gibson**

## **HSS Unit Survey**

We are conducting a survey of Human Services Support bargaining unit employees, and your response would be appreciated.

Here is a link to the survey:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm= 2ffxmdZyNW52clfX5Dq1mKw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm= 2ffxmdZyNW52clfX5Dq1mKw_3d_3d)

## **HSS FaceBook Page**

For those HSS Members who are interested in social media, there is some Great News!

We now have a Face Book page. Just search for the HSS FaceBook page and send a friend request. Because the page was created as a closed group, you must be a current dues-paying member in order to be a “friend.” There are several administrators, so your friend request will be accepted in a timely manner.

On the FaceBook page you will find notes from Labor-Management meetings, “Did You Know” facts and explanations about our contract, and upcoming event information.

We have now joined the 21st Century, so come on and join us on our FaceBook page. If you have specific information you would like to see on the page, be sure to talk with your Steward or call the office at (313) 456-2911. Let your local Steward or Stephanie know what you would like to see and we will make sure that we address your request, if possible.

## **The HSS Contract is Online**

The 2014-2015 HSS Collective Bargaining Agreement has been finalized. This means that the Bargaining Team Members have completed their final inspection and the Office of the State Employer has confirmed that the text reflects what both parties tentatively agreed to during bargaining. You can find the current contract online at:

[http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2014/06/2014-15\\_SEIU\\_HSS\\_Contract\\_460399\\_7.pdf](http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2014/06/2014-15_SEIU_HSS_Contract_460399_7.pdf)

The current CBA will be available on CD per request from current dues-paying members. Your local stewards will have printed copies for reference once they have been published. As always, if you have questions about provisions in our HSS Contract please direct them to your local stewards first. If further clarification is needed, they will contact the Grievance Consultant.

## **HSS Meeting Notes**

Monthly and bi-monthly meetings are held with the management of our UIA and our WDA departments, respectively. HSS leadership contacts your stewards in order to discover what member issues need to be addressed as agenda items during these meetings. After each meeting, the notes taken from the meetings will be posted on the SEIU 517M website and the HSS FaceBook page for members to read. Find the notes on the 517M website at: <http://www.seiu517m.org/2014/06/30/hss-unit-membership-meeting-minutes/>

Be sure to check the website frequently for management meeting notes and make sure you bring questions and concerns to your stewards' attention so we can address them with management during our meetings.

If you are an employee of the Department of Human Services, meetings with DHS management are scheduled upon request from either party. The HSS leaders met with the DHS Director recently and those notes will be posted on the website and the FaceBook page, as well. If DHS members have issues, be sure to make your steward or the HSS Office aware and your concerns will be addressed.

## 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>

## Annual Meeting Information

The 2014 Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 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. Also, SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry will be in attendance!

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.

## Lawsuit Activity

Still no date for the start of oral arguments in the State Employee or School Employee Pension lawsuits or the Right To Work Applicability cases.

## Outsourcing Article

An article published by the responsible contracting group *In The Public Interest* entitled "Race to the Bottom: How Outsourcing Public Services Rewards Corporations and Punishes the Middle Class" discusses the effects on the community and workers when state and local governments outsource important public functions to for-profit and other private entities.

View the article at: <http://www.inthepublicinterest.org/RaceToTheBottom>

*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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