

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

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

### In this Issue:

SEIU Scholarship Winners  
Technical Unit President Election Notice  
Region 1 Activity  
Greetings Fellow SEIU 517M Family!  
Lawsuit Activity  
Repair America Panel Discussion to Be Held in Grand Rapids

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### SEIU Scholarship Winners

Three SEIU 517M members' children have been awarded scholarships in the 2014 SEIU Scholarship lottery.



**Kayla Brown**, daughter of Human Services Support Unit member **Jeanette Brown**, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship that is eligible for renewal up to three more years. Kayla graduated from Carrollton High School in Saginaw with honors (National Honors Society, Distinguished Senior and Magna Cum Laude). She was also the homecoming queen this year. She will be attending Central Michigan University in the fall and majoring in Pre-Med.



**Britney DeYoung**, daughter of Scientific and Engineering Unit member **David DeYoung**, was awarded a one-time \$1,500 scholarship. Britney graduated from Laingsburg High School and will be attending Western Michigan University in the fall majoring in Psychology.



**Leah Ring**, daughter of Scientific and Engineering Unit member **Margie Ring**, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship that is eligible for renewal up to three more years. Leah Graduated from East Lansing High School in 2014 and is attending Lansing Community College majoring in Linguistics.

### Technical Unit Vice President Election Notice

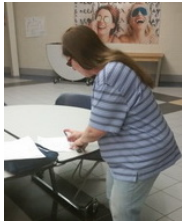


Nominations are now being accepted for the office of Technical Unit Vice President. The term of office will commence November 1, 2014 and expire October 31, 2017. Nomination forms must be signed by the candidate and received by mail, personal delivery or fax (517-482-7870) no later than Wednesday, September 17, 2014. Ballots will be available to all Technical Bargaining Unit members no later than Friday, September 19, 2014 and must be received by the SEIU Local 517M Lansing Office for counting by noon on

Monday, October 6, 2014. The nomination form is available at:  
<http://www.seiu517m.org/files/2014/08/2014-vp-nomination-form.pdf>

## Region 1 Activity

By Darliane Blackmon  
Labor Relations Specialist



On August 8, 2014 a wage reopener vote took place for our members working in the Mt. Pleasant Schools/Aramark Food Service Unit. Thanks to all the bargaining unit members who came in and voted. The wage reopener increase of \$.20 cent passed by one vote with the total being 8 Yes and 7 No. This bargaining unit started receiving their \$.20 cent wage increase in the first pay period of August and will continue until the expiration of contract on January 27, 2015. (Photo left: **Deborah Schafer** casts her ballot)

SEIU Local 517M Region 1 Leadership Training was held on August 20, 2014, in the Saginaw office. There were nine members who attended this training.



Presentations were conducted by **Marianne Woods, Sascha Eisner, Darliane Blackmon** and **Dan Renner** covering topics such as grievance handling, writing, conversations on engaging members, recruiting new leaders, attending events and rallies, signing up dues and COPE payments in the Union's Dynamic Share Services

System.

A Leadership Booklet was issued to everyone who attended as a reference guide in representing bargaining unit members (grievance investigation, grievance handling, meeting representation, mapping of worksites, etc.) and labor relation topics such as Weingarten Rights, Duty of Fair Representation, and the Bullard-Plawecki Employee Right to Know Act.

## Greetings Fellow SEIU 517M Family!

By George Heath  
Technical Unit President

As we updated everyone last month the Technical Unit has been in secondary negotiations with MDOT since March. As you remember we are going to impasse proceedings as per Civil Service Rules. We have recently held several additional meetings with MDOT. We as your bargaining team thought that it was worth the effort to try to get a reasonable settlement, but we still could not reach common ground. Although stating that "We want no additional expense for the employer" the MDOT team finally admitted that the Schedule I system that they propose everyone use would probably cost more than the Schedule II system that has been in place for decades!

I'm sure that many of you have seen the articles in MLive. "Escargot and a stretch limo: 5 expenses that landed Michigan housing director in hot water"  
([http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2014/08/escargot\\_and\\_a\\_stretch\\_limo\\_fi.html](http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2014/08/escargot_and_a_stretch_limo_fi.html))

While this State executive lived like someone living the good life we have Union Brothers and Sisters living out of a suitcase in some cases only allowed \$32.75 per day reimbursement for room and meals.

This is NOT Pure Michigan this is Pure Disgrace! Be assured that your union is doing our best to keep our issues in view, and are fighting for you, and your family.

Stay Safe, and Stay United!

## Lawsuit Activity

Still no date for the start of oral arguments at the Supreme Court in the State Employee or School Employee Pension lawsuits or the Right To Work Applicability cases. There is still activity on these cases as briefs continue to be filed by parties both for and against in each case.



## Repair America Panel Discussion to Be Held in Grand Rapids

The BlueGreen Alliance is sponsoring a Repair America panel discussion that will be held on Wednesday, September 17th at 2 p.m. at Grand Valley State University in the Old Bicycle Factory, 2nd Floor, (201 Front Ave., SW, Grand Rapids). Speakers will include Grand Rapids Mayor **George Heartwell**, EPA Region 5 Administrator **Susan Hedman**, and **D. Michael Langford**, National President, Utility Workers Union of America.

All communities are facing more extreme weather. We must do more to prepare our infrastructure and make the right investments that also create good jobs in order to help us face this new reality.

As an advisor on President Obama's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, Mayor Heartwell is already helping to lead the way on how communities prepare for climate change. Come join this discussion about spurring growth in clean energy and energy efficiency, upgrading our infrastructure to be prepared for climate impacts, and the need to reduce carbon pollution that is driving our climate to change.

Please RSVP to Dave Corrie at [corried@seiu517m.org](mailto:corried@seiu517m.org) if you are interested in attending.

*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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