

SEIU Local 517M E-Former – June 2015 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

In this Issue:

Union Election Results
Lobby Day Recap
The Value of the Contract
Lobbying Goes Beyond the State Level
State Employee Bargaining Kicks Off
SEIU Local 517M Golf Outing Slated for August 14th!
Dancing Diamonds Update
Save the Date for the Annual Membership Conference
May Text Contest Winners
June Text Contest
Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for June, 2015

Union Election Results

The SEIU Local 517M Election/Tally Committee met at Noon on June 1, 2015 to count the votes and certify the winners in the 2015 SEIU Local 517M Union Officers Election. The newly elected leaders will take office on July 1, 2015. All unfilled seats will be done via appointment per the Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws. Here are the results:

SEIU Local 517M President - **George Heath**
SEIU Local 517M Secretary/Treasurer - **John Eck**

Region 1

Divisional Vice President - **Betty Smith**
Secretary - **Roberta Oldenburg**

Region 1 Board Positions:

New Passages – No Submissions
City of Saginaw - **Leticia Trevino**
Saginaw Community Mental Health - **Ernie Ahmad, Valerie Toney**
Saginaw ISD Head Start – **Alicia Moran, Dawn Rohde**
Saginaw City Schools - **Jeanette Barnett, Thalia Cooper, Paul Reyes**
Saginaw Township Schools - **Michael Hensler**
Combined: – No Submissions

Region 2

Divisional Vice President - **Eric Campbell**
VP/Secretary - **Renee Wines**

Region 2 Board Positions:

Chapter 1: - No Submission
Chapter 2: - No Submission
Chapter 3: - **Jan Goodwin**

Chapter 4: - No Submission

Chapter 5: - No Submission

Region 3

Divisional Vice President - **Yolanda Johnson**

Secretary - **Howard Grigsby**

Region 3 Board Positions:

Taylor Schools - **Jack Giraud**

Flint Community Schools – No Submission

Mott Community College – No Submission

Genesee Co Road Commission – No Submission

Combined – No Submissions

Human Services Support Unit

President/DVP - **Joey Combs/Amy Davis-Comstock**

Vice President - **Rod Pritchett**

HSS Board Positions:

Unemployment Insurance Examiner - **Jeanette Brown, Janice Cosey, Denise Edwards**

Employment Service Interviewer - **Joe Gabelsberger, Gerald Merrell**

Disability Determination Assistant - **Ureal Stringfellow**

Unemployment Insurance Analyst - **Rabia Keo**

Combined - **Kevin Benson**

Scientific and Engineering Unit

President/DVP – **David Berridge**

Secretary - **Bryan Grochowski**

SE Board Positions:

DEQ - **Mario Fusco, Daryl Gotham, Matt Gamble**

MDOT - **Michael Duell, Therese Kline**

MDARD – **Arina Ferdig, Michelle Kusnier**

DNR - **Jeff Braunscheidel, Jim Malloy**

DCH - **Tonya Heyer**

MSP – No Submission

LARA – No Submission

Combined – No Submission

Lobby Day Recap

By Amy Davis-Comstock, COPE Committee Chair

The 517M Lobby Day was an action-packed day including meetings with legislators from both sides of the aisle. More than thirty members were present to discuss four main issues affecting our union members: Outsourcing of jobs; the School Aid Fund; Revenue sharing for our local municipalities; and attacks on our pensions. While meeting as a constituent, our members also discussed specific issues that affected them at their worksites and in their legislative districts. We also left behind flyers with specific data regarding these issues at the legislative offices.



Many Senators, Representatives, and their staff dropped by for lunch with our members. We had an opportunity to sit down and talk about issues and create relationships in a more casual atmosphere. More than twenty-six legislative offices were represented at the luncheon - both Democrats and Republicans. (Pictured Left: *SEIU 517M Retiree Liaison Mary Charley covers issues with State Senator Hopgood*)

If you were unable to attend this year's Lobby Day event be sure to look for the 2016 Lobby Day date which will be announced at the end of this year.

Whether you attended or not there is another opportunity to be involved. Take the time right now and follow the link below to send a letter to your legislator regarding outsourcing of good middle class jobs to private contractors. Send a Letter Now:

<http://seiu517m.seiu.org/page/speakout/outsourcing>

Thank you to all who made our lobby day successful.

Value of the Contract

By George Heath, Technical Unit President



We all have been through trying times in the last few years. Right to Work, and Public Act 53 became law, and attacks are still being heaped upon us, such as the proposed Senate Bill 280 which would take away any negotiated union leave for Public Employees.

No matter what has been thrown at us, the majority of us have stayed strong, and in many cases we have grown. More and more of Michigan's citizens are waking up to see that belonging to a Union is one of the few remaining ways we have to make our voices heard. With Citizens United, and the continued flood of money from Billionaires trying to drag the middle class down, many now see that Unions are holding the line in protecting what we, our parents, and grandparents have fought for, and continue to fight for.

Friends, now is not the time to throw away the contracts we've negotiated. There are times that we may get sweetheart deals from our employers. You need to ask yourself, does this violate our contract, and at what cost? Is violating the contract for temporary gain, putting your fellow members, and our future rights at risk worth a short-term gain? We need to uphold what we have, and work even harder to strengthen our Local.

The reason that Civil Service and union contracts came into existence was to eliminate sweetheart deals and political patronage for individuals which were given at the expense of other employees. Without a contract it allows management to potentially set precedents that can erode what has taken years to gain in our contracts. We all need to ask ourselves why there is so much interest in destroying unions? Do we want to go backward and lose wages, health benefits and have no say in our working conditions and deal with supervisors who play favorites with no mechanism to stop it? Re-look at what your contract really means.

As always we are stronger together!

Lobbying Goes Beyond the State Level

By Roderick Jackson
Transportation Technician and COPE Committee Member



I went to Washington DC for the 16th Annual NASHTU (National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions) conference as one of four representatives of SEIU Local 517M to lobby for transportation issues. The attendees were (pictured L-R): **Roderick Jackson, Stan Reinke, Amy Lipset, and George Heath.**

I spent 3 days learning from, and talking to, other transportation union members around the country about their struggles in this new area of privatization; the shrinking work force for government; and doing more with less.

We looked for support in the Transportation bill dealing with the long term funding. We also discussed how to ensure we inspect jobs that are governmental work and how outsourcing of so much of the engineering and technician work that is costing the tax payers more money. Many times it costs more to have these jobs done by contractors. Simple jobs are being contracted out that can be done in house for less. So we were there to spread the message that is not known or heard by many in Congress. Again, putting a face to the issue for the people who vote in congress and affect our lives.

State Employee Bargaining Kicks Off



The three state employee bargaining teams met on May 7, 2015 to begin preparations for this summer's negotiations. **A bargaining survey will be going out to members this week to get the membership's direction and feedback so that proposals can be developed.** Please take the time to complete the survey and "Talk Back" to your union on what you think is important!

SEIU Local 517M Golf Outing Slated for August 14th



The annual SEIU Local 517M golf outing will be held on Friday, August 14, 2015 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. Registration information is available at: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2015/05/Golf-outing-flyer.pdf>

SEIU AFRAM Member Mentors 'Dancing Diamonds'

Kayla West, a six year SEIU member with our sister local SEIU Healthcare Michigan, wanted to make a difference in the lives of young girls in Saginaw. With no programs and families increasingly busy, Kayla knew that a new program would have to be created.



Last November, Kayla reached out to our Region 1DVP, **Betty Smith**, about her vision to organize a dance program for young girls in Saginaw. She had time to volunteer and a name for the girls, "The Dancing Diamonds", but needed a great deal of assistance with everything else. Betty proposed that our Saginaw SEIU AFRAM mentor Kayla and her girls for the first six months of 2015 by providing our Saginaw SEIU Union hall as a place they could meet for activities and practice dance after school. We would support

Kayla with her program and provide role models that could guide the girls with goals and career paths. Since its inception, the program has mentored 16 girls with 13 girls going through the entire six-month program.

In May, the Dancing Diamonds, dressed in hand sewn costumes by Kayla, took a first place prize in one of the divisions at the Saginaw County Dance Competition. They have also performed at the City of Saginaw Memorial Day parade and at our own Betty Smith's wedding.

The program has been a success by increasing school attendance for those in the program. Saginaw SEIU AFRAM plans to continue this mentoring program into the next school year. Our next event with the girls takes place mid-June and will be a visit to the Kochville Township Fire Department where they will get a better understanding about the career of a fire fighter.

Save the Date for the Annual Membership Conference

The 2015 SEIU Local 517M Annual Leadership Conference will be held on Friday, July 24, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lansing. The schedule of events is being finalized but the plan is for a full day of speakers and trainings. More information will be provided when it is available.

May Text Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the May E-Former text contest. The five winners chosen at random were:

Paul Arends
Amy Brown
Sarah Hoffman
Leni Steiner-Zehender
Keith Szyniszewski.

June Text Contest

Our monthly text contest allows five winners to receive \$20 gift cards. **To enter, text "517M" to 30644 to take a quiz about the E-Former.**

This month's question: How many legislative offices attended the lunch on lobby day?

- A) 23
- B) 25
- C) 26
- D) 28

Text the correct answer to enter the contest. The contest is an opt-in contest, meaning that we will only text you if you like to participate.

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for June, 2015

June 3: Executive Officers Meet
June 8: Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Meeting
June 12: HSS Unit Board Meeting
June 17: COPE Committee Meeting
June 18: Technical Unit Board Meeting
June 25: Flint Michigan Works Membership Meeting

For more information on the above events, consult our on-line calendar at:

<http://www.seiu517m.org/events/month/>

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.



[Join Us on Facebook](#)