

SEIU Local 517M E-Former – December 2015 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

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Fight for \$15 National Day of Action



Workers walked off the job in a record 270 cities on November 10th as part of the Fight for \$15. The walk outs culminated in massive protests outside city halls where fast-food, home care, child care, adjunct professors, and other underpaid workers demanded that elected leaders stand up for \$15/hour and union rights. In places like New York and Los Angeles, where workers have already won \$15, workers are striking to demand that companies like McDonald's respect their right to join a union without retaliation, and to show support for McDonald's and other fast-food workers across the country still fighting for \$15.



There were 41 demonstrations at city halls in the Detroit Metropolitan Area where workers demanded \$15 an hour and a union. Supporting the striking workers were SEIU members from Local 517M and Healthcare Michigan, who are engaged in their own fight for \$15 in current contract negotiations for homecare workers and adult foster care (AFC) workers.

In the case of SEIU Local 517M, AFC workers have been negotiating with home care provider, Hope Network/New Passages, a faith based organization, since August. Our members are responsible for delivering care to adults who are unable to care for themselves. Through their labors, our members bring dignity and hope to the lives of their clients. Yet, these workers have not seen a raise in over 8 years and average wages are \$9.22 an hour. Over half of the 260 workers make less than \$9 an hour and many have to work a second or third job to make ends meet. So far the employer has rejected compensation increases that would gradually raise wages to \$15 an hour, but SEIU Local 517M is not backing down! Our members know what their labor is worth. We are worth \$15 and we will fight for \$15.

Member Awarded for Community Work

On October 25th, 2015, SEIU Technical Unit President **Arnold (Arnie) Beller** was awarded the 2015 General Kazimierz Pulaski Medal of Honor by the Polish American Central Citizens Committee of Detroit. The award is presented to honor members of the Polish-American community for outstanding service. The ceremony was held at the Polish National Alliance Facility in Hamtramck, Michigan.



Arnie has been very active in his community as chair of the annual Polish festival and serves as Executive Secretary of the Polish American Century Club. He is also a past board member with the Polish National Alliance. He includes his family and children in community involvement activities and builds very powerful community relationships.

Arnie is the President of the Service Employees International Union Local 517M Technical Unit. This unit represents

more than 1,000 State of Michigan Technical Employees with the State of Michigan, including employees in the Michigan State Police, Department of Corrections, Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources among others.

His level of commitment to his family, community and union truly shows the type of moral character that needs to be highlighted as we continue to work and live in very difficult times. It is easy to make excuses that we are too busy or that we just don't have the time or energy to get involved. Arnie's example shows how one person can make a difference reaching a level of greater involvement that positively impacts his colleagues, union members, his family and community.

On October 9, 2015, President Obama proclaimed October 11, 2015 as General Pulaski Memorial Day for his work fighting for independence in Poland and in the American Revolutionary War. Read more about General Pulaski at:

<http://www.polishamericancenter.org/Pulaski.htm>

SEIU Scholarships Are Now Available!

The SEIU Scholarship Program is now active for 2016. This Members Only benefit is open to SEIU members or their children. To be eligible to apply for any SEIU scholarship, membership must be for three continuous years as of September 1, 2015. All scholarships must be for the academic year(s) awarded. Scholarships will be granted without regard to the sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or disability of any applicant. Scholarships are limited to one per household. Last year, Local 517M had 1 winner.

Officers and employees of the International Union and their children are not eligible. Graduate students are not eligible.

Key Points

- Applications are available starting December 1, 2015.
- Applications should be filed online. See the individual scholarship information below for instructions. Applications can also be mailed to SEIU (name of scholarship), ISTS, 1321 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 800, Nashville, TN 37217.
- Applications must be postmarked or filed online by midnight March 3, 2016.
- Winners will be notified in late spring and announced on www.seiu.org/scholarships in the fall of 2016.

Scholarships that are available:

SEIU Lottery Scholarships - \$1,000 scholarships renewable for up to four years as well as \$1,500 scholarships for one year of study. Apply at: <http://aim.applyists/seiu>

SEIU JJ Johnson Scholarship – One \$5,000 scholarship renewable for up to four years is given to a student whose work and aspirations for economic and social justice reflect the values and accomplishments of **JJ Johnson**, former president of SEIU Local 617 in New Jersey and one of the founding members of SEIU’s African American Caucus (AFRAM). Apply at: <http://aim.applyists/jj>

SEIU Moe Foner Scholarship – **Moe Foner** founded Bread and Roses, a cultural program for union members. One \$5,000 nonrenewable scholarship is available to students who are pursuing a degree or training in the visual or performing arts, and who, like Moe, believe the arts are a vehicle to advance social change. Apply at: <http://aim.applyists.net/mf>

SEIU Nora Piore Scholarship – **Nora Piore** worked as a union organizer, labor educator, college professor, healthcare economist and healthcare activist who changed the face of public health in the United States. The scholarship is made possible by an endowment by her family. It is for \$4,000 and is renewable for up to two years. Apply at: <http://aim.applyists.net/np>

Member Benefit Smartphone App is Available

The UnionPlus Member Only Benefit Program app is now available for the iPhone in the App Store by searching for UnionPlus. The app is your link to union member only benefits provided through UnionPlus. You must be a full dues paying member in good standing to be eligible for benefits under this program.

2016 SEIU Local 517M Calendars Are Here!

Click on the link to download the state employee or school and local government 2016 calendars.

State Employee Calendar: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2015/10/2016calendarstate.pdf>

School and Local Government Calendar: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2015/10/2016calendarslg.pdf>

November Text Contest Winners

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

Karen Brooks
Lisa Champion
Melissa Kelly-Clark
Melodie Longs
Nathan Schilling

December 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:

Who founded Bread and Roses, a cultural program for union members?

- A. Andy Stern
- B. Cesar Chavez
- C. Moe Foner
- D. David Milliken

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

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for December, 2015

December 2: State Employee Contract Ratification Vote Tallied

December 3: Technical Unit Board Meeting

December 16: HSS Board Meeting Conference Call

December 16: Scientific and Engineering Unit Member Education Program: *Introduction to Labor Law*

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.



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