

SEIU Local 517M E-Former – January 2016 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

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Hats and Gloves for Little Ones: From the Unemployment Agency to Head Start



Amy Davis-Comstock from the Saginaw Unemployment Regional Call Center was told by SEIU represented teachers at several Saginaw area Head Start locations that the children in their program needed winter clothing. Members and staff at the Saginaw Unemployment office stepped up and decided to have a hat and glove drive for these children. Unemployment member **Sarina Olivarez** organized the hat and glove drive within the office and her daughter, **Valencia Olivarez**, coordinated the donations with Head Start Family Service Advocates **Bonnie Dutcher** and **Jackie Danks**.

Workers at the Saginaw Unemployment office donated 188 pair of mittens/gloves and 128 hats. The children in the Birch Run Head Start program sang "Jingle Bells" to Sarina, Valencia, and **Tracy Lopez**. The children also wrote "Thank You" cards to show their gratitude for the hats and gloves.

Grievance Win with Saginaw Public Schools Members

Two former teachers with Saginaw Schools were hired into the newly bargained SEIU represented positions of Academic Interventionist in 2014. The SEIU Saginaw City Schools' contract includes a provision for in-lieu-of payments of \$50.00 per month if a member chooses not to participate in an existing health care plan. The insurance language does not have any exceptions as to who can receive the in-lieu-of payment.

The school district denied these two members the in-lieu-of payments claiming it had been a long past practice with the teacher's union that if a retired teacher returned to the workplace they cannot receive the in-lieu-of payment since they already receive an insurance benefit

through their teacher retirement plan. No retired teachers have ever been hired into SEIU positions and the SEIU membership has had no history of any member being denied the in-lieu-of payment for similar reasons.

Saginaw Schools Chapter Vice President **Jeanette Barnett** filed a grievance on behalf of our two members. The grievance was argued all the way up to filing for arbitration. When the Union demanded a meeting to select the arbitrator, the school district asked to schedule a meeting with the superintendent to attempt to settle the dispute. After several meetings the school district conceded and the members will receive their contractual right to the in-lieu-of payments and also will receive back payments totaling \$1500.00 for both members. Congratulations to Saginaw Schools Chapter President **Thalia Cooper** and Vice President Barnett for standing up for what is right and winning for our members.

Lobby Day 2016 Save the Date!



The SEIU Local 517M COPE Committee would like you to save April 13, 2016 as the day set aside to speak with our legislators in Lansing. Be sure to request that date off of work so you can attend this vital and interesting event. The Union will schedule appointments for you to meet with senators and representatives. Lunch is also provided for you, the legislators, and their staff. If there are hearings or legislation that is being voted on, you will get a chance to watch the proceedings. It is a great way to be a part of

the process that affects all of us – both at home and on the job. April 13th is closer than you think, so request the time off today! *(Pictured: Retiree Liaison Mary Charley speaks with Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood at last year's Lobby Day)*

SEIU International Convention is Coming to Michigan

The 2016 SEIU International Convention is coming to Michigan! It will take place May 20-23 in downtown Detroit at Cobo Center. Thousands of SEIU members from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico will come and shape the direction of SEIU for the next four years.

With that many members coming into the Detroit area, there is a need for local area members to help guide the influx of members at the airport and hotels. If you are interested in being a volunteer to work the week prior to the convention and help with arriving members, please contact the SEIU Local 517M office at: seiu517m@hotmail.com. We will get in contact with you about the opportunities and expectations of the positions.

Labor History Series from the Reuther Library

As a lead up to the SEIU International Convention in May, **Gavin Strassel**, the SEIU Archivist at the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University, will be supply various labor history articles for the E-Former. Below is the first installment dealing with the organizing of federal employees in the 1960s.

[Executive Order 10988](#)



By Gavin Strassel

52 years ago in January, 1962, President Kennedy signed Executive Order 10988, recognizing the right of federal employees to collectively bargain. Government workers could form, join, and assist labor unions, which they did in great numbers. This soon led to legislation at the state level that allowed local government employees to organize. During **David Sullivan**'s time as International President of the Building Service Employees International Union (BSEIU) from 1960-1971, the union's membership nearly doubled in large part to Executive Order 10988 and BSEIU's subsequent determined push to organize public employees.

Click here to see a promotional flyer from BSEIU to reach public employees, invoking Kennedy's Executive Order 10988. <http://reuther.wayne.edu/node/577>

To learn more about SEIU and Michigan labor history click here:
<http://reuther.wayne.edu/index.php>

Gavin Strassel is the SEIU Archivist at the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, the official repository for SEIU and the largest labor archives in North America. If you are interested in performing research with the SEIU collections, please contact Gavin at strassel@wayne.edu.

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>

December Text Contest Winners

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

Karen Brooks
Christine Hiben
April Lazzaro
Juanita Mayes
Nathan Schilling

Text Contest Grand Prize Winner

Our monthly text contest is over. A grand prize winner has been selected at random from the pool of members who participated in every month of the contest. The winner of the \$100 gift card will be announced via text message during the month of January.

The text permissions received through this contest will be used to communicate more effectively with the membership. Thanks to all that participated.

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for January, 2016

January 13: Saginaw City Chapter Meeting

January 22: SEIU Local 517M Executive Board Meeting

January 26: School and Local Government Region 1 Board Meeting

January 28: HSS Board 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.



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