

SEIU Local 517M E-Former – March 2016 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

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Stewards Get a Working Lesson at 2016 Training

Close to 90 member leaders and stewards met in Lansing for our annual two-day steward training. The attendees were mostly comprised of new or fairly new stewards.



Sunday's program started with opening remarks from SEIU Local 517M President **George Heath** (pictured left) and included a report from Director **Liza Estlund Olson** concerning what is happening in government and legislative bills pending. There were also staff presentations on other steward functions such as mapping, communication, contract campaigns and new member sign up.

Under the African-American Caucus (AFRAM) portion of the program were reports on what the caucus is doing in the community from Local 517M AFRAM President **Yolanda Johnson** and AFRAM Recording Secretary **Stephanie Teamer**. SEIU State AFRAM President **Freddy Polanco** (pictured right) also spoke.



SEIU Committee on Political Education (COPE) chairperson **Amy Davis-Comstock** and committee member **Rod Jackson** brought everyone up to speed on the upcoming Lobby Day, raffles and other activities that the committee is undertaking.

Sunday dinner saw a legal update from Scientific and Engineering Unit Coordinator **Howard Gordon** on representation rights in a Right-to-Work environment. After dinner, the members stayed and enjoyed a great game of DJ Trivia!



The underlying focus of the training was focused on actual grievance experience. Monday was devoted to giving participants hands-on training. The participants were given scenarios to prepare a grievance for and to argue the case in front of a mock employer panel. The



employer panel consisted of (pictured L-R in right side of photo) President Heath, Scientific and Engineering Unit President **David Berridge** and retired Saginaw City Employee Relations Director **Ralph Carter**. The stewards utilized the Steward's Manual and contract language to draft the grievance based on each scenario. The table work groups were randomly selected to use their interpersonal skills to argue one of the scenarios in front of the employer. The feedback from the participants has been great. They enjoyed the hands-on exercises.

Lobby Day 2016 is April 13th!



The SEIU Local 517M COPE Committee would like you to save Wednesday, April 13, 2016 as the day set aside to speak with our legislators in Lansing. Be sure to request that date off 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: HSS Grievance Coordinator Denise Edwards speaks with Senator Morris Hood at Lobby Day)*

Convention Volunteers Needed to be Part of the Quadrennial SEIU International Convention at Cobo Hall

The 2016 SEIU International Convention is coming to Michigan. It will take place May 19-24 at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit. 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 so many members coming into the Detroit area, there is a need for SEIU Michigan area members to volunteer and help guide the influx of members at the airport, hotels and at Cobo Hall during the convention. If you are interested in being a volunteer to work the week of the convention meeting and help arriving members, please fill out the volunteer form using the link below. Volunteer shifts for morning, afternoon and evening range from 4.5 hours to 6 hours each.

Contact Stephanie Teamer at: steamer@seiu517m.org or call her at 313-456-2911 for more information. Please send the completed form to Stephanie using the email above or fax it to 313-456-2915.

If you know of retirees that may be interested in volunteering, please pass this information along to them and they can contact Stephanie for more information.

Convention Volunteer Form: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2016/02/Volunteer-Form-for-SEIU-2016-Convention.pdf>

Convention Volunteer Flyer: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2016/02/Convention-flyer-2016-L517M-SE.pdf>

Hard-Working Bunnies for the Underground Railroad

From the Saginaw Unemployment Agency

The bunnies in Saginaw have started early getting ready to provide a fun Easter for the boys and girls who are staying at the community's domestic violence shelter, the Underground Railroad. For the eighth consecutive year, the Saginaw Unemployment office kicked off the campaign with fundraisers to raise money for baskets, candy, and toys. One of the fundraisers was selling plastic eggs with candy and, if lucky, a chance to win a prize.

Once the fundraisers were underway, a challenge was issued to all the teams: the team with the most donated candy, small toys, and Easter grass wins a prize! There are several teams that are very competitive so it will be close to see who wins the prize – a pizza party! This is a fun tradition with lots of winners.

Tune in next month to see pictures of the candy and toys in the baskets.

Retiring Member Recognized for Union Service



There was a special recognition held at the 2016 SEIU Local 517M Steward Training. Long-time member **Art Slabosky** of the Scientific and Engineering unit was recognized for his service to the Local. Art has since retired from the Department of Transportation but was very active in his union participation. Art has served on the Scientific and Engineering Unit Board and as a Steward for MDOT in the Lansing area. Art was presented with his certificate at Steward Training by Unit

President **David Berridge**. Art came back to be a mentor leader at the training for the newer stewards in attendance. Congratulations Art!

Member Recognized for Trail Work



Scientific and Engineering Unit member **Mike Duell** was among fellow MDOT employees who were recognized by MDOT for their work on the Iron County Heritage Trail. The article appeared in the February 16, 2016 e-newsletter published by MDOT. The trail which was completed in June 2015, is a non-motorized trail extension of the Apple Blossom Trail. Future phases will connect to create a 22-mile pathway through Michigan's western Upper Peninsula. This is yet another example of the union membership working to enhance the lives for Michigan citizens.

From The Archives: A Lesson in Labor History from the Reuther Library as We Prepare to Host the SEIU International Convention



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.

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

Elinor Glenn

Elinor Glenn's story lies at the intersection of SEIU's work with public employees and the empowering spirit of Women's History Month. Her many accomplishments include co-founding the Coalition of Labor Union Women and serving as a member of the SEIU International Executive Board, but she transformed from union stalwart to labor groundbreaker through her work organizing and leading workers in Los Angeles. Elinor was an immensely effective organizer for California's United Public Workers, and her ability to bring new members into the union led her to become president of the Local 246. When UPW Local 246 merged with SEIU Local 347 to form the Los Angeles County Employees Union, she became its General Manager and was the first woman to occupy that role at any SEIU local. Elinor was more than just a trendsetter with SEIU, though. She



led major strikes and successfully bargained for public employees in Los Angeles. Under her leadership, the local expanded tenfold to 7,000 members. SEIU International President **George Hardy** referred to Elinor as "the greatest organizer we have ever had in our International. She out-organized me." She achieved amazing feats at a time when leadership opportunities within labor were rarely available to women, helping to establish SEIU as a go-to representative for public employees and as a union that values its female members.

For more information on Elinor Glenn and other female leaders within SEIU, read the Walter P. Reuther Library's overview *Notable Women of SEIU*, at <http://reuther.wayne.edu/node/10120>.

SEIU Scholarship Deadline is March 3rd!

The SEIU Scholarship Program is nearly completed for 2016. Entries must be submitted online or postmarked by **Thursday, March 3, 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>

Scientific and Engineering Unit Bylaw Change

The Scientific and Engineering Unit Board will be voting on proposed changes to their bylaws at their April 11, 2016 meeting. As per SEIU Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws, the membership must be notified at least 30 days in advance of this vote. To review the proposed changes, click here: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2016/02/s-and-e-bylaws-2016.pdf>

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for March, 2016

March 8: HSS Saginaw RICC Unit Meeting
March 14: North Huron Schools Member Meeting
March 18: HSS Unit Board Meeting
March 22: HSS Unit Meeting at Grand Rapids RICC

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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