

SEIU Local 517M E-Former – May 2016 Edition

Lead, Unite, Fight – Win For the 99%!

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Lobby Day Recap 2016 – Making Our Voice Heard



On Wednesday, April 13th, twenty-five current and retired members, staff, and family members met with state legislators and their staff at the Capitol and their legislative offices. The issues discussed ranged from the outsourcing of work at all levels of government; revenue sharing; the state-wide privatization of mental health authorities; the State budget, especially the education budget which was being discussed in the House that day; the House's package of bills regarding Detroit Public Schools; and the closure/consolidation of unemployment offices. We had seventeen scheduled meetings that were attended, as well as, several "drop by" visits at legislative offices. Several members attended each meeting in order to speak about the issues that affected their worksites, local communities and their families. (pictured L-R: State Rep. Sam Singh D-East Lansing discusses issues with Technical Unit member David McKinnon)



Lunch was provided by the Union and we had many different legislative offices represented. Great discussions occurred between members, staff, and the legislators and their staff over lunch. As **Paula Flood**, a retired 517M member, said, "One of the best parts of the day is being able to talk about what affects me, not just following a script." Lunch is a great time to build relationships with those whose job it is to represent us and work to make Michigan the best place to work and live. (pictured L-R: State Senator Rick Jones R-Grand Ledge discusses issues with SEIU staff Marianne Woods and Scientific and Engineering Unit President David Berridge)

This is one way that COPE is working to improve the lives of all our members!

New SEIU Member Only Benefits Program



The new SEIU Member Only Benefits program is here! Check out the great discounts and offerings that the new program has to offer. Current members should have received a new membership card in the mail which allows you to participate in the new member benefits program.

Take advantage of all of the benefits you find on www.SEIUMB.com — everything from insurance and credit cards to discounts on travel, cell phones, and everyday items. We're proud to bring you this assortment of great benefits — at no cost or obligation — just for being an SEIU dues paying member!

Get started today by registering on this website. Keep coming back to see the new benefits we're adding. You can also sign up for email communications from SEIUMB.com to be the first to know when new benefits are added.

Distracted Driving is Harmful to Work Zone Safety

SEIU Local 517M became a partner with the Operating Engineers Local 324, and other groups this year including MDOT, FHWA, Consumers Power, and other groups to promote safety in Work Zones during National Work Zone Awareness Week.



This year's campaign kicked off on April 11th with an event at the MDOT Brighton Maintenance Garage. SEIU Local 517M President **George Heath** (pictured left) and other 517M members joined with Operating Engineer Local 324 union members at the kick off meeting showing our union spirit, and desire to help our communities.

Distracted driving is a major problem on our roadways today. With so many of our members working on roadway design and construction it is imperative that we protect our brothers and sisters. Not only does being mindful of distracted driving help our members be safe, it also helps keep your family members that drive Michigan's Highways safe. "DON'T BE THAT DRIVER"!!!! How important is that text, phone call, cup of coffee, or combing your hair? Is it worth your life, or the life of a worker in a work zone?



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Although some of the groups involved don't represent the same union spirit we do, your Executive Officers felt it was important to show our civic spirit, and our solidarity with other unions by participating in this campaign.

Please be aware every week about distracted driving and please take the time to visit:

http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted_driving/

http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm

Fight for \$15 National Day of Action

SEIU members came out in force on April 14th to take part in the Fight For \$15's National Day of Action. Low-wage workers across the country staged protests, walkouts, and pickets to call attention to the necessity of a living wage and union rights for all workers.

In Saginaw, SEIU Healthcare Michigan members from the nursing home and rehabilitation facility MagnumCare staged a rally and informational picket in front of their workplace calling for a fair contract and a living wage. The employees at MagnumCare have been without a contract since November, and are calling on the employer to agree to a contract that would allow them to care for their own families as well as they care for their clients.

As Healthcare Michigan members chanted on North Center Road and carried signs reading "WE DESERVE BETTER," "I Take Care of Your Mom," and "Stop Unfair Labor Practice," our 517M members doing similar work and facing similar obstacles through Hope Network New Passages wore their SEIU shirts and pins in solidarity as they cared for their clients in worksites across the state. Employees at Hope Network New Passages have been at the bargaining table fighting for a fair contract since August 2015. Members shared images of themselves doing the hard work of caring for adult foster care patients with their union shirts on, showing they are united in their calls for justice not only for themselves, but for their clients. Better wages and working conditions for employees mean improved and more consistent quality of care for clients.



Youth Support Awarded in Saginaw



SEIU Local 517M was recognized for the support and contributions to the Saginaw community. On April 10th at the Youth Empowerment Solutions annual awards banquet entitled "An Evening of Rising Young Stars", SEIU Local 517M School and Local Government Region 1 Divisional Vice President **Betty Smith** was presented an award for our Local's support and involvement in the 2015/16 fundraisers for young people in the Saginaw area. Betty displayed the award and certificate at the April 22, 2016 SEIU 517M Executive Board Meeting in Lansing.

AFRAM Spring Roll and Bowl



SEIU AFRAM – HSS Detroit hosted a Spring Roll and Bowl Fundraiser on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at Renaissance Bowling Center in Detroit. Although we had a little snow and it was cold that day, we still enjoyed the event as we prepared ourselves to get into the spring spirit! The weather was not springy but those who participated and joined us had a nice time. We hope to see you next time!

Local 517M Members Attend the A. Phillip Randolph Institute Regional Convention



SEIU Local 517M members of the Metro Detroit APRI (HSS Detroit) attended the A. Phillip Randolph Institute (APRI) Midwest Region Convention held March 31, 2016 - April 2, 2016 in Detroit. The theme of the conference was "Advocate, Educate, and Motivate, Facing the Future-Fighting Forward." (Pictured L-R: HSS Steward Ellina Simmons-Gibson, HSS Members Raceine McDonald, APRI National President Clayola Brown, HSS Chief Steward Janice Cosey,

HSS President Joey Combs)

The conference workshops focused on **SOCIAL MEDIA**: Teaching the use of social media to enhance government and Event Advertisement; **DIVERSITY GOVT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**: Teaching techniques to successfully relay your message to voters of all cultures and give a basic understanding of government protocol.; **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**- How to successfully motivate, mobilize, increase membership and coalition building your chapter/organization/community; **ECONOMICS AND YOUR POCKET BOOK**- How Local, State, & Federal Elections affect your family's income and daily lives. During her speech at the APRI Dinner on April 16, 2016, APRI National President, **Clayola Brown**, commended HSS President, **Joey Combs** for continuing the tradition of Labor Organizations while also encouraging the youth to get more involved.

The Michigan A. Phillip Randolph Chapters are: Grand Rapids, Greater Battle Creek, Greater Flint, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Metro Detroit, Detroit/Downriver, Michigan (State), Saginaw

Labor leader and social activist, A. Philip Randolph was born on April 15, 1889 in Crescent City, Florida. During World War I, Randolph tried to unionize African-American shipyard workers and elevator operators, and co-launched a magazine designed to encourage demand for higher wages. He later founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which by 1937 would become the first official African-American labor union. In the 1940s, Randolph's abilities as an organizer had grown to such lengths that he became the driving force in ending racial discrimination in government defense factories and desegregating the armed forces, both done via presidential decree. Becoming involved in additional civil rights work, he was a principal organizer of the 1963 March on Washington.

Board Member Set to Retire



A presentation was made at the SEIU Local 517M Executive Board meeting held on April 22, 2016 to **Jan Goodwin**. Jan will be retiring from the Wayland Union School District at the end of the school year and will therefore no longer be eligible to serve on the School and Local Government Region 2 Board as well as the SEIU 517M Executive Board. Jan also served many years as our Local's Ethic Liaison between the Local and SEIU International. Jan was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of service on the Executive Board by Local 517M President **George Heath**.

Last Call for SEIU International Convention Volunteers

The 2016 SEIU International Convention is coming to Michigan! It will take place May 19-24 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, 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 are: 8am – 12pm; 12pm – 4pm; 4pm – 8pm; 8pm – 11pm

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. Your spouse and adult children are also welcome to volunteer too! Volunteers will be reimbursed \$.40 per mile. Lodging will be provided if volunteers are willing to work multiple shifts over several days. Volunteers will also be invited to a convention reception on Sunday.

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>

Stand Down for Homeless Veterans in Lansing

There will be a Stand Down for Homeless Veterans held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 in Lansing. This year we will be collecting unopened sundries and personal care items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, shaving cream, razors, socks, (men's & women's) undergarments, (men's & women's) healthy snacks and any other practical needs items) that will be donated to the Volunteers of America to be distributed to Lansing area homeless veterans on that day. If you would like to contribute items to this drive, please drop items off to the SEIU 517M Lansing Office at 1026 E. Michigan Ave. by May 18th. If you are

interested in being an on-site collector of items in your worksite, please contact **Dave Corrie** at corried@seiu517m.org and we will publicize this fact to the appropriate building membership.

Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events providing supplies and services to homeless Veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Veterans can also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling. They are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, other government agencies and community-based homeless service providers.

The Postal Service Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is May 14th

Every second Saturday in May, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America collect goodness and compassion in the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

Led by letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO), in conjunction with rural letter carriers, other postal employees and volunteers, the drive has delivered more than one billion pounds of food the past 24 years.

Carriers collect non-perishable food donations left by mailboxes and in post offices and deliver them to local community food banks, pantries and shelters. Nearly 1,500 NALC branches in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands are involved.

The United States Postal Service, National Association of Letter Carriers, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, AFL-CIO, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), United Way, Valassis and Valpak Direct Marketing Systems are all supporting this year's Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

To donate, just place non-perishable food in a plastic bag next to your mailbox before your letter carrier delivers mail on the second Saturday in May. The carrier will do the rest. The food is sorted, and delivered to an area food bank or pantry, where it is available for needy families.

With 49 million people facing hunger every day in America, including nearly 16 million children, this drive is one way you can help those in your own city or town who need help.

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

Michigan's Other SEIU Convention

By Gavin Strassel, SEIU Archivist



This month, Detroit will host SEIU's international convention for the first time ever, but this does not mark the only time Michigan held the event. 32 years ago in 1984, the constitutional convention took place in nearby Dearborn. At the time, SEIU was the nation's fastest growing union and

convention proceedings reflected their expansion. Resolutions to organizationally adapt to their new size, particularly the formation of six separate industry divisions to accommodate the membership's new profession diversity, had a lasting effect. Events were capped by a homecoming speech from Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale, a "lifetime SEIU member" who got his start as a lawyer for Local 113, who received loud cheers of support from the SEIU membership.

While not as revolutionary as other conventions, the "In Unity, Strength" theme and businesslike proceedings reflected a stable union steadily growing. Many of the topics discussed would now fit in 32 years later with the 2016 convention agenda, including demands for pay equity for women, immigration reform, and an increase to the minimum wage. Beyond convention business, attendees got to rub elbows with football great **Gene Upshaw** and visited Dearborn's world-famous Henry Ford Museum.



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>

SEIU Local 517M Golf Outing Slated for August 12th

The annual SEIU Local 517M golf outing will be held on Friday, August 12, 2016 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 cost is \$240 per foursome. The registration form and information is available at: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2016/03/Golf-outing-flyer.pdf>

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for May, 2016

May 13: Human Services Support Unit Board Meeting

May 19-24: SEIU International Convention in Detroit

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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