

SEIU Local 517M

Michigan Public Employees

SEIU Local 517M E-Former – September 2016 Edition



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Day of Action Planned for September 10th

Throughout the primary election season, our Union and our members have put our issue agenda front and center in the national debate. The next three months will decide the future of our country. On September 10th, SEIU will hold a National Day of Action. We will mobilize in support of our issue agenda, and for candidates up and down the ticket. It is a chance to make sure our issues and our members' voices are heard as the election comes into view for most voters. Nationally, 10,000 SEIU members will join activities that day. If you are interested in participating in this Day of Action, please contact us at 517-482-1737 or seiu517m@hotmail.com for more information on what events are happening in your local area.

SEIU Members Meet with Congressman Kildee



SEIU Local 517M leaders and staff met with Congressman **Dan Kildee** (MI-05) on August 19, 2016 to discuss issues concerning the SEIU membership. In attendance at this meeting were (pictured R-L: Region 1 Divisional Vice President Betty Smith, Flint Community Schools Para-Pro Unit President Brenda Greene and Local 517M Member Leadership and Action Director Marianne Woods.)

State Units Begin Economic Bargaining



The three state employee units (Human Services Support, Scientific and Engineering, and Technical) opened negotiations with the State of Michigan over wages and healthcare benefits. On Thursday, August 25th, the bargaining teams listened to an economic presentation put on by the State (see picture). Actual negotiations began on Wednesday, August 31st. The current contracts were negotiated last year and run from January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018. The current contract only covers the first year of the three-year

agreement for wages and healthcare. Your bargaining team is negotiating for wages and healthcare for the remaining two years of the Agreement.

Nominations Accepted for Technical Unit President

Please be advised that on Monday, October 3, 2016, SEIU Local 517M will hold an election for Technical Bargaining Unit President.

If you are interested in being placed on the ballot for this position, please use the link below and complete the Candidate Petition Form and follow the directions given.

The nomination period began **August 15, 2016 and ends September 14, 2016**. Ballots will be available starting September 16, 2016 and online voting is available from September 16 through October 3 at noon. Ballots will be counted on Monday, October 3, 2016. The candidate will take office on November 1, 2016.

If you have any questions on the elections, please feel free to contact Kevin Karpinski at (517) 267-2088. If you have any problems opening the document, please contact David Corrie at (517) 267-2090.

Candidate Nomination Form: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2016/08/2016-tech-prez-nom-form.pdf>

SEIU 517M Detroit AFRAM Skating Party

The Detroit AFRAM – HSS Unit is having a skating party on Sunday, October 30, 2016 from 4:30pm – 6:30pm at Northland Roller Rink, 22311 W 8 Mile Rd (just west of Lahser), Detroit, MI 48219. The price for admission is \$5 and skate rental is \$3. Tickets can be purchased from any of the Detroit AFRAM members; **Maria Gilson, Raceine McDonald, Antonia Brown, Meagan Miner, Ellina Simmons, Janice Cosey, Joey Combs, or Juanita Mayes**. Tickets can also be purchased in the SEIU 517M Detroit Union office from **Stephanie Teamer**. For more information, contact Stephanie at 313-456-2911 or steamer@seiu517m.org.

Region 3 Events and Happenings

Dearborn Heights- On August 9th, members of SEIU Local 517M as well as community allies and family members conducted a silent protest at the Dearborn Heights School District No.7 School Board meeting. The protestors called for the removal of custodial supervisor, **John Nicholl**, who was found in a Federal OSHA report to have exposed employees to asbestos through illegal work orders. The report was released on June 30th, 2016, and found that employees were ordered to sand asbestos



tile without any respirators or safety equipment leading to an exposure that has affected employees, staff, and possibly students. Mr. Nicholl also attempted to cover-up the exposure through the creation of falsified documents that made it seem that the tiles had been tested by an independent party and that they did not contain asbestos. Protestors held signs that called for Mr. Nicholl's removal in order to protect the children and staff within the school district.

Theresa Ely, union steward, and labor representative, **Danny Ritter**, both addressed the board directly revealing to the board that Mr. Nicholl is still issuing unsafe work orders that endanger all those who use the facilities at Dearborn Heights. The board has not issued a response and Mr. Nicholl remains at his position.

Mott Community College-The millage renewal for Mott Community College was approved by voters on August 2nd, 2016, with over 60% voting in favor. The renewal will last from 2018 to 2027 and will keep a \$0.641 mill in place. SEIU local 517M endorsed the millage renewal believing the college would be unable to operate if the millage did not pass. Three bargaining units are currently represented by SEIU Local 517M including maintenance and operations personnel, administrative support staff, and the public safety officers. We are proud of our members that canvassed and campaigned for the passage of this millage. Their efforts ensured that Flint and its neighboring communities will continue to have access to quality, community focused education for years to come.

Fight for 15- On August 13th, 2016, 8000 activists converged at Richmond, VA calling for a living wage of \$15 an hour and a union for millions of fast food workers, home care workers, airport workers, and adjunct professors around the country. Members, **Joey Combs** (standing) and **Betty Smith** (seated), from SEIU Local 517M were in attendance and marched in triple digit heat fighting for union rights for their fellow workers. The **Rev. William J.**



Barber II addressed the crowd calling for the many groups fighting for economic justice, racial justice, environmental justice, gay rights and women's rights to join forces and confront the powers that keep us divided and oppressed. Despite the heat, spirits were high and participants seemed determined to harness the momentum from recent victories in California, New York, and Oregon where the minimum wage will soon be increased to \$15 an hour for all workers. We hope that spirit will follow us back to Michigan so we can push back against the anti-union forces and politicians in Lansing.

Herrick District Library Millage Passes

Congratulations to the SEIU members at the Herrick District Library on the overwhelming approval of the millage renewal! The millage renewal passed by a wide margin in Holland, Holland Township, Park Township and Laketown Township. Had the millage not passed, the library would have been forced to close within the year and 21 SEIU members would have lost their jobs. Voters approved a 14-year renewal of the tax, which will raise \$5.2 million in 2017 for

the library. The property tax accounts for 85% of the library's annual budget. Library staff and many community volunteers came together and campaigned leading up to the election vote by canvassing the community to educate individuals on several parts of the ballot language which may have been confusing to voters. It was a successful campaign which continues to prove that we are "Stronger Together".

Grand Haven Public Schools Food Drive

On July 28, 2016, Grand Haven Public Schools SEIU unit (Maintenance, Food Service and Transportation) and MEA (Teachers, Administrators and Secretaries) joined together to hold a



food drive for their local community. Enough money was raised to purchase a 10,000 pound food truck that included breads, fresh produce, boxed cereals and canned goods, as well as some popsicles to try and keep cool in the blistering heat. There was a great turnout of volunteers and community members and overall a very successful day of giving back to the local community. Planning has already begun for their annual "Adopt a Family" program that takes place over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Congratulations to the SEIU members of

Grand Haven Public Schools for striving and successfully bringing together their local community!

Pop the Polls Event in Saginaw



Member Political Leaders **Betty Smith** and **Jeanette Barnett** partnered with other Saginaw community activists affiliated with Ezekiel Project, LLEAD and Counter Culture to create an entertaining event that attracted millennials with the focus of registering young people to vote. Both Betty and Jeanette played a lead role seeking volunteers, vendors and funding for the August 21st event "Pop the Polls." (Pictured L-R: Jeannette Barnett, Betty Smith, Amy Davis-Comstock)



The entertainment included musicians from all genres, street performers and dancers. Several different restaurants provided food and refreshments and the City of Saginaw blocked off two city blocks for the event to take place. (Pictured: Leticia Trevino registers a new voter)

Although the day started out wet with intermittent downpours, the sky cleared and the bands played through the night. Our own sponsored dancers, the Dancing Diamonds performed in the early evening. Volunteers including 9 SEIU member leaders joined our coalition partners in registering 101 new voters at the event. SEIU staffed a vendor table where an additional 74 people filled out our SEIU Fight for \$15 Voter Agenda Pledge Cards. (Pictured right: Brenda Moore as "Auntie Sam" with James Martin)



Daughter of Member Wins Singing Contest

Congratulations to **Brianna Seaborn** for winning the WDIV - Local 4's Super Singer Competition which was held at this year's Ford Fireworks on June 27, 2016. Brianna was the youngest participant in the contest at age 13. She is the daughter of Human Services Support member **Sumara Rambus**, an Unemployment Insurance Examiner in Detroit. Way to go Brianna, a star is born! More information is available on the WDIV website at:

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/fireworks/super-singer/super-singer-semi-finalists-get-ready-for-their-big-night>

Divisional Vice President Steps Down



SEIU Local 517M School and Local Government Region 3 Divisional Vice President **Yolanda Johnson** is stepping down from that position and as the City of Detroit Unit President effective September 1st. Yolanda has accepted a position with the City of Battle Creek as a Code Compliance Officer in Region 2. She will retain her membership since her new position is still represented by SEIU Local 517M. We wish to express our enormous gratitude to Yolanda for her many years of service to the Local 517M members in various leadership capacities and we wish her the best of luck in her new position.

A Great Time Was Had at the Annual Golf Outing



Mike and the Mechanics (pictured left) made up of **Steve Holmi**, **Dan Dell**, **Gary Simons**, and **Barry Burns** shot a 13 under par 57. The runner up team named Pure Michigan

Over 44 golfers braved the heat and humidity and threatening skies to participate in the 2016 SEIU Local 517M Annual Golf Outing on August 12th. The event was held at the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. The winning team named



(pictured right) was comprised of **Keith Krawczyk, Dave Benit, James Wilson, and Bruce Bond** shot a 12 under par 58. Several hole prizes were also awarded for Closest to the Pin, Longest Putt, and Long Drive. But the big winner was the COPE Fund which raised \$385 at the event. We hope to see more people at next year's outing!

Did Your Grandfather Leave You His Colt Army Revolver in His Will?



If so, then Senate Bill 225 should help.

By: Paula J. Manderfield, Fraser Trebilcock Lawyers

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Did your grandfather leave you his Colt Army Revolver in his will? Are you the personal representative of an estate and have to deal with disposition of firearms?

If so, then Senate Bill 225 should help. It was signed by the governor and went into effect February 22, 2016.

The bill will hopefully make it easier for the person inheriting the pistol and for the person disposing of the decedent's estate, and provide guidance to local law enforcement agencies. SB 225 amends the Firearms Statute, MCL 28.422, to add a provision dealing with the transfer of ownership of a pistol by inheritance. The intent is to simplify the process of how to transfer ownership of an inherited pistol, including a pistol that was never registered, as is often the case with older guns.

Old Law

Section 2, paragraph (1) of MCL 28.422 provides that a person shall not purchase, carry, possess, or transport a pistol in this state without having first obtained a license for the pistol as prescribed in this section and sets forth the requirements for obtaining a pistol. A personal representative was required to apply for and obtain a pistol license and register each pistol that he or she takes possession of for the sole purpose of testamentary or intestate disposition. It also required that before inherited pistols could be transferred to a devisee under a will, a license to purchase had to be approved by the commissioner or chief of police, sheriff, or authorized deputy, and signed by the personal representative of the estate or by the next of kin having authority to dispose of the pistol.

New Law

The statute as amended states: "This section does not prevent the transfer of ownership of pistols to an heir or devisee, whether by testamentary bequest or by the laws of intestacy regardless of whether the pistol is registered with this State". "An individual who has inherited a pistol shall obtain a license as required in this section within 30 days of taking physical possession of the pistol" (emphasis added). The license may be signed by a next of kin of the decedent or the person authorized to dispose of property under the estates and protected individuals code, MCL700.1101 to 700.8206.

The amendment allows for pistols that have never been registered to pass by inheritance, which may be the case with antique or sentimental guns. The responsibility is then on the heir or devisee to apply for and obtain a license within 30 days after taking possession.

If the heir or devisee is not qualified for a license under Section 2, he or she may direct the decedent's next of kin or the person authorized to dispose of the estate's property to dispose of the pistol in any manner that is lawful and the heir or devisee considers appropriate. MCL 28.422(3)(a-h) contains the requirements a person must meet in order to be qualified for a pistol license; these requirements have not changed. A few of the requirements to obtain a pistol license include being 18 years of age or older, not being convicted of certain felonies, and not being subject to a court order under the mental health code.

Section 2, paragraph (8), further provides that "A law enforcement agency may not seize or confiscate a pistol being transferred by testamentary bequest or the laws of intestacy unless the heir, or devisee does not qualify for obtaining a license under this section and the next of kin or person authorized to dispose of property under the estates and protected individuals code, MCL 700.1101 to 700.8206, is unable to retain his or her temporary possession of the pistol or find alternative lawful storage".

In a case where a pistol is confiscated under Section 2 and the heir or devisee is not qualified to obtain a license, the heir or devisee retains an ownership interest in the pistol. The amendment provides that within 30 days of being notified of the seizure, the heir or devisee may file with the appropriate court asking the court to direct the law enforcement agency to lawfully transfer or otherwise dispose of the pistol. During this time period, law enforcement shall not destroy, sell or use the pistol until after 30 days from notifying of the seizure and no legal action having been filed in any court.

While this amendment should help streamline the process for the personal representative administering an estate, there are several issues that are not being addressed. Should the personal representative or person with authority to dispose of property determine before transfer of the pistol if the heir or devisee is qualified to obtain a pistol license? Does Probate or Circuit Court have jurisdiction? The statute is silent on both of these. It is also silent on how long the personal representative or person authorized to dispose of property may retain possession of possibly an unregistered pistol. One would assume it would be for the ordinary course of administering an estate, but again, the statute is silent.

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for September, 2016

September 1: Mott Community College PSO Meeting

September 8: St. Clair County RESA Teacher Aide Unit Meeting

September 15: Chapter 3 Meeting, Cadillac

September 16: Human Services Support Unit 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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