

SEIU Local 517M E-Former – March 2017 Edition



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An Engaging Experience at the 2017 Steward Training



Over 100 new and experienced stewards and leaders gathered in Lansing on Sunday, February 26, 2017 for our annual two-day Steward Training.



The event started with an opening legislative report and what is happening nationally. There was a review of the SEIU Local 517M Strategic Plan the Local is developing to shape our vision and mission going into the year 2020. Staff and leaders discussed components of the four parts of the Plan: New Employee Contact and Sign Up, Community Involvement and Outreach, Member Engagement, and Leadership Development. (Pictured L-R: HSS President Joey Combs and SEIU Local 517M MLA Director Marianne Woods discuss Leadership Development)

Membership benefits were reviewed and an update on the status of the SEIU Local 517M Scholarship program which will fill the void left by SEIU International discontinuing their scholarship program. It was down to work after that.

The grievance process was reviewed from start to finish. The program was broken down into four components, Grievance Investigation, Grievance Writing, Grievance Hearings, and Grievance Settlements. Staff and leaders presented their information to the attendees so that they had an understanding of the basic grievance process that they would encounter during their representation work.



On Monday morning, the program was filled with small group role play exercises at their tables working through various grievance scenarios. Several were selected to present before the entire body.

The afternoon was dedicated to the changing role of the Steward. There were breakouts for the State units and the School and Local

Government units to discuss plans to strengthen the steward system and defining their role in this new Right to Work environment. The groups reported out their ideas to the combined group.

During Steward Training, each Region and State unit awarded a Steward of the Year based on their activities in the previous year. The 2017 winners were:



School and Local Government Region 1 - Paul Reyes, GCA/Saginaw Public Schools. (Pictured Left: Paul receives his award from Region 1 Divisional Vice President Leticia Trevino)



School and Local Government Region 2 - Teresa Dickerson, Three Rivers Schools. (Pictured Right: Teresa receives her award from Region 2 Divisional Vice President Eric Campbell)



School and Local Government Region 3 - Theresa Ely, Dearborn Heights Schools. (Pictured Left: Theresa receives her award from SEIU Local 517M President George Heath)



Human Services Support Unit - Sonya Robinson. (Pictured Right: Sonya receives her award from Unit President Joey Combs (Left in photo))



Scientific and Engineering Unit - Molly Mott-Oosting. (Pictured left: Molly receives her award from Unit Coordinator Howard Gordon (Left in photo) and Unit President Dave Berridge (Right in photo))

Technical Unit - Nate Maddern. (Pictured right: Nate receives his award from Unit President Arnie Beller (Right in photo))



The comments we received from the evaluations were very positive. Some of the comments received are below:

"Very educational and inspiring"

"I thought the format was effective. I liked the mock scenarios

..."

"It was an interesting and enlightening training. It was very well done."

"Very helpful, I like the on-hands with our grievances."

"Very informative since this is my first job with the union."

"I really like the idea of learning how to write a grievance."

"It was beneficial speaking with experienced union stewards."

"I think the exercises were awesome and mock scenarios exercises were very helpful."

Arbitration Victory in Saginaw Schools

The Union recently won an arbitration case that returned a terminated member back to work.



The Arbitrator awarded SEIU member Thomas Seidel over \$37,000 in back pay and immediately reinstated him back to his job as a lead plumber with GCA, a private contractor working in Saginaw Public Schools. A special thank you goes out to co-workers Chief Steward Paul Reyes and Michael Charltraw for key testimony that help win the case. (Pictured L-R: Tom Seidel, Paul Reyes (Chief Steward) and Michael Chaltraw (Key Witness and long-time member)).

Training Worth the Time

SEIU Local 517M sent several members to the MSU Women's Leadership Academy in February. Here is what a few of them had to say about the training:

The Union Women's Leadership program at MSU with Michelle Kaminski was a truly wonderful experience. From the networking with other union women, to the EXCELLENT food, and most of all the instructors, it was a wonderful learning opportunity. I learned about some different communication styles and how better to reach people.

I loved learning about other student's communication styles and how to spread the union message. Thank you very much for sending me. I have never been to training like this before and I appreciate the opportunity.

*Pamela Howd
Scientific and Engineering Unit*

I work for the Talent Investment Agency in Unemployment. I am so appreciative for the opportunity to have represented the union SEIU 517/HSS as a steward to attend the Union Women's Leadership Program held at the MSU Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.

The instructor Michelle Kaminski was excellent. She took us through the various steps by teaching us the stages of developing women leader in our unions to building relationships and building stronger unions.

I really enjoyed listening and learning from the two guest speakers;

Attorney Robert Fetter, who spoke to us on Legal issues related to Right To Work and Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk delighted us women with her quest in running for office for the 67th district Michigan House of Representative.

I think all women that are part of a union should have the chance to attend one of these workshops on Leadership for Union Women because the information and training we received was really empowering to help women become leaders.

*Sonya Robinson
Human Services Support Unit*

Lobby Day 2017 is Scheduled for May 3rd



The SEIU Local 517M COPE Committee would like you to save Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 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 your Senator and Representative. Lunch is provided for you, the legislators, and their staff to discuss issues in a more informal setting. 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. May 3rd is closer than you think, so request the time off today!

March for Science

The March for Science Detroit, in cooperation with the March for Science Washington D.C. and more than 500 marches worldwide, invites all scientists, engineers, architects, science educators and those with a love and respect for science to join us in Detroit as we march in support of science, scientific research, scientific education and evidence-based policies.

This year, the March will be held on April 22, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Downtown Detroit (Exact March Route & Downtown Location TBD)

"The March for Science is an international movement, led by organizers distributed around the globe. This movement is taking place because of the simultaneous realization by thousands of scientists, and science enthusiasts that staying silent is no longer an option." - March for Science International Website

You can register for the event at: <http://www.marchforsciencedetroit.com/form-submission>

If you are interested in speaking or would like to help organize the event or have any questions you can contact Jodie Weiler at sciencemarchdet@gmail.com or Pat Durack at durackp@gmail.com.

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for March, 2017

March 9: Human Services Support Saginaw RICC Member Meeting

March 24: 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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