

SEIU E-Former: August 2017



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There is Still Time to Register for The August 11th Scholarship Golf Outing



There is still time to register for the Golf Outing on Friday, August 11, 2017 at Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. Registration closes on Friday, August 4, 2017. Join us for a fun day of golf, good friends, and a great cause! We are excited to announce that the Annual Golf Outing will be the major fundraising component of the new scholarship program at SEIU Local 517M to help further the education of members and their children.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. We are currently registering individuals and foursomes for this event. The cost of the event is \$70 per player with a portion of your registration going to help the Scholarship as a donation. Your registration includes:

- Coffee and Doughnuts
- Range Balls
- 18 Hole scramble w/Cart
- Lunch
- Chicken and Pasta Dinner
- Refreshments

There will be door prizes, raffles and various prize holes throughout your round. For more details and the registration form, [please click here](#). Contact Dave Corrie at (517) 267-2090, or e-mail at corried@seiu517m.org with any questions.

We would like to thank our major level sponsors for their support of this great cause:

Gold Level Sponsor:

SEIU Local 517M Executive Board

Bronze Level Sponsors:

Hall and Romkema, PLC

Health Alliance Plan (HAP)

United Technical Employees Association, Division of SEIU Local 517M

Women's Issues Town Hall Meeting Set for Saginaw



A Women's Issues Townhall Meeting will be held at the Saginaw SEIU 517M Office (1420 S. Michigan Ave.) on Monday, August 21, 2017. The meeting will be from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm.

Join us to share your concerns and ideas about the issues facing women in Michigan! Hear what bills the women legislators in the Progressive Women's Caucus are working on.

After the open mic and small group discussions, we will have opportunities to find out ways you can take action!

Special guest at the event will be State Representative Stephanie Chang, Progressive Women's Caucus Chair.

This event is hosted by State Representative Vanessa Guerra from the 95th District. If you have questions about the event, contact Representative Guerra's office toll-free at 855-347-8095.

Notice of Election for Technical Unit Vice President

The Technical Unit of SEIU Local 517M (UTEA) is holding an election for Unit Vice President for a 3- year term of office. If you are interested in running for this office, the Candidate Petition Form is available on the website and by clicking the link below. Candidate Petition Forms will be accepted between August 1, 2017 and Noon on September 1, 2017. The election calendar is shown below:

- August 1, 2017 - Notice of Election in August E-Former and website, with Link to Candidate Petition Form:

<http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2017/07/2017-vp-nomination-form.pdf>

- September 1, 2017 (at Noon) Deadline for Return of Candidate Petition Forms & Photos

- September 15-28, 2017 Electronic Voting Available. Ballot links will be sent via email to members.

- September 20, 2017 Deadline for requesting a paper ballot.

- October 1, 2017 Ballots Counted and Election Certified by Election/Tally Committee.

- November 1, 2017 Newly Elected Vice President takes office.

Fundraiser Walks for Alzheimer's and Breast Cancer Organized

SEIU Local 517M members have organized teams for upcoming fundraising walks for Alzheimer's and Breast Cancer research. The information for the walks is below. Please click on the link to register and walk with your fellow union members for a great cause. For more information about walking with other 517M members, contact Joey Combs, HSS Unit President at jcombs@seiu517m.org.

August 26th - Walk to End Alzheimer's at the Detroit Zoo

Register here: <http://act.alz.org/goto/SEIU517M>

Time: Registration at 7:30 a.m., Ceremony at 8:30 a.m., Walk at 8:50 a.m.

Route Length: 1.8 Miles, Short Loop & Wheelchairs available

Location: Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48067

Contact: Kyle Amanda Dutkiewicz, 248.996.1044, kdutkiewicz@alz.org

September 24th - Walk to End Alzheimer's in Lansing

Register here: <http://act.alz.org/goto/SEIU517>

Time: Registration at 11:30 a.m., Ceremony at 12:45 p.m., Walk at 1 p.m.

Route Length: 2 miles

Location: State Capitol, 124 W Allegan St, Lansing, MI 48933

Contact: Nicole Bebee, 517-999-3004, nbebee@alz.org

October 14th - Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk in Saginaw

Register Here:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY17LS?px=45226270&pg=personal&fr_id=84759

Time: Walk at 10:30 a.m.

Location: Krossroads Park, 5650 Bay Rd, Saginaw

Contact: Jeff Larsen, (989) 895-1730, jeff.larsen@cancer.org

October 21st - Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk in Grand Rapids

Register Here:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY17LS?team_id=2194492&pg=team&fr_id=84752

Time: Registration at 8:00 a.m., Walk at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Rosa Parks Park, 1 Monroe Center St NW, Grand Rapids

Contact: Susan Brogger, (616) 551-4049, GrandRapidsMIStrides@cancer.org

Labor Day March in Detroit

Come march and celebrate the accomplishments of labor at the annual Labor Day March in Detroit on Monday, September 4th. Staging will begin at 7:00 a.m. and the step off time is 9:30 a.m. There will also be a "Fight for \$15 and a Union" rally prior to the Labor Day March.

If you are interested in participating in either event, please contact Joey Combs at jcombs@seiu517m.org to register or with any questions.

Recap of the SEIU 517M Annual Meeting on July 21st in Lansing

On July 21, 2017, around 80 leaders attended the 2017 SEIU Local 517M Annual Membership Conference in Lansing. The conference this year had a more hands-on component for input into the future of the Union.

The day started with an emotional military flag folding ceremony to honor two deceased veterans, William Eck, Father of current SEIU 517M Secretary/Treasurer John Eck, and William Boik Sr., Grandfather of SEIU Technical Unit member Elizabeth Lee.

The folding was performed by Calvitta Collins and Carrie Headworth, both disabled Air Force veterans and



Michigan Veterans Agency staff members of SEIU 517M. (Pictured: Michigan Veterans Agency staff member and Retired Colonel Joe Gabelsberger presents a flag to the family of William Eck)

There was also a presentation from the Daughters of the American Revolution recognizing SEIU Local 517M for performing this ceremony. (Picture Right: SEIU 517M President George Heath accepts recognition from Tammy Cruickshank, current Technical Unit member and Chief Shawano Chapter Regent with the Daughters of the American Revolution.)



The COPE Committee did a presentation on the importance of the Civil Service Commission and their effect on state employee members. They also discussed getting ready for next year's election cycle.



A legislative update was presented by State Representative Andy Schor. He discussed retiree health care costs and municipal pensions. He went over the Responsible Retirement Reform for Local Government Task Force Report which was prepared for the Governor. It can be viewed here: http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2017/07/Responsible_Retirement_Reform_Report.pdf and indicated his serious concerns about how the Legislature will proceed on these issues this fall.

The Strategic Planning segment of the agenda was kicked off by our keynote speaker Norma Gutierrez from SEIU International discussing the state of affairs for the union movement across the country and the upcoming Supreme Court cases that will be heard.



The strategic planning portion looked at the impacts of Right to Work. The attendees worked in small groups to discuss the key areas of: New Hire and Existing Non-Member Signup; Leadership Development; Member Engagement; and Community Partnerships and Social Activity.



The AFRAM Caucus of SEIU Local 517M reviewed their recent Leadership Development Conference. [See AFRAM Convention Story Below for more coverage]

There was the annual SEIU Local 517M Member of the Year presentation. School and Local Government Regions and State Employee Units each nominated a member to be honored at the annual meeting. The 2017 winners and why they were nominated are:

Technical Unit: Diane Adams is a Dental Hygienist who has worked for the Department of Corrections in Jackson for 15 years. Diane serves on the Tech Bargaining Team, is a Chapter President and is a Union Steward in the Jackson Facility. Diane is a military veteran having served in the US Navy 7 years active and 12 years in the Reserve. Diane is a very attentive leader and keeps herself updated regarding what is going on in the Dental Department with the Department of Corrections statewide, and has been instrumental in organizing department specific union meetings. Our Technical Bargaining Unit has been made stronger by her activism, kindness, energy and her enthusiasm for doing the work of the union. There is also no doubt that she is deserving of the Member of the Year Award. (Pictured Right: Unit President Arnie Beller with Diane Adams)





School and Local Government Region 1: Joy Swarengen-McWright is from Saginaw City Schools - Sodexo Magic unit. Joy has been a member of SEIU 517M since 1992 starting with food service in Saginaw City Schools. Joy rose as a leader and represented the membership when they were being privatized and helped bargain a contract with Sodexo Food Services. She currently serves as Chief Steward and has kept her bargaining unit above 80% membership this school year. Her unit also has 29 members who are signed up and contribute to recurring COPE. Joy encourages others and also participates herself in Union events and actions. Most recently she volunteered and canvassed for the School District millage renewal, participated in Lobby Day and helped to spruce up a local women's shelter in Saginaw. (Left Picture L-R: Joy Swarengen-McWright, SEIU 517M Executive Board Member Linda Troutmon, SEIU 517M Region 1 Secretary Roberta Oldenburg)

School and Local Government Region 2: Kevin Mercado is from Niles Public Schools and has been with the school district for 29 years and has been a Union Representative for over 13 years and chapter President for the past 11 years. He has handled many grievances and been on Bargaining Teams. Kevin is a very effective leader; he has a personal relationship with each of his members and a good working relationship with the Niles Schools Administration. His commitment and dedication to the union is incomparable. He is very proficient in running his chapter meetings and does an excellent job of educating his members on the contract, C.O.P.E., union issues and the importance of paying dues. Kevin has the ability and wisdom to resolve issues that may seem impossible to resolve. (Right Picture L-R: Kevin Mercado with Grand Haven Schools Unit President Dennis Hussey)



Human Services Support Unit: Lupe Martinez joined the United States Air Force and made rank she then transitioned to the Michigan National Guard retiring from the military with more than twenty years of service. After retiring Lupe became an analyst with the Veterans Service Division. She then became a Veteran Career Advisor. Lupe excelled at her job and despite driving an extra 100 miles each day to make a difference in many veteran's lives. She was laid off by the State in March of this year. She was unable to attend the Annual Meeting.



Scientific and Engineering Unit: Greg Merricle is an Environmental Quality Analyst in the Bio-Solids Program and has been with the State of Michigan 12 years. He has been a Steward for the past 6 years and Chapter 8 Governor for the last 8 years. In 2017 he has taken an instrumental initiative participating with Cindy Mason and other leadership working to sign up 45 new State Employee members so far this year. As Steward, he has filed for arbitration in a case where a sub-contractor is working to undermine the employment of our state employees in order to enhance the value of their contract. Greg was unable to attend the Annual Meeting but was later presented his award in the workplace by SE Unit Secretary Bryan Grochowski (Pictured Left).

Congratulations to all the 2017 Members of the Year, it is well deserved recognition.



The SEIU Conservative Member Engagement Program was discussed by Steve James of the SEIU Michigan State Council. He emphasized the need to be inclusive of all viewpoints. Meetings are taking place across the state to discuss conservative topics and gain understanding between the Union and its conservative members. If you are interested in participating, you can contact Dave Corrie at corried@seiu517m.org.

There was a review of the SEIU Member Only Benefits Program by SEIU 517M Staff members Cindy Mason and Dave Corrie. Attendees were very receptive to the new types of benefits being offered by the program and how easy it is to participate.



We also had a special retirement recognition for staff member Stephanie Teamer (Pictured Left) who retired at the end of July. Stephanie work in the Human Services Support office in Detroit with more than 28 years of service to SEIU. Congrats on your retirement!

The final presentation of the day was from Stephanie Glidden, the Michigan AFL-CIO Public Affairs Director (Pictured Right). She discussed the upcoming ballot initiatives in next year's election. Thank you to all the members who were able to participate this year.



AFRAM State Caucus Annual Meeting

The Michigan AFRAM State Caucus held their 5th Annual Leadership and Development Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel July 14-16, 2017, in Troy. The theme of the conference was Remembering, Refocusing, Resisting.



SEIU Local 517M Executive Director Liza Estlund Olson was one of many speakers that included Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, and AFRAM President Emeritus Rod Bashir. Wayne State University Professor Brenda Moon conducted training on public speaking for the attendees.

Numerous awards were given out at the conference. Raccine McDonald of the HSS Unit was recognized as the AFRAM Member of the Year. The Member of the Year Award is presented to the MASC member who displays dedication and commitment to the Caucus and has demonstrated their passion for AFRAM by being involved in their community and their union. (Left Picture L-R: Michigan AFRAM State Caucus President Freddie Palanco, Raccine McDonald, and Michigan AFRAM State Caucus Executive Director Andy Johnson)

This year, the MASC added an additional Award that will be given out annually. This award is in the name of former SEIU 517M Executive Board member, Region 1 Secretary and Buena Vista Schools Chapter President, Glenda Simon. Sister Simon worked in the Buena Vista School district for 18 years and was the first recording secretary for the Saginaw Region AFRAM Caucus and one of the Caucus' original 11 members. Sister Simon was



very instrumental in the development of the award-winning Saginaw Region AFRAM Caucus. Sister Simon passed away a year ago. The MASC recognized two of its members this year as the first recipients of the Glenda Simon Memorial Award. They are Yolanda Johnson and Stephanie Teamer. Sisters Johnson and Teamer both exemplify the same attributes and passion for AFRAM as Sister Simon did. They have picked up where Sister Simon had left off and have propelled this caucus to a higher place.

(Top Picture L-R: Michigan AFRAM State Caucus President Freddie Palanco, Yolanda Johnson, and Michigan



AFRAM State Caucus Executive Director Andy Johnson) (Bottom Picture L-R: Michigan AFRAM State Caucus President Freddie Palanco, Stephanie Teamer, Michigan AFRAM State Caucus Executive Director Andy Johnson)

Member Leaders Volunteering at Underground Railroad



The Saginaw County Underground Railroad Women's Shelter asked for help in getting their facility ready for an inspection and our member leaders came to the rescue. Armed with paint, brushes and ladders, Brenda Moore led a team of member activists who painted the hallways and stairs of the facility on June 24, 2017.

A big thank you to Linda Troutmon (Saginaw Community Mental Health Unit), Joy Swearngen McWright (Saginaw City Schools - Sodexo Magic) and Linda Pought (Saginaw City Schools - Sodexo



Magic) for their participation. (Left Picture L-R: United Way Rep Steve Lamb, Linda Troutmon, Linda Pought, Brenda Moore and Joy S McWright) (Right Picture: Joy Swearngen McWright paints)

Grand Haven School Members Participate in Food Drive



On July 15, 2017, 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. The combined efforts were able to once again collect fresh produce, breads, desserts and dried goods and distribute them to those in need; as well as bottled water and popsicles while waiting in the summer

heat.

There was a great turnout of volunteers and community members and overall a very successful day of giving back to the local community. Community groups such as Love in Action as well as Feeding America and their volunteers worked with the team and helped drive in the trucks, set up the tables, organize the food, and break everything down.

"The continued efforts of these Unions and community groups build on each other and help serve our community because together they can make a difference", said Justin Zysk, Grand Haven Schools 517M Member.



Local Government Retirement Report Released: Issues on Fall Legislative Agenda

In January of 2017 Governor Snyder announced a Task Force made up of Labor, Health Care, Governmental, and Legislative stakeholders to address the issue of unfunded local government pension and retiree health care liabilities.

The findings of this Task Force were released last month. The report didn't recommend any changes to pension or benefit plans that were currently in place. They did recommend that local units of government should continue to pay for the pension and other benefits of new employees.

The Governor will be reviewing the recommendations and will then work with the Legislature to implement changes.

You may review the report here: http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2017/07/Responsible_Retirement_Reform_Report.pdf

Because health care benefits are not in the Michigan Constitution the Legislature and Governor can make significant changes to current retiree's health care coverage and costs as well as future retirees who are public servants. The Legislature has already indicated they plan to pass legislation on this and municipal pensions this fall. We will be tracking this when the Legislature returns in September and keep you informed about what's happening and its effect on you and your family.

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for August, 2017

August 1: Technical Unit Vice President Nomination Period Opens

August 7: Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Meeting

August 11: SEIU Local 517M Scholarship Golf Outing

August 15: Human Services Support Unit Board Conference Call

August 16: Chapters 16, 17, and 21 Combined Meeting, Constitution Hall, Lansing

August 17: Technical Unit Board Meeting

August 26: Walk to End Alzheimer's at the Detroit Zoo

For more information on the above events, consult our on-line calendar at: <http://www.seiu517m.org/events/month/>

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