

SEIU E-Former: October 2017



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Members Rally in Support of State Employee Bargaining Rights





On Wednesday, September 20, 2017, SEIU 517M members were some of over 500 State employees who rallied together to call on Governor Snyder’s Civil Service Commission to reject proposed Civil Service Rules that would change what could be bargained on behalf of unionized state employees.

Two SEIU Local 517M Members joined with members of other state employee unions



and politicians addressing the rally that was held before the Civil Service Commission meeting began. SEIU 517M members who spoke at the rally were Tim Gierman, a Wildlife Technician (Pictured Right), and Janice Cosey, an Unemployment Insurance Examiner.



“We are not lazy. We are not overpaid. We are working class citizens who pay taxes and work hard to support our families. Like all workers, we deserve competitive wages, decent benefits and to be treated with respect.” said Janice Cosey, Unemployment Insurance Examiner. (Pictured Left)



Several members and staff were interviewed by the print and electronic media at the event to hear what these changes mean to them as a state union member. Executive Director Liza Estlund Olson was also interviewed by a local TV reporter on the impacts the rule changes would have on Michigan Civil Servants. They all did an excellent job of explaining the situation to the citizens of Michigan.

In the Commission meeting, SEIU 517M had several members speak out against the proposed rule changes both in the official Union comment period as well as the public comment time.



The official comments for the Local were made by the unit presidents and the SEIU 517M President. (Pictured L-R: Scientific and Engineering Unit President Dave Berridge, Human Services Support Unit President Joey Combs, Local 517M President George Heath, and Technical Unit President Arnie Beller) (Photo Courtesy of Anita Lloyd, MCO)



Hundreds of people packed the meeting room using the limited number of tickets that were provided to each union and the general public. This meant many at the rally couldn't attend in person. Many went over the offices of the Michigan Corrections

Organization 2 blocks away and watched a live Facebook video stream.

Though hundreds of people packed the Commission hearing, speaking out against the proposed changes, Commissioners Jase Bolger, Janet McClelland, and James Barrett, all Governor Snyder appointees, voted to pass these rule changes. (Right: Local 517M members who were able to attend the meeting using tickets. Photo Courtesy of Anita Lloyd, MCO)



Once implemented, these changes will directly affect our working conditions, overtime, scheduling, and seniority by the employer deciding what can be bargained and what is a prohibited subject of bargaining.

Though these rule changes have passed, workers need the Union now more than ever. For an example of this we only need to look to Wisconsin. Since Wisconsin workers lost all collective bargaining rights, workers there have lost more than \$8000 in yearly wages and benefits.

SEIU Sets Up Relief Fund for Hurricane Victims



More than 60,000 SEIU members live in areas that have been impacted by the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. It's times like this when being united in a strong union really matters. We are joining together to use our strength in numbers and provide support and relief as these communities begin to recover and rebuild.

SEIU members and staff can contribute to the SEIU Disaster Relief Fund <https://action.seiu.org/page/contribute/disaster> - to provide direct relief to our members and their families as they recover from these devastating storms. Please donate now to help our SEIU sisters and brothers in need.

AFRAM Halloween Roller Skating Party to be Held on October 30th



Join the Michigan AFRAM State Caucus for a Halloween Party on Monday, October 30th. The event will be held at the Northland Skating Rink (22311 W. 8 Mile Road, Detroit) from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 and skates can be rented for an additional \$3.00. Laser tag is also available for \$3.00. Come dressed in your costume for the Best Costume Contest (for safety reasons, face masks are not permitted) but face painting will be available on-site. There will also be

raffles and candy bags!

To purchase your tickets, please contact one of the following AFRAM members:

Racine McDonald: (313) 550-9224
Sylvia Godfrey: (313) 398-1526
Maria Gilson: (313) 408-4908
Serena Everett: (313) 460-0363
Stephanie Teamer: (313) 515-1935

Members Walk to End Alzheimer's in Lansing



SEIU 517M participated in the Walk to end Alzheimer's at the State Capitol in Lansing on Sunday, September 24, 2017. There were 6 people (3 members and 3 family members) who participated in the walks. Members that walked were Brian Grochowski, 517M Executive Board member from the Scientific and Engineering Unit, Human Services Support

Unit Board member and Steward Sonya Robinson, and Technical Unit Board Member Diane Adams. Please come and walk with your union at the remaining walks in Saginaw and Grand Rapids to support breast cancer research listed below.

Fundraiser Walks for Breast Cancer Research Organized

SEIU Local 517M members have organized teams for upcoming fundraising walks for Breast Cancer research in Saginaw and Grand Rapids. 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.

October 14th - Making Strides Against 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 Against 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

Technical Unit Vice President Election Results



Nominations were accepted for the office of Technical Unit Vice President. The only candidate to return a nomination form was current Technical Unit Secretary/Treasurer Tim Gierman from the Department of Natural Resources. As the only candidate running for this office, Tim has been declared the winner. The term of office begins November 1, 2017 and expires October 31, 2020. The Secretary/Treasurer vacancy created by this action will be filled in accordance with the Unit and Local 517M Bylaws. Congratulations Tim!

Michigan Progressive Women's Caucus Town Hall Meeting in Saginaw



On August 21st, our SEIU members in Saginaw participated in the Michigan Progressive Women's Caucus "Hear Us Roar" Town Hall. The event, which took place at our SEIU Region 1 Union Hall in Saginaw, was hosted by the 95th district Representative Vanessa Guerra and the Progressive Women's Caucus Chair, Representative Stephanie Chang. Both women presented several issues and bills the legislators in the Progressive Women's Caucus are working on.

The event allowed participants an opportunity for all to express what issues we need to focus on this legislative year with an open mic and small group discussions. Michigan School Board member Pamela Pugh also joined SEIU member leaders and other community activists to share concerns and ideas about the issues facing women in Michigan.

School and Local Government Labor Rep Leaves SEIU



School and Local Government Division labor representative Clint Bryant has left SEIU Local 517M. He accepted an offer to be Chief of Staff for State Representative Vanessa Guerra (D-Saginaw). Although he may be gone from SEIU, he will still be working in partnership with us to help working families achieve a better life. Good luck Clint!

Kent County Head Start Members Celebrate the Start of School

On Saturday, September 16, 2017, the Head Start for Kent County (HS4KC) chapter members held its 3rd Annual "Back to School Picnic and Membership meeting." The Picnic was held for the second year in a row at Aberdeen Park in Grand Rapids. SEIU 517M members from HS4KC and their family members came out and had a wonderful afternoon filled with fun, food, prizes and motivating conversation. There were several other SEIU 517M members from the City of Battle Creek and the State of Michigan Department of Transportation in attendance also.

"It was great to see the kids and the adults having such a wonderful time, and for us to have our membership meeting so that we are able to address our issues and concerns, said HS4KC Chapter President Amber Stiles. "This is a contract year and it's very important that we communicate with our members about negotiations and keep them updated and engaged on our strategies," said Stiles.

Members from the SEIU 517M Committee on Political Education (C.O.P.E.) were also in attendance. Jason Jackson and Roderick Jackson, C.O.P.E. committee members and State of Michigan Department of Transportation employees shared with the HS4KC membership the importance of C.O.P.E. and what it means to us as public service employees. "it's very important that we have a strong C.O.P.E. program because we must hold elected officials accountable for their actions and bring light to initiatives that are either good for working families or detrimental to working families," said Jason Jackson.

This year's picnic was a big success, every child in attendance took home a prize and the members received the chapter's agenda and mission for the school year. We also signed up 5 new dues paying members to add to 7 new dues payers that we signed up during the HS4KC new employee orientation. Good luck this school year HS4KC members.

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for October, 2017

- October 2: Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Meeting
- October 9: Chapter 2 Dinner Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie
- October 10: Chapter 2 Lunch Meeting in Newberry
- October 10: Chapter 1 Dinner Meeting in Escanaba

October 11: Chapter 1 Dinner Meeting in Marquette
October 14: Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Saginaw
October 17: Human Services Support Unit Board Conference Call
October 17: Chapter 6 Dinner Meeting in Bay City
October 19: Technical Unit Board Meeting in Lansing
October 20: SEIU Local 517M Executive Board Meeting in Lansing
October 21: Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Grand Rapids
October 30: AFRAM Halloween Skating Party 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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