

SEIU E-Former: November 2017



In this Issue:

Support Your Fellow SEIU Members by Donating to the SEIU Disaster Relief Fund
School Employee 3 Percent Lawsuit Update
Members Active with Redistricting Petition Drive
Does Your Driver's License or State ID Expire Soon?
2018 Calendars Available!
Members Participate in October Breast Cancer Walks
City of Saginaw Member Leader Recognized for Her Cost Saving Solutions
Executive Board Member Steps Down
Scientific and Engineering Unit Participates in Scholarship Outing
Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for November, 2017

Support Your Fellow SEIU Members by Donating to the SEIU Disaster Relief Fund



SEIU members and staff can support members impacted by the recent the hurricanes and wildfires with a financial donation to the SEIU Disaster Relief Fund. Your contribution will provide direct support to members in their time of need.

Our SEIU sisters and brothers in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and California are among the millions of people impacted by the devastating effects of these powerful storms and out of control wildfires. It's times like this when being united with two million members in a strong union matters. We are joining together to use our strength in numbers so we can provide the support and relief that these communities need as they begin to recover and rebuild.

Only SEIU members and staff can contribute to SEIU's Disaster Relief Fund, which will focus on providing relief and assistance to our members, their families and working people impacted by recent natural disasters.

Donate Now at: <https://action.seiu.org/page/contribute/disaster>
(Contributions to the SEIU Disaster Relief Fund are not tax deductible)

School Employee 3 Percent Lawsuit Update

The Michigan Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments in the case involving the 3 percent pay of teacher and school employees currently being held in escrow on Wednesday, November 8th at the Michigan Supreme Court building in Lansing. Efforts to persuade the Governor to drop his costly appeal of this issue were unsuccessful, so we will now have our second day in court concerning the disposition of the escrowed money.

A "Flashlight Vigil" will be held at the Hall of Justice in Lansing and other locations across the state on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, to "Shine a Light" on the 3 percent case. This will allow the public and the several new Justices that haven't heard arguments when the case was first heard 7 years ago to put a face on those dedicated school employees who are still owed their money. More information will follow so watch the SEIU Local 517M website www.seiu517m.org for more details as they become available. These events are in conjunction with our sisters and brothers at the MEA and AFT.

Members Active with Redistricting Petition Drive

Scientific and Engineering unit DEQ members Pat Durack and Dave Maynard have both been active with the petition drive to change the way that legislative districts are chosen in Michigan. Voters Not Politicians is a non-partisan ballot question committee working through a citizen led ballot initiative to establish an Independent Citizen Redistricting Commission through a state constitutional amendment.

Pat was not previously a social activist. He started his activism with March for Science events. While he was at an immigration rally he met a Wayne State University professor who mentioned to him about the redistricting petition campaign and encouraged him to be involved. He contacted a local representative and decided to participate. He now volunteers to gather petition signatures at events in his area.

Dave also wasn't a past social activist. He felt well informed regarding national, state and local politics, but other than voting, he was not politically active. Last November, he and his wife joined with a group of like-minded friends to form the Wexford County Progressives Political Action Committee. He doesn't recall exactly where he learned about the Voters Not Politicians campaign to end gerrymandering, however it fit with the goals of reversing the political damage that Dave believes is occurring in Lansing and became actively involved in the petition campaign.

If you are interested in learning more about the ballot initiative and petition drive, go to www.votersnotpoliticians.com or contact Pat at durackp@gmail.com or Dave at davemaynard121@yahoo.com for more information.

Does Your Driver's License or State ID Expire Soon?

If your driver's license expires soon there are new federal regulations that will affect you. Beginning October 1, 2020, your driver's license or state ID card must be REAL ID-compliant if you wish to use it to fly domestically in the U.S. or enter certain federal facilities, military bases and nuclear power plants.

The Transportation Security Administration has established an effective date of January 22, 2018 that all driver's licenses and state IDs must be REAL ID-compliant to be accepted as valid

documentation when flying domestically. Michigan has already met certain federal standards, which means that even if your Michigan driver's license or ID card is not currently REAL ID compliant, it will still be accepted at airports as valid until October 1, 2020.

If you have a license that says "Not for Federal Identification" (see first photo below) you can still use that license until the October 1, 2020 deadline for flying or going into federal buildings. After that date, that ID will not be an approved form of identification.

If your license renewal mailing states that your current card is REAL ID-compliant, your new license or ID will have a star printed on it (see second photo below). If you are renewing an enhanced license or ID, it will have the American flag printed on it (see third photo below) to show that it conforms to the federal REAL ID requirements. If your renewal notice states that your license or ID is not REAL ID compliant and you want to apply for a REAL ID-compliant card, you must visit a Secretary of State office.



L-R: Non-Compliant ID, Compliant Driver's License, Compliant Enhanced Driver's License

You must visit a Secretary of State office to apply for a REAL ID-compliant card, you cannot apply by mail or online. Any documents provided when applying for a REAL ID-compliant license or ID card must be originals or copies certified with a raised seal or stamp; faxes and photocopies will not be accepted.

If you are a U.S. citizen and want to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card before you are eligible to renew you can visit a Secretary of State office with a certified U.S. birth certificate with a stamp or raised seal; a valid, unexpired U.S. passport or passport card; or other approved citizenship or legal presence document to a Secretary of State office. If your name is now different from your birth name, please bring proof of the name change, such as a marriage license or divorce decree, or both. The standard correction or duplicate card fee will apply. Check the Secretary of State website at www.michigan.gov/sos for complete details.

2018 Calendars Available!

Click on the link to download the state employee or school and local government 2018 calendars.

State Employee Calendar: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2017/10/2018calendarstate.pdf>

School and Local Government Calendar: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2017/10/2018calendarslg.pdf>

Members Participate in October Breast Cancer Walks

SEIU 517M members participated in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Walks held in Saginaw on October 14th and in Grand Rapids on October 21st.

There was good participation at the walk in Saginaw with 11 HSS unit members walking with friends and family. HSS members that participated were Jeanette Brown, Karen Brown, Gina Chaffer, Amy Davis-Comstock, Sandi Galonska, Jean George, Wyketha Jackson, Tracy Lopez, Andre Martin, Chris Murray and Rod Pritchett.



At the Grand Rapids walk, HSS Unit member Leona Robinson and her daughter Audrey (pictured right) were among those members who participated.



(Pictured above L - R; Tracy Lopez, Shalawn McGee, Andre Martin, Gina Chaffer, Wyketha Jackson, Traci Murray, Roderick Pritchett (in the middle is Chris Murray)

Editors Note: Missing in last month's story about the Alzheimer's Walk on September 24th, Michele Richards, a Military and Veterans Affairs member from the Scientific and Engineering unit walked and raised over \$1000!

City of Saginaw Member Leader Recognized for Her Cost Saving Solutions



School and Local Government Region 1 board leader Valley Ginn decided a little more than a year ago to seize an opportunity and move to a new department and classification within the City of Saginaw. The job would be an SEIU position, so she knew she would be okay. With visions of new solutions and intentions to make a difference, she accepted the position of Property and Impound Specialist with the City of Saginaw Police Department. (L-R: Joey Combs, HSS Unit President with Valley Ginn at a recent Leadership Development Committee meeting in Lansing)

In her short time in that position, she has shown what it means to be a great asset not only to the police department, but also to the citizens of Saginaw. She clearly defines the meaning of quality public services. Valley was recently awarded the Civilian of the 4th Quarter by the Saginaw Police Department and recognized in the monthly Saginaw Police Department Newsletter. Robert Ruth, Saginaw's Chief of Police wrote:

"I am happy to announce that Valley Ginn has been selected as our Civilian of the 4th Quarter of 2017. Valley has been working diligently to clean up long-term issues we've had with impounds and abandoned vehicles, bringing in a substantial amount of revenue. Valley has also

inventoried and straightened out our uniform distribution system, saving us thousands of dollars, which translates into dollars earned. Furthermore, the income Valley has generated from the firearms sales has resulted in the purchase of new vehicles for patrol.

Congratulations Valley and thank you for your hard work and dedication!"

Our Union is grateful to have such outstanding leader. One that exemplifies what it means to provide the best public services you can. Thank you, Valley.

Executive Board Member Steps Down



Technical Unit Vice President Rick Brower attended his last SEIU Local 517M Executive Board meeting on Friday, October 20th. Rick chose not to run again for re-election to the Technical Unit Vice President position which also serves on the Local 517M Executive Board. A special recognition was presented to him at the meeting from Local 517M President George Heath. Rick's Vice President term expired on October 31st and his successor, Tim Gierman takes over as Technical Unit Vice President on November 1st. Rick is still active with his union currently serving as the

Technical Unit Grievance Committee Chairperson. We thank Rick for all his years of leadership service to Local 517M. (Pictured L-R: 517M President George Heath presents Rick Brower with a Certificate of Appreciation)

Scientific and Engineering Unit Participates in Scholarship Outing

A Thank You Letter from Ken Rauscher, Quality of Life Golf Outing Committee

Thank you for your donation to our annual Quality of Life Scholarship Golf Outing Honoring Gene Thompson. The Quality of Life Group consists of the Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Quality and Natural Resources. The outing was held on September 15, 2017 at Eldorado Golf Course in Mason and raises money each year to benefit the Quality of Life Scholarship Fund.

Thanks to your donation, we were able to raise over \$8,100 this year from golfers, sponsorships, monetary donations and raffle and silent auction prize donations. We used these funds to award 15 scholarships in 2017 to current Quality of Life employees continuing their education or children enrolled in a full-time education program whose parents work for one of these agencies.

This event is organized by co-workers and friends of Gene Thompson, a former Michigan Department of Agriculture, regional supervisor. Gene retired from the department in 1997 after 25 years of state service. Unfortunately, in July of that year he lost his life in a battle against cancer, but his strength, character and humor live on. To this end, we dedicate this golf tournament to our dear friend, Gene.

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for November, 2017

November 2: Human Services Support Unit Migrant Workers Meeting in Grand Rapids

November 3: Human Services Support Lansing RICC Unit Meeting

November 9: Human Services Support Unit Board Meeting

November 30: Human Services Support Grand Rapids RICC Unit 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.

[Join Us on Facebook](#)