

SEIU E-Former: December 2017



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2017-2018 Leadership Academy Holds First Training



Our Local 517M Strategic Plan has been designed to fulfill its mission through four strategic initiatives. One of those initiatives is a comprehensive and intentional leadership development program. A committee of member leaders and staff have stepped up and have actively been working in our newly formed Leadership Development Committee. One of our Vision 2020 goals with our Leadership Development Committee is 1% of our members becoming the “Leaders of Leaders.” (Photo: SEIU 517M Secretary/Treasurer John Eck addresses the attendees)

The Leadership Development Committee members include: Joey Combs, Janice Cosey, John Eck, Andy Johnson, Tim Gierman, Roderick Jackson, Jeanette Barnett, Sonya Robinson and Marianne Woods.

The Leadership Development committee has designed and planned a Local 517M Leadership Academy to instruct and guide member leaders to become our Leaders of Leaders. The Academy is a series of one-day classes conducted by staff and leaders. The workshops include

topics such as labor history, organizing your workplace, community, political power and communications.



Members for our 2018 Leadership Academy participated in the first of a series of Saturday workshops on November 18th. Topics that were covered included a presentation on our labor history, working with member data, mapping our workplaces and learning how to identify influential workers / new leaders. The 2018 Leadership Academy participants also signed pledged to commit to the program and building a stronger labor movement.

Toys for Tots Donations Being Accepted in Downtown Lansing



On Wednesday, December 6th and Thursday, December 7th you will have the opportunity to make a child's Christmas a little brighter.

SEIU is hosting two Toys for Tots donation sites in the Van Wagoner Building and Constitution Hall. Anyone is welcome to donate a new, unwrapped toy and in return SEIU will provide lunch! Please take the time and effort to donate to needy children in our community.

Toys for Tots stated goal is "to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens." Let's do what we can to help them attain this goal.

Donations will be accepted at the following locations:

December 6th - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in the 3rd Floor North/South Conference Room of the Van Wagoner Building

December 7th - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Atrium of Constitution Hall

Member Survey Coming in December



Watch your email in December for an All Member Survey we will be conducting of the membership as part of the SEIU Local 517M Strategic Plan. This survey is designed to give all members the opportunity to provide information that will help shape the structure and direction of this Local in the future. This survey will cover a variety of topics such as member interests outside of the workplace, member only benefit ideas and usage, and opinions on general topics. So when you receive it in your email, please take a few moments to fill it out and help plan the direction of YOUR UNION for the years to come.

Steward Training Save the Date

The annual SEIU Local 517M Steward Training will be held Sunday - Monday, February 25 - 26, 2018 at the Comfort Inn in Mt. Pleasant. If you are a new or a more "seasoned" steward, it will be a great learning and sharing experience. More details are available from your labor rep concerning registration and lodging details.

Grand Haven School Members Hold Bowling Fundraiser



The SEIU Grand Haven School Unit members worked in conjunction with the other unions of the Grand Haven Area Public School District to hold a "Bowl-nanza" fundraiser on November 8th. This event was organized to help fund future community events such as the "Adopt a Family" and summer food drives.

With fun things like door prizes, 50/50, and raffles for some very nice prizes, they were able to raise over \$1000 for future causes.



Congratulations to Richard Sibley for taking individual first place high score and SEIU food service member Lori Deloof for taking the opposite.

Thank you to everyone that participated, helped organize or donated prizes for this event.

(Top Picture: L-R: Michelle Brown and Ashley VanDort. Bottom Picture: SEIU Grand Haven Unit President Dennis Hussey with Jane Kline)

Scientific and Engineering Members Awarded by State

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development held their annual Employee Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 2nd at the State of Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing. Several Scientific and Engineering bargaining unit members won awards that highlighted their excellent service to the citizens of Michigan.

Everyday Hero Award: Nicole Cairns of Royal Oak

The "Everyday Hero Award" affirms the value MDARD has in employees who may not be in the spotlight, yet steadily and faithfully get things done every day. It is given to an employee who consistently demonstrates dependability, diligence, initiative, and teamwork

Leadership Award: Michael Philip of East Lansing

The "Leadership Award" is designed to provide recognition to those staff who are seen as exceptional leaders by their peers, supervisors, or customers. The award recognizes an MDARD employee that rises to a challenge to lead, inspires others to follow and to act, and seeks opportunities to innovate and improve areas within the department.

Rookie of the Year: Anna Bellamy of Trenton This is the inaugural year for the “Rookie of the Year” award recognizing a new employee (on the job less than 3 years) whose service has set a benchmark for all others to attain. It is designed to provide recognition to those staff who are seen as up and coming leaders.

Congratulations to all the award winners!

Suicide Prevention—Step Up and Reach Out

September was National Suicide Prevention month, but suicide prevention is a year-round focus. The State of Michigan’s Employee Service Program encourages you to “Step Up and Reach Out.” *Step up* to learn more about risks and resources and *reach out* to assist yourself and others.

Suicide impacts all ages and genders. There is no single cause of suicide, but there are factors that can increase a person’s risk for attempting suicide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), these risk factors include:

- Recent losses
- Hopelessness
- History of depression or other mental illness
- Misuse of alcohol or other drugs
- Social isolation
- Physical illness
- Prior suicide attempts

If you or someone you know is at risk or has thoughts of suicide, help is available. Talking about suicide is often the first step in preventing a suicide. Research has shown that prevention strategies work and that taking action can help prevent suicide. Many successful treatment options and resources are available. Resilience and recovery are possible.

State Employees can contact the Employee Service Program at 1-800-521-1377 with questions or additional information on suicide prevention. Professional counselors are available for confidential assistance to state employees and their family members, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (except state holidays). For more information, visit the ESP website at www.mi.gov/esp.

Everyone, regardless of employer, can contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling 1-800-273-8255. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, go to the nearest emergency room or call 911.

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). Suicide: Risk and Protective Factors.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/riskprotectivefactors.html>

National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (2017). Action Alliance Framework for Successful Messaging. <http://suicidepreventionmessaging.org/>

Article provided by the Employee Services Program for the State of Michigan

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>

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for December, 2017

December 6: Toys for Tots Donations at Van Wagoner Building, Lansing
December 7: Toys for Tots Donations at Constitution Hall Atrium, Lansing
December 11: Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Meeting
December 12: Chapter 20 Meeting, Warren DEQ
December 14: Technical Unit Board Meeting
December 19: Human Services Support Board Conference Call

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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