

SEIU E-Former: January 2018



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School Employees 3 Percent Case Victory!

In a unanimous order issued December 20th, the Michigan Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the Michigan Court of Appeals directing that 3% deducted from pay of Michigan public school employees be refunded to school employees. The Court agreed that the involuntary taking of the money impaired the contracts that set employee wages. The Court has directed that the monies taken be refunded to the employees. That process will begin in 2018.

You can download the court order here: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2018/01/3percentSCruling.pdf>.

Free Online College Degrees Offered Through SEIU Member Benefits



SEIU members now have access to a [new online free college education program](#) designed to help those who want to pursue a higher education degree. The

SEIU Free College Benefit program allows SEIU dues paying members and their immediate family to attend college classes online with no out-of-pocket costs. The program is offered through Eastern Gateway Community College, which is part of the University System of Ohio and regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The program offers grants that fill the gap between any Federal, state, or employer education grants the student receives and the cost of tuition, fees, and e-books for certain online Associate's Degree or Certificate program:

Associates: Accounting, Business Management, Criminal Justice, Early childhood Education, Individualized Study, Paralegal.

Concentration (part of the Business Management degree): Accounting, Finance, Health Care Management, Human Resources, Marketing.

Certificate: Business Management, Patient Navigator.

This program will be available to SEIU dues paying members and their family members: spouse or domestic partner, siblings, dependents, and grandchildren. Go to seiumb.com/freecollege for more information or to register.

Saginaw School Officers Meet Over Restraint Law

On December 7, 2017, Saginaw City Schools Chapter President Eric Poole held a roundtable discussion for campus patrol officers at Saginaw's Arthur Hill High School. Special guests in attendance were 95th District State Representative Vanessa Guerra and her staff, along with the campus patrol officers, school administrators and the Saginaw City Police. SEIU 517M Campus Officers were deeply troubled with the "Seclusion and Restraint Law" that was signed by the Governor during the previous legislative session. The bill severely limits the use of seclusion, hand cuffs and pepper spray as a safety mechanism. President Eric Poole and other campus officers shared their concerns and bill ideas in order to keep teachers and students safe. Representative Guerra supports the officers and safety of students and staff; she will be initiating conversations in Lansing with the bill's author, other legislators and policy staff to address the concerns from the roundtable about Public Act 260 of 2017. Thank you Representative Guerra, we look forward to working with you.



Grand Haven School Members Help Those in Need



The Unions of Grand Haven Area Public School District put on their third annual Adopt a Family event. This year, they chose three families, seven children and their parents, and gave them a full turkey dinner with all the sides, as well as hand wrapped gifts and stockings filled with candy and other goodies.

Thank you to all those that participated in making this event possible, and continuing to show the love and support for our students and community members.

SEIU 517M Executive Board Welcomes Two New Members



There will be two new members on the SEIU Local 517M Executive Board. They will be sworn in when the Board meets on January 26th.

Michael Duell has been appointed by the Scientific and Engineering Unit Board to fill the at-large vacancy left by the departure of Jim Malloy. Michael works for the Department of Transportation in Lansing.



Leni Steiner-Zehender has been appointed as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Technical Unit which, by virtue of the position, is automatically appointed to the Executive Board. Leni works for the Department of Natural Resources in Lansing. She fills the unit Secretary/Treasurer vacant position left by Tim Gierman who recently became unit Vice President.

Congratulations and welcome to the Board!

Toys for Tots Donation Days Were a Big Success



Thank you to members who participated in the Toys For Tots drive in Lansing during the first week of December! SEIU sponsored lunch for those who donated a toy in the VanWagoner Building and Constitution Hall. We filled three boxes with toys and collected \$60. 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." We are proud to have contributed to this goal and look forward to planning events again next year!

Thanks to Dave Berridge, Amy Lipset, Dana Dake, and Stan Reinke from MDOT and Leni Steiner-Zehender, Bryan Grochowski, and Greg Merricle from DEQ for helping with posters, setting up and clean up. A special thanks to Larry Franklin from DTMB for his efforts with the approval process.



If you have ideas for charitable events in your workplace throughout the year please contact Cindy Mason at cmason@seiu517m.org.

Let's Get Technical

In 2016 and 2017 your Technical Unit President Arnie Beller and Labor Representative Kevin Karpinski visited a number of work locations in Michigan. They visited the Platte River State Fish Hatchery in Beulah, the Fisheries Research Station in Alpena, and the Thompson State Fish

Hatchery in Manistique. In addition, Arnie & Kevin toured the Forest Fire Experiment Station in Roscommon.



The purpose of the visits was to learn more about what our members do each day on the job. The Union represents members across 14 departments and on these visits they were able to learn more about our members working in jobs with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The work that our Fisheries Technicians do in order to balance the populations of numerous fish species is downright amazing. They visited two hatcheries and were able to observe the work of our members.



The visit to the research station in Alpena was also very informative. The Technicians working at the station gave them a tour of the new DNR boat, The Tanner, named after Dr. Howard Tanner, former DNR Director who was responsible for bringing Pacific Salmon to the Great Lakes.

http://www.record-eagle.com/news/go/dnr-research-vessel-launches-in-alpena/article_7f3d50ef-144d-5efb-ae79f95b7c34.html



The Fire Fighting Research Station in Roscommon was a phenomenal example of a top notch, nationally recognized program that is relatively unknown here in Michigan. This program is run efficiently, expertly, innovatively and with great accomplishments. The Union is committed to help promote this program and to provide all of our support for the extraordinary people who operate this facility.

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10366_46403_63473-326742--,00.html

"It was great to get out to some work locations so we could see what our people do every day on the job," said Arnie Beller when asked about the experience. "We are trying to do more of these worksite visits in the future because we think that it is essential for the Union to be visible and to provide us with opportunities to take questions and listen to the membership."

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for January, 2018

January 26: SEIU Local 517M Executive 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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