

## SEIU E-Former: March 2018



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### Annual Steward Training

Over 100 new and experienced stewards and leaders gathered in Mt. Pleasant on Sunday, February 25, 2018 and Monday, February 26, 2018 for the beginning of our annual Steward Training.



The first several topics on Sunday's program included general knowledge that a steward should know to answer member questions, including a review of member benefits by Local 517M staff. There was also a presentation from the COPE

committee on what COPE is and recent political victories.



There was also a legislative report on what is happening at the State and National level by Executive Director Liza Estlund Olson. Special guest Pat Miles (pictured left), candidate for Michigan Attorney General made an appearance and discussed some of the challenges currently facing Michiganders.

Staff and leaders discussed the roles that Stewards play in several components of the Local 517M Strategic Plan. Under the New Employee Contact Section, Stewards learned techniques to use when meeting with prospective members and how to work through their



individual concerns about joining the union. Role playing one-on-one conversations helped the participants be responsive to the concerns of their co-workers and how to present information to them on the benefits of union membership. (Photo: Leni Steiner-Zehender (Tech Unit) and Pierce O'Connell (HSS Unit) simulate a one-on-one membership conversation)

The Community Involvement and Outreach Committee has been hard at work in developing a new website to highlight the community involvement aspect of union membership through highlighting community and member-only events.

The Leadership Academy made a presentation on their work to date after their first Academy session and their preparations for their next session March 10th. Participants in the program were acknowledged and those who complete the course will graduate at the SEIU Local 517M Annual Meeting in July. It is the goal of the academy to train 1% of the Local's leaders to become "Leaders of Leaders" by 2020.



The day ended with an evening of DJ Trivia after dinner. It was a spirited contest with the "Techs to Go" team winning. The winning team members were (L-R in photo): Bob Smrek, Kevin Karpinski, Paul Cristini, Bill Black, Jim Royce, and Arnie Beller.

On Monday, the program began with two breakout sessions for New Steward Training or Advanced Steward Training depending on the attendee's level of experience. In the sessions they learned the "tools of the trade" in representing their fellow members.



The rest of the day was filled with small group role play exercises at their tables working through various grievance scenarios. The groups presented their cases before the entire body. Their cases were critiqued by two arbitrators from the National Academy of Arbitrators who came to the session to give their perspective on the presentation of the cases and answer questions from the attendees. Many participants commented on how helpful the feedback from the arbitrators was in their development as stewards.



During Steward Training, each Region and State unit awarded a Steward of the Year based on their activities in the previous year. The 2018 winners were:

Human Services Support Unit - Mary King (TED). Mary (on left) receives her award from Unit President Joey Combs.



Scientific and Engineering Unit - Greg Merricle (DEQ). Greg (on left) receives his award from Unit President Dave Berridge.

Technical Unit - Bob Smrek (MDOT). Bob (on right) receives his award from Unit President Arnie Beller.



School and Local Government Region 1 - Eric Poole, Saginaw Public Schools. Eric receives his award from Region 1 Divisional Vice President Leticia Trevino.

School and Local Government Region 2 - Rodney Holland, Muskegon County Wastewater. (Region 2 Divisional Vice President Eric Campbell accepted on his behalf as he was unable to attend)

School and Local Government Region 3 - Carla Crawford, Wayne State University. (Labor Relations Specialist Dominic Barbato accepted on her behalf as she was unable to attend)



Monday marked the start of Oral Arguments in the U.S. Supreme Court case of Janus v AFSCME. This case has the potential to make all public-sector workers in America Right to Work. SEIU International staged many events throughout the country on that day to show support for unions and that "No Court Case Can Hold Us Back!" During the training, Local 517M members are pictured showing their support for union jobs!

## Save the Date - Lobby Day 2018 is Scheduled for May 9th



The SEIU Local 517M COPE Committee would like you to save Wednesday, May 9, 2018, as the day set aside to speak with our legislators in Lansing. Be sure to request that date off so you can attend this vital and interesting event. The Union will schedule appointments for you to meet with your Senator and Representative. Lunch is provided for you, the legislators, and their staff to discuss issues in a more informal setting. If there are hearings or legislation that is being voted on, you will get a chance to watch the proceedings. It is a great way to be a part of the process that affects all of us – both at home and on the job. May 9th is closer than you think, so request the time off today!

## 517M New Detroit Office Open House



There will be an open house in our new Detroit office on Friday, March 9, 2018 from Noon - 2 p.m. at the Cadillac Place Building in Detroit. The new office is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 200 in that building and you will need to ring the bell to gain access to the office. This office services our Human Services Support unit and Detroit area contracts. Light refreshments and drinks will be available and there will be raffle prizes as well!

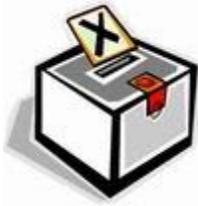
## Saginaw Walk for Warmth Reaches Fundraising Goal



The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Warmth was held on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at the Saginaw Anderson Enrichment Center. The event was led by Councilwoman Brenda F. Moore and County Commissioner Amos O'Neal. The purpose of the walk was to assist individuals in Saginaw County whose income is below the poverty line with heating-delivery services (i.e. propane, wood, coal) to heat their home. Although it was cold outside, there were about 75 walkers who participated in the event.

State Representative Vanessa Guerra and State Senator Ken Horn were in attendance along with Cathy Reynolds, General Council Vice President for Consumers Energy. SEIU Local 517M members from Saginaw Community Action Center, Saginaw ISD Head Start, and Saginaw Public Schools had a strong showing of support for this event. It was also sponsored by several businesses in the community and contributions were provided by Isabella Bank and SEIU Local 517M to help reach their fundraising goal of \$20,000. The event was a great success. Save the Date for the next year's Annual Walk for Warmth which will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2019.

## Union Elections Are Coming in 2018



Have you wanted to be more involved in YOUR union? This year is an election year for various leadership positions within SEIU Local 517M.

There are several leadership positions up for election in 2018 from the SEIU Local 517M President, Local 517M Secretary/Treasurer, 3 State Bargaining Unit Presidents, 3 School and Local Government Region Presidents as well as several Board positions.

Get involved and make a difference in your life and that of your fellow workers. The Union movement is only as strong as the leaders that take the time to be active which benefits all members.

Candidate Petition forms and the election schedule will be coming in the April edition of the E-Former and will be available on our website ([www.seiu517m.org](http://www.seiu517m.org)) at that time. Please consider running for office.

## **SEIU Scholarship Applications Are Now Available**

SEIU Local 517M is proud to offer our very own scholarship program! With the discontinuation of the SEIU International scholarship program, the Local 517M Executive Board established a scholarship program to help members in good standing and their children with college expenses.

The funding for the scholarship comes from the Annual Scholarship Golf Outing and other fundraising activities which include raffles and fundraising events throughout the year. Please check our SEIU Local 517M website for our calendar of events.

Eight \$500 non-renewable scholarships will be awarded this year to students based on successful completion of the application process and meeting certain criteria. Awards will be made via a lottery system from all eligible submissions.

Scholarships are awarded without regard to gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or political affiliation of the applicant. Scholarships are limited to one per household for each academic year.

Applications are already coming in and they must be received by May 14, 2018. The winners will be notified July 2, 2018.

For full details and the application, please click here: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2018/02/2018-Scholarship-App-21518.pdf>

## Staff Member Artwork Featured



Technical Unit Senior Labor Relations Specialist Kevin Karpinski has been named as a "Featured Artist" at Ellison Brewery in East Lansing. Kevin's artwork which consists of various color and black and white sketches will be on display for the next few months.

Congratulations Kevin!!

## Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for March, 2018

March 9: HSS Unit/SEIU Local 517M Detroit Office Open House, Detroit

March 10: Leadership Academy Session 2, Lansing

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 and is intended for members in good standing of SEIU Local 517M.*

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