

SEIU E-Former: June 2018



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Walk a Day with Candidate El-Sayed



On Tuesday, May 1st Gubernatorial candidate Abdul El-Sayed became the second candidate to experience a "Walk-A-Day" with an SEIU Local 517M member. His visit took him to Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw where our members serve the community as Campus Patrol Officers, Custodians, Interventionist, Teacher's Aides and Food Service workers.

He walked with Saginaw Public Schools Chapter President and Campus Patrol Officer Eric Poole (photo above left) during his patrol route at the high school. Eric's job is to patrol the school hallways and cafeteria during the lunch periods (11:30 am - 1:15pm). Candidate



El-Sayed was able to stop and meet our members during this patrol. Eric explained to candidate El-Sayed how he is leading his members to change laws that impede the work of the school's security staff.



The last area visited was the school cafeteria where he met with Saginaw Public Schools/Sodexo Food Service members Mentha Hall (pictured above) and Feianda Owens-Gray (pictured left). They

expressed to him how important it is to make sure every young voter is registered this year!

Abdul expressed his gratitude for the dedication these valuable school staff and union members give to our community.

Annual Meeting is July 20th in Lansing

MAKE PLANS NOW . . . to attend the SEIU Local 517M Annual Conference and invite your co-workers! The conference will be held at UAW Local 652 (426 Clare Street, Lansing) on **Friday, July 20, 2018**. A light continental breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.

To register, simply send an email with the subject line reading "Annual Meeting" to cwilson@seiu517m.org with your name and contact phone number by **Friday, July 6th**.

This year's agenda includes exciting information from elected leaders, staff and guest speakers, a ceremony for the first Leadership Academy graduates, the annual "Member of the Year" presentations, updates from our various Caucuses and Committees, a chance to meet and talk with the leadership of SEIU Local 517M, and an opportunity to be involved in the future of SEIU Local 517M. There are even a few surprises planned! **Come Participate in YOUR Union!**

Register Now for the August 10th Scholarship Golf Outing



The Annual SEIU Local 517M Scholarship Golf Outing will be held on Friday, August 10, 2018 at Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m.

This event has been well attended over the years and is always a great day for a great cause! Last year, the event raised enough money to fund 8 scholarships for SEIU Local 517M members and children.

The cost this year is \$80 per player and includes golf with a cart, coffee and donuts, lunch at the turn, chicken and pasta dinner, prizes and much more!!!

You can download the registration form at: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2018/05/golf-flyer-2018-registration.pdf>

Get your foursome ready and join us for a great day of golf, fellowship and supporting a great cause!

Contact Dave Corrie at (517) 267-2090, or e-mail at corried@seiu517m.org for any questions.

Making Our Voice Heard - A Lobby Day Recap

On Wednesday, May 2, 2018, SEIU Local 517M held our annual Lobby Day at the Michigan



Capitol. Members from across the State met with over 40 current lawmakers, and even a candidate vying to be Michigan's next Governor. After signing up to attend, members arrived at the State Capitol Building in Lansing to meet up on the morning of the event. After breaking into groups, members went and met with 13 State legislators (or their staff), 5 Republicans and 8 Democrats, and addressed important topics such as the consequences of privatization within different sectors of public employees. (Pictured L-R: Bryan Grochowski (S&E Unit), Brenda Moore (Retiree), Rep. Fred Durhal III, Julene Sims (Kent Co. Head Start),

Darliane Blackmon (SEIU 517M Staff), and Roberta Oldenburg (Saginaw City Schools)

While not all legislators saw eye-to-eye with our membership, there remained a mutual respect of each other. After each group met with 2-3 different legislators, we convened at the State Capitol Building again to break bread with legislators who were arriving at the building for that day's session. Members from both parties stopped by to talk directly to members and to address the membership on important issues facing Michigan.



Representatives Yousef Rabhi (D - Ann Arbor) (pictured left) and Henry Yanez (D - Sterling Heights) opened the conversation with an update on the Medicaid work requirements package that was going through the House at the time and discussed its potential impact on workers. Representative Vanessa Guerra (D - Saginaw) addressed the crowd about how to affect change through getting involved in policy discussions that impact you, while Representative and former SEIU member Leslie Love (D - Detroit) addressed the importance

of Unions in the workplace. Many Representatives and Senators chose to stick around afterward to talk with the members. Some legislators reconnected with members they've known for a long time, while others followed up conversations from the morning or began new ones.



Gubernatorial candidate Abdul El-Sayed, who happened to be at the Capitol that day for another event, heard that 517m was also in the Capitol and made an unscheduled stop to say hello. El-Sayed had just completed a "Walk-A-Day" with a 517M member in Saginaw and spoke about his experience along with the importance of making sure our voices are heard in 2018 and beyond. When it was all said and done, 517m members made impressions on over 40 different lawmakers and captured the attention of a Gubernatorial candidate in just a few short hours.

A Great Night Out at the Lansing Lugnuts!



soon!

SEIU Local 517M members attended the May 2, 2018 Lansing Lugnuts baseball game for "Labor Union Night" at the ballpark. SEIU 517M worked together with the Clerical-Technical Union of MSU to co-promote this event. There were 103 attendees at the Lugnuts game honoring Mike Sadler, the former MSU punter who passed away in an auto accident in 2016. The unions raised \$500 for the Sadler Foundation. There was a very moving ceremony in his memory and his mother Karen paid us a visit to thank us for the support. We also raised \$100 for the SEIU Scholarship fund from a 50/50 raffle. The feedback was great and a fun time was had by all. Best of all, the weather cooperated with the rain holding off until after the game on the ride home. Look for more events coming

SEIU 517M Discusses Infrastructure Issues in Washington



Many years ago, in our continued battle to limit outsourcing of jobs, SEIU 517M became a member of NASHTU. NASHTU is an acronym for National Association of State Highway Transportation Unions and is made up of 38 unions with the purpose of ensuring that federal transportation dollars are spent on cost-effective, safe projects that serve the public interest. Through the sharing of ideas, experiences, and perspectives NASHTU has helped each member union in their fight to limit wasteful overpriced outsourcing, and maintain the jobs

of Engineers, Technicians, Inspectors and support employees in over 20 states. In April of this year, (L-R in above photo) SEIU 517M President George Heath, Technical Unit Chapter 13 President Rod Jackson, and Scientific & Engineering Unit President David Berridge were privileged to attend the NASHTU convention in Washington DC.

During this year's convention, attendees were honored to have several distinguished legislators provide insight into the current infrastructure issues facing our country.

These included Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), the Ranking Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), the Ranking Democrat on the Senate EPW Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), who is also a member of the EPW Committee. In addition, we also heard from four members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, including the Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chair Sam Graves (R-MO), and Reps. Rodney Davis (R-IL), Jared Huffman (D-CA), and Alan Lowenthal (D-CA).

Just as members of 517M participate in Lobby Day in Lansing the three SEIU leaders and MDOT employees were able to interact with some of our state's elected officials. This year lobbying visits were made with Congressman Jack Bergman (R - MI1), and legislative aides for Congressman Justin Amash (R - MI3), and Michigan Senator Gary Peters.

The main takeaway from the convention was that we need to spend transportation funds wisely, and some form of federal fuel tax increase is urgently needed. The last federal fuel tax increase was in 1993 and was never indexed to inflation. As more fuel efficient, and alternate fuel vehicles take the road we've seen a decrease in funding but an increase in the cost of building and maintain our infrastructure. One of the best ways to be efficient with tax dollars is to keep public work with public employees. With your help, SEIU 517M and NASHTU will continue to lead this fight.

For further information about NASHTU and outsourcing go to <http://nashtu.us/>

Student Debt Clinic Held for Members

On May 15th SEIU 517M members attended a Student Debt Clinic held in Lansing. They learned about the process to apply for Public Service Loan Forgiveness. This is a program that was implemented in 2007 and allows employees working in the public sector to have their federal student loans forgiven after 10 years (120 payments). It involves consolidating student loans, applying for an Income-Driven Repayment Plan and ultimately Loan Forgiveness. Department of Transportation member Roderick Jackson is in the program and explained his experiences. There are many details to follow and understand and for more information go to www.studentaid.ed.gov. It may not be a program for everyone but it is in jeopardy of losing funding so interested members should research the options now and determine if it would be advantageous to apply. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Mason at cmason@seiu517m.org.

State Employee Employment Preference - What's In Your File?

In some department layoff plans they use a document that you likely filled out when you were hired. It is titled the "Employment Preference Form" and it is used by certain Departments for the purpose of determining where an employee would like to work in case there is a layoff. This has happened recently in the Department of Corrections due to prison closures.

It is important for employees to review their personnel file to see if this form or something similar is present. The form would be signed by you indicating if you would like to work in your current county, in contiguous counties or if you are ok with working anywhere statewide in the event of a layoff.

In some cases, this form has not been updated for years. Due to personal situations and other reasons an employee may change their mind, but they didn't update their "employment preference" with their Department.

The Civil Service Rules regarding layoff does not allow an employee to change their Employment Preference after the official notification date of the layoff.

Please check your personnel file and update your employment preference form.

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for June, 2018

June 2: Leadership Academy Session, Lansing

June 4: Election Tally Committee counts election ballots

June 11: Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Meeting

June 14: Technical Unit Board Meeting

June 22: Human Services Support Unit 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 and is intended for members in good standing of SEIU Local 517M.

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