



E-Former

The Official Electronic Newsletter of SEIU Local 517M

October 2018 Edition

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State Units Reach Tentative Agreements!

The SEIU state employee bargaining teams for the Human Services Support, Scientific and Engineering, and Technical bargaining units are pleased to announce that they have reached a tentative agreement with the State of Michigan. The agreement includes a wage increase of 2% and a 2% lump sum payment starting October 1, 2019 and there are no changes to the healthcare plan design. There will be a wage and benefit reopener for the remaining two years of the agreement. Information on the specifics of the tentative agreement, as well as ratification election and membership meeting schedule will be sent soon.

Technical Unit Election Results

Nominations were accepted for the offices of Technical Unit Secretary/Treasurer and all Chapter President and Vice President positions. There was only 1 race that necessitated holding an election. That race was for Chapter 13 President. Election results have been certified by the Election/tally Committee and are listed below for the offices where candidates applied. Vacancies will be filled on an appointment basis by the Technical Unit President. The term of office for these positions begins November 1, 2018 and expires October 31, 2021. The results are:

Unit Secretary/Treasurer: John Eck

Chapter Positions:

Chapter 1 President: Jilaine Berquist-Ayotte

Chapter 3 President: Nate Maddern

Chapter 5 President: Kenneth Holifield
Chapter 6 President: Steve Gasser
Chapter 7 President: Bob Smrek
Chapter 8 President: Jason Jackson
Chapter 9 President: Leni Steiner-Zehender
Chapter 10 President: Channing Page
Chapter 12 Vice President: Donna Huntzinger
Chapter 13 President: Roderick Jackson
Chapter 14 President: Michael Hughes

Leadership Academy Application Deadline Extended to October 8th!

The 2019 Leadership Academy applications are available now! The deadline to apply has been extended to October 8, 2018. Our goal is to enroll four member leaders from each region and division within our local.

The Saturday workshops start out with showing the member leaders how to internally organize their workplaces to build and sustain real power. The workshops continue by giving the member leaders effective communication tools and resources. Finally, the last workshops were dedicated to building better communities by building strong relationships with fellow leaders and other allies. These workshops also show our member leaders how to be strategic thinkers, to lead on organizational equity and inclusion and how to write plans to effectively carry out a community partnership.

If you are interested in applying for the next academy session, please complete the following application: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2018/07/2018-19-LEADERSHIP-ACADEMY-APPLICATION-blank.pdf>

SEIU Retiree Becomes Michigan Municipal League Vice President



Saginaw City Council Member and SEIU Local 517M retiree Brenda Moore was selected as the 2018-19 Vice President for the Michigan Municipal League Board of Trustees at their 2018 convention in Grand Rapids. She is in line to become the League's first African American female president in 2020. Brenda has served on the League's Board of Trustees since 2016.

Councilwoman Moore first became involved with the Michigan Municipal League by attending conferences and training to understand her role as a new Saginaw City Council member in 2013. Brenda has served roles as the 2nd Vice President for the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials and as President of the Board for the Elected Official Academy (EOA).

"It's an honor to be elected as vice president on the Michigan Municipal League board and to represent the City of Saginaw at the statewide level," said Councilwoman Moore.

As Vice President, she will oversee the League operations, policies, and programs that may benefit the City of Saginaw. This include economic development initiatives and grants that may help in funding key programs in the city.

Congratulations Brenda!

Help Bring in the Harvest in Saginaw!

On Saturday, October 13, 2018, celebrate a change in the seasons and wrap up a successful first year of gardening with a FREE enjoyable afternoon and fun for the whole family! The event is being held at the H.M. Boyd Community Garden, behind the SEIU Union Hall Located at 1420 S. Michigan Ave, in Saginaw and will begin at 11 a.m. and last until 3 p.m.

There will be:

- Music & Games
- Kids Craft's
- Fun activities for the little ones
- Harvesting Fall Crops
- Free garden themed giveaways and prizes
- Community Vendors

Tiny-Tots tours of the garden will be available upon request. Help in harvesting the fall crops in the first year of the Community Garden.

Dedication to Education: A look at SEIU's first official scholarship programs

SEIU Local 517M is no stranger to scholarship fundraisers, as evidenced by the annual scholarship golf outing. This dedication upholds the union's legacy of supporting union members and their families in their right to education.



Proud fathers, Michael Musser (left) and Raymond Van Kerkhove (far right) examine the Local 1 Awards won by their children. Winners Fred and Shirley Anne stand at either side of Pres. William L. McFetridge. (Musser joined BSEIU in 1924; Van Kerkhove, in 1937.) Both Chicago winners are 18.

In 1948, BSEIU President William L. McFetridge set up a scholarship program called "Opportunity Scholarships" at Northwestern University in Chicago. The program was open to children of union members who were in good standing for five years. Two scholarships were awarded per year, with each award covering a full year's tuition up to \$750 plus a small allowance. McFetridge believed that it was a democratic right that, "every boy and girl should have the opportunity for an education commensurate with his abilities, regardless of the financial status of his parents."

This thinking was infectious and spread throughout the union. By autumn of

An excerpt from the October 1950 issue of Building Service Employee depicting the winners and their union family members.

1948, the BSEIU state council in California established the Charles "Pop" Hardy Memorial scholarship, honoring the vice-president of BSEIU who died unexpectedly in May of that year. The first recipient of the one-year award was a young woman named Yvonne Watson who attended the University of California. Local 32-B in New York was soon to follow, establishing their own scholarship program in 1950. The winners attended Columbia University and Barnard College, with expenses for all four years covered under an umbrella amount of \$4,800 (around \$1,200 a year) for each student.

All three programs sought to support members and their children in seeking education opportunities. The impact of these programs carries through to the scholarship efforts SEIU continues to make today.



L to R: Kyne and Charles "Pop" Hardy shake hands, San Francisco, 1948



Sarah Lebovitz is the SEIU Archivist at the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, the official repository for SEIU and the largest labor archives in North America. If you are interested in performing research with the SEIU collections, please contact Sarah at sarah.lebovitz@wayne.edu.

Protect Your Oak Trees from Oak Wilt

White and red oak trees are vulnerable to a disease called oak wilt. This is an exotic, invasive and lethal disease of oak trees. This fungus clogs the water conducting vessels of the tree causing them to wilt and die. Red oaks can die in as little as 3 weeks. White oaks are more tolerant and may live for several years before they succumb to the disease. There are two ways that oak wilt can be spread from tree to tree. The first is through insects carrying infected spores from an infected tree or cut wood to injured or freshly pruned trees. The second way is the fungus moving between trees whose roots interconnect.



Symptoms of oak wilt in red oaks include leaves turning a dull, olive green color near the top of the tree in June, July or August. Discolored leaves wilt from the top of the tree downward with additional leaves becoming brown or bronze in color. Rapid leaf loss occurs with trees being defoliated in a few weeks. Fallen leaves are usually brown at the tips and margins and sometimes green at the base.

You can prevent oak wilt by pruning trees in late fall and winter. If you must prune at other times of the year, always immediately cover all oak tree wounds with tree wound or latex paint. Also, don't move firewood as the infected firewood can cause the spread of the fungus to other areas.

If you suspect your tree has oak wilt, you can contact the DNR, Forest Resources Division at DNR-FRD-Forest-Health@michigan.gov. To find an oak wilt specialist, you can visit www.michiganoakwilt.org who can help manage infections and protect nearby healthy trees.

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events for October, 2018

- October 1: Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Meeting
- October 12: School and Local Government Region 2 Board Meeting
- October 13: Community Garden Harvest at the Saginaw SEIU 517M Office
- October 18: Technical Unit Board Meeting
- October 19: SEIU Local 517M Executive Board Meeting
- October 23: School and Local Government Region 1 Board Meeting
- October 24: Chapter 5 Meeting, Grand Rapids State Office Building, Noon
- October 26: 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/>

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