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The Official Electronic Newsletter of SEIU Local 517M

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In This Issue

- Page 1 - State Unit Stewards Prepare for 2019
- Page 2 - Lansing Area Community Services Activist Training Offered
- Page 2 - 2019 Leadership Academy Application Deadline is February 4th
- Page 3 - Region 1 Member-Leaders Take Action During Lame Duck
- Page 3 - Lansing Area Members Give "Toys for Tots"
- Page 4 - Mott Members Make Holidays Brighter for Local Children
- Page 4 - Buy American in 2019
- Page 5 - Consider Volunteering for the Food Bank in 2019
- Page 5 - Former Technical Unit Leader Passes Away
- Page 5 - Notification of Technical Unit By-Law Change
- Page 5 - Calendar of Upcoming Events - January, 2019

State Unit Stewards Prepare For 2019



On December 2nd and 3rd, stewards and leaders from the Human Services Support, Scientific and Engineering, and Technical bargaining units gathered in Lansing to hold a mini-steward training to deal with state-specific issues. These issues ranged from the New Member sign-up, the SEIU517M Leadership Academy, the new Collective Bargaining Agreements, and the new Grievance and Technical Appeal process brought on by the

latest Civil Service Rule changes. Feedback has been very positive with the quality and focus of the training.



Left: Dan Operhall (Tech) role plays new member discussions with Raceine McDonald (HSS).



Right: L-R: Jason Jackson (Tech) and Kevin Benson (HSS) role plays new member discussions.



Left: Greg Merricle (S&E) presents helpful tips when talking to new members.



Right: L-R: 517M President Joey Combs, Rod Jackson (Tech) and HSS President Janice Cosey discuss the 517M Leadership Academy

Lansing Area Community Services Activist Training Offered



The Capital Area United Way is holding its annual Community Services Activist Training classes beginning on Monday, January 28, 2019 and will be held every Monday evening from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. until March 18, 2019. Dinner and certificate presentation will take place on March 18, 2019. These classes are a collaborative effort between the Capital

Area UAW CAP Council, the Greater Lansing Labor Council, AFL-CIO and the Capital Area United Way Labor Department.

The classes will be held at UAW Local 724, (450 Clare Street, Lansing). This year's topics are tentatively scheduled to include: a site visit to area community outreach agency to increase awareness of resources within our community, discussion about the 2020 census and the impact, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program area, and many others.

They continue to help those in need by collecting personal needs items, along with non-perishable food items at each session.

The cost for this year's classes will be covered by Local 517M which covers the cost of refreshments, materials and dinner on March 18th.

Please email your name and cell number to Dave Corrie at corried@seiu517m.org by Thursday, January 16th so that we can get you registered and cover the costs.

2019 Leadership Academy Application Deadline is February 4th

The 2019 Leadership Academy applications are available now! The deadline to apply is



February 4, 2019. Our goal is to enroll four member leaders from each region and division within our local. The first two meetings will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2019, and Saturday, April 6, 2019.

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>

Region 1 Member-Leaders Take Action During Lame Duck

School and Local Government Region 1 Leaders from ABM Contractors, Saginaw County Community Mental Health, and Saginaw Public Schools mobilized their union brothers and sisters by calling their legislators in Lansing during the recent "Lame Duck" session of the Michigan Legislature.

There were 36 Member-leaders who signed up to be "Lame Duck" watch dogs and engaged their families and co-workers to make calls as well. Calls were placed to State Representative Tim Kelly (R - Saginaw Twp.), State Senator Ken Horn (R - Frankenmuth), State Senator Jim Stamas (R - Midland), and State Representative Gary Glenn (R - Midland).



L-R: Rick Lesnich, Herman McCain, Lucas Verwey, Albert Omar, Ray Cavazos, Henry Sanchez, Daphnie Burton. They all work for contractor ABM at Saginaw Public Schools

Lansing Area Members Give "Toys for Tots"

The second annual Toys for Tots drives in downtown Lansing were a great success! Although it was an SEIU sponsored event, donations were made by SEIU members, UAW members, and some supervisors and managers. It was a group effort at both Constitution Hall and the VanWagoner Building. Four full boxes of toys and \$179 were donated to the Lansing Toys for Tots Campaign. Special thanks to Bryan Grochowski, Leni Steiner-Zehender, Joey Combs, Greg Merricle, Therese Kline, Stan Reinke, and Dave Berridge for posting signs around the buildings, helping set up and break down, and collecting toys and money! See you next year!



L-R: DEQ S&E Unit Member Bryan Grochowski, DEQ Technical Unit Board Member Leni Steiner-Zehender, 517M President Joey Combs, SEIU Staff Member Cindy Mason, DEQ S&E Unit Steward Greg Merricle



Mott Members Make Holidays Brighter for Local Children

The SEIU Local 517M represented Public Safety Officers at Mott Community College organized and participated in a community toy drive for Flint School children on December 17, 2018.

Members went to the Doyle-Ryder Elementary School and handed out bags of toys and gifts to two kindergarten classes. Each gift bag had a small toy, tooth brush, toothpaste, crayons, and a coloring book. All told, members handed out 64 gift bags to school children in the community.

Public Safety Officers Roy Villarreal, Curt Brown, and Lisa Turner played games with the kids and Santa Claus made a special appearance. The officers then read a Christmas story to the children and played "Duck, Duck, Goose" with them. Pizza and milk were also provided.



"Donations received were very well used, and we can not thank the contributors enough", said Officer Roy Villarreal.

The Mott College Public Safety Officers provide a Christmas party every year for the kindergarten class at Doyle Ryder.



(Right) Mott Public Safety Unit President Lisa Turner reads Christmas stories to the children.

Buy American in 2019!



Working people in unions value the hard work and craftsmanship that goes into the products and services we make and provide.

That's why buying "Made in America" products is an important act of solidarity that promotes good jobs in the United States.

The National AFL-CIO has compiled shopping lists and suggested American or union-made products for the various holidays and major events.

Click to view the listing: <https://aflcio.org/MadeInAmerica>

Consider Volunteering for the Food Bank in 2019



In 2018, State Employees volunteered at the Greater Lansing Food Bank using their negotiated school/community participation time. The Food Bank is always in need of help so we are scheduling bi-monthly dates in 2019 where members can volunteer and help out those in need. The Food Bank's goal for Fiscal Year 19 is to distribute roughly 9 million pounds of food to agencies in mid-Michigan, providing more than 7 million meals to nearly 100,000 individuals in need. Volunteering could be at the warehouse in Lansing or in the spring/summer various locations for the Garden Project that helps low to moderate income residents grow their own food. The Food Bank strives to provide fresh and nutritious foods and milk is always in demand. Please keep this in mind if you would like to donate to the Food Bank directly. The following schedule is subject to change by the Food Bank but plan on the opportunity to volunteer on the second Wednesday of every other month. Dates in 2019 are: February 13, April 10, June 12, August 14, October 9, December 11.

Former Technical Unit Leader Passes Away



A founding member of the United Technical Employees Association has passed away. Lowell James Penrose of Davison passed away December 16, 2018 at the age of 80.

Lowell worked as an assistant to the resident engineer for the Michigan Department of Transportation for 41 years, retiring in 1997. Lowell helped organize and found the United Technical Employees Association and served in many elected positions with UTEA.

He was active in his church and at the Davison Senior Center and was an avid golfer and bowler. Our deepest condolences go to his family.

Notification of Technical Unit By-Law Change

On December 13th, 2018, the UTEA/ Technical Division Executive Board voted unanimously to change Article X, Section 2 of the Unit By-Laws changing the number of required board meetings per year from six (6) per year to four (4) per year. This change will become effective on January 1, 2019. This notice to the membership is in accordance with Article XIV, Section 3 of the By-Laws.

View the complete Technical Unit By-Laws at: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2018/12/Tech-Bylaws-12-13-2018.pdf>

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events - January, 2019

January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 26: SEIU Local 517M Executive Board Meeting, Lansing Office

For more information on the above and future events, consult our on-line calendar at:

<http://www.seiu517m.org/events/month/>