

September 2019

Westland Library Aides Fight off Hours Reductions

By Dominic Barbato
SEIU 517M Region 3 Staff

“We do not feel as though we have been considered personally in this matter. Each of us is being deeply affected by this decision”, Piper Caverson said to the assembled board of the William P. Faust Library in Westland. The library had announced a 25% reduction in hours for all Library Aides and the staff got organized, collecting signatures from nearly all of the library employees in 2 days. If implemented, the hours cuts would have meant nearly all Library Aides losing their access to benefits such as vacation, sick time, and retirement.



On August 21st, the date of the regular library board meeting, affected employees showed up to speak out in defense of their jobs and work. Chrissie Waybrant, (pictured left) a nine-year Library Aide spoke about how she would lose her health insurance if her hours were cut. Bailey Roark, a six-year employee of the library, reminded the board that the rest of the affected staff would lose all of their vacation or sick time. The board members listened as Aide Hope Lesniak listed all of the tasks they perform to make sure the library provides a high level of service to the Westland Community. Union member Alexis Tharp delivered the employee petition to the board members to show that the rest of the staff were behind them.

After the strong showing of solidarity and support, the library announced that it would be reversing its decision on Friday, August 23rd. The Library Aides will remain at their current hours and keep their benefits. Responding to the news, unit president Katie Dover-Taylor said, “This decision would have been disastrous for our lowest paid employees, reducing their hours and benefits on very short notice. Thanks to our demand to bargain and a coordinated response from the library staff, our library aides’ panic has changed to relief. Many thanks to Dominic Barbato for representing us so well.”



Labor Day 2019

As you celebrate the contributions that labor has made to our country, let us know if you participated in one of the organized parades or picnics being held across the State. Please share your pictures and stories on our SEIU 517M **Facebook** page or our **Twitter** feed by using the **#labordrivesmi** hashtag.

Fun Fact: Historians say the expression “no white after Labor Day” comes from when the upper class would return from their summer vacations and stow away their lightweight, white summer clothes as they returned back to school and work.

Economic Bargaining Begins for Three State Units

By Dave Corrie
SEIU 517M Staff



On Wednesday, August 28, 2019, representatives from the Scientific and Engineering bargaining unit and Technical bargaining unit each met with representatives from the State to begin economic negotiations. The Human Services Support unit met with the State on Thursday, August 29, 2019, to begin their negotiations.

The negotiations for all 3 units cover wages and benefits for the final 2 years of the current contracts which expire on December 31, 2021.

Nomination Period for Technical Unit President Closing Soon

By Dave Corrie,
SEIU 517M Staff



Please be advised that nominations for the office of Technical Bargaining Unit President will close at 4:00 on Friday, September 6, 2019. Members running for this office must be bargaining unit members in good standing and will be elected by the Technical Bargaining Unit voting membership.

As per the SEIU Local 517M Bylaws; Article VI, Section 5: All candidates shall have been members in good standing of the Union for at least twelve (12) continuous months preceding the election ballot count date. No person who has been convicted of a felony as defined in Section 504 of the Landrum-Griffin Act (or an indictable offense in Canada) shall, in accordance with the provisions of applicable law, be eligible to hold office in this Union.

If you are interested in being placed on the ballot for this position, please use the link below and complete the Candidate Petition Form and follow the directions given. Also included below is a link to SEIU Local 517M Board Policy #7 which specifies the election process and the services offered to candidates.

If you have any questions on the elections, please feel free to contact Kevin Karpinski at (517) 267-2088. If you have any problems opening the document, please contact David Corrie at (517) 267-2090.

Candidate Petition Form: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2019/07/2019-Tech-Pres-nomination-form.pdf>

SEIU Local 517M Board Policy #7: <http://www.seiu517m.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/40/files/2019/07/Board-Policy-7-2019.pdf>

Calendar of Upcoming Union Events - September, 2019

September 7: Volunteer Day - Planting and Transplanting, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Community Garden at the Saginaw Office

September 11: Technical Unit Board Meeting, Lansing

September 21: Volunteer Day - Clean Up, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m., Community Garden at the Saginaw Office

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

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

Unemployment Insurance Agency Annual Picnic

By Susan Balla
HSS Saginaw Steward



On Saturday, August 10, 2019, the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) held their annual UIA Family Fun Day Picnic at Hawk Island Park in Lansing.

At the picnic, Saginaw Union stewards, Susan Balla (pictured left) and Amy Davis-Comstock represented SEIU 517M by answering questions, providing valuable union updates, and passing out Union gear, such as t-shirts, ink pens, and bracelets. It was a beautiful day enjoyed with co-workers, family, great food, and fun games.



Notice of Human Services Support Unit By-Law Change

By Dave Corrie
SEIU 517M Staff

In accordance with Article IX of the HSS Unit By-Laws, the following HSS Unit By-Law change (marked in red) is being published for the HSS unit membership:

ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE BOARD REPRESENTATION

Section 1: The Executive Board’s representation shall be based on the following representation formula: Members per Classification: Veteran’s Employment Representatives (DVOWs); Employment Service Analysts (LVERs); Migrant Service Workers (working name, Agricultural Employment Specialists); Employment Service Interviewers; also, in the Contractual Areas of Employment Service, Employment Service Interviewers; Liability Examiners; Unemployment Insurance Analysts; Unemployment Insurance Examiners; Indian Outreach Workers; Home Aides; and Disability Determination Assistants. There may be other classifications in other departments, at this time.

Classification ratio:

Over 400 ----- ~~3~~ **4**
100 to 399 ----- ~~2~~ **3**
25 to 99 ----- ~~1~~ **2**

All classifications with less than 25 members **or without elected representation** will be combined and will elect At-Large Representative(s) from their respective group based on the above formula.

Article IX states “Amendments to these Bylaws shall be a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors at the first meeting at least thirty (30) days after notification to the membership via the newsletter or special mailing and ratification by the SEIU Local 517M Executive Board.”

This change will be voted on at the October 26, 2019 SEIU Local 517M Executive Board meeting. Any questions or concerns regarding the proposed change can be directed to Janice Cosey at jcosey@seiu517m.org.

Retirement Letter to the Scientific and Engineering Unit Membership



Scientific and Engineering Unit President David Berridge is retiring from state employment at the end of September. Below is his resignation letter sent to President Joey Combs and Executive Director Jeremy Tripp:

It is with mixed emotions that I am informing you of my resignation as President of the S&E Unit effective September 30, 2019 due to my retirement. It is official – my last day of work is 09/27/2019. I have been honored to lead the Scientific and Engineering Unit for the past five years and participate on the board and in union negotiations since 2011.

We have faced many challenges during these years, and I expect there will be more to come. I am confident in the future leadership group that will be in place after I leave.

I wish you all continued success in the battles you fight on behalf of our highly professional employees that we collectively represent.

Thank you for the confidence that you placed in me and the opportunity to lead this group. It has afforded me the opportunity to make many lasting relationships.

Sincerely,

*David A. Berridge
S&E Unit President*

Thank you Dave for your leadership and service to SEIU Local 517M and enjoy your retirement!

New Scientific and Engineering Unit Board Members Appointed

By Dave Corrie
Local 517M Staff

There were two appointments made to the Scientific and Engineering Unit Board at their August 12th meeting. Clay Buchanan was appointed to replace retired DNR member Jeff Braunscheidel and Anna Schiller has been appointed to replace LARA representative Jesse Harlow who accepted a management position.



Clay Buchanan is a Wildlife Biologist for the Wildlife Division of the DNR. He currently works on securing and managing annual operating funds, is the Tribal Liaison, and Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup for the Division. Clay received his bachelors and masters degrees from Central Michigan University and doctorate from the University of Wyoming. Clay currently lives in Dewitt and enjoys outdoor recreation as much as possible.



Anna Schiller is a Public Utilities Engineer and has worked at the Public Service Commission for about 1 year after graduating from MSU. She has held various training/intern/summer jobs during her time at MSU.

We welcome them both into the leadership of the Scientific and Engineering Unit.

SEIU 517M Golf Outing Raises Money For Scholarship Fund

By Dave Corrie
SEIU 517M Staff

A great day of golf for a great cause. We had 50 golfers participate in the 2019 SEIU Local 517M Scholarship Golf Outing which was held on Friday, August 9th at the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time.

The winners of the outing were:



First Place - The Precision Collusion Team of Jeremy Tripp, Joe Laird, Brad Pentecost, and Kris Hatch pictured with Outing Coordinator Dave Corrie (far right)



Runners Up - The Seve and Sons, Inc. Team of Steve Holmi, Gary Simons, Dan Dell, Barry Burns pictured with Outing Coordinator Dave Corrie (far right)

There were also a number of prize holes. The prize hole winners were:

Hole #2	Closest to the Pin on Green - Gordon Wenk
Hole #5	Closest to the Pin on Green - Branko Bojicic
Hole #6	Longest First Putt Holed - Joseph Laird
Hole #7	Closest to the Pin on Green - Dan Dell
Hole #15	Closest to the Pin on Green - Dan Dell
Hole #16	Longest First Putt Holed - Mark Moody
Hole #17	Long Drive in Fairway Men - Steve MacCallum
Hole #17	Long Drive in Fairway Women - Amy Lipset
Hole #18	Closest to the Pin on Green - Seve and Sons

We would like to thank our sponsors who helped make the event a success:

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SEIU Michigan State AFRAM Caucus
State Representative Sarah Anthony
State Representative John Cherry
Union Staff Association

The annual event raises money for the SEIU Local 517M Scholarship Fund to help members and their children with college or trade school expenses. This year, we raised over \$7000 for the Fund. Last year the Fund awarded eight \$500 scholarships to union members and their children.

Next year's event will be held on Friday, August 14, 2020, at the same course. Get your foursome ready and join us for a great day of golf, fellowship and supporting a great cause!