



SEIU 517M
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The **E-Former**

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SEIU Local 517M

January 2020

2020 Leadership Applications Being Accepted Now



The deadline for member leaders to submit an application for the 2020 Leadership Academy will be the last week of February 2020 with the first workshop starting in March.

The goal of the Leadership Academy is to identify, educate, and inspire future leaders who wish to pursue other positions of leadership within the Union, personal career, or the community-at-large. We believe that with intensive training, member leaders will gain and cultivate the knowledge and skills necessary to confidently lead and influence others.

The 2020 Academy will follow the same format as the past two years. Workshops will be one Saturday each month from March through June. The requirements to graduate from the Leadership Academy are to attend and participate in at least 3 of the 4 Saturday workshops during 2020 and complete a project that will be assigned during the 3rd workshop.

We currently have 7 applicants for the 2020 Leadership Academy. The Leadership Development Committee wants to recruit at least 3 member leader applicants from each region and division. The applicants so far include 1 member each from the Human Services Support, Scientific and Engineering, and Technical state employee units. We also have 1 member applicant each from the School and Local Government Division Region 1 and Region 2. We currently have 2 applicants from the School and Local Government Region 3.

Potential applicants follow the directions for submitting the [Leadership Academy Application](#) at the top of the form and can also view the [Informational Flyer here](#).

SEIU Local 517M Scholarship Committee Members Needed

SEIU Local 517M Scholarship Committee is in need of more members. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Committee to review submissions and select the yearly winners of the scholarships. We are in need of committee members to represent School and Local Government Regions 1 and 3, and also the Scientific and Engineering and Technical bargaining units.

The Local 517M annual golf outing is the main fundraiser for the scholarship fund. Committee members would also assist in running of the golf outing which is scheduled for August 14, 2020.

We have awarded \$8,000 in scholarships for the first two years of the program and interest is growing every year!

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact President Joey Combs at jcombs@seiu517m.org so that you may be considered for appointment. The Committee will meet sometime in early 2020 via a video conference call.

Active Members Still Needed for Committees!

By Joey Combs,
SEIU 517M President

Member engagement is the engine of our UNION. The more members that are engaged, the more powerful and visible we are. Did you know your Union has several standing committees you can join? We are currently recruiting new members to come and join us as we get ready for a new year. The committees that are currently available are:

New Member Orientation and Sign Up. Membership is the fuel that runs our UNION. The new member orientation and sign-up committee helps units with member to member outreach in new hire orientations.

The Member Engagement Committee promotes membership in the Union. Member engagement is the engine of the UNION. Member engagement has been done via member events and activities such as general membership/chapter meetings, conferences, bargaining surveys, brown bag lunch activities, ice cream socials, bingo, bowling outings, community garden events, hustle/salsa lessons during lunch breaks, picnics, and our Annual golf outing.



Leadership Development. Leaders are the drivers of our UNION. The Leadership Development Committee currently holds a yearly Leadership Academy. The members of the committee facilitate the various modules of the 4-hour sessions, which are spread over 4 Saturdays. The participants are fellow members who apply for the Leadership Academy cohort and are selected based on certain criteria.

Political/Legislative Committee shall oversee and promote the Union's political and legislative programs, as well as promote member involvement in the Committee on Political Education (COPE).



The African American Caucus (AFRAM) is committed to enhancing opportunities for education, training, mentorship, leadership development and networking for SEIU members and staff of African descent. This committee is open to all races.

The Election/Tally Committee oversees the general elections of the Local and shall be responsible for nominations and the preparation, tallying and certification of general election ballots.

The Community Partnership Committee focuses on opportunities for members to partner with community allies and others with a common goal. The committee works to build solidarity with other unions, organizations and neighbors to unite and advance our vision. As we continually find ways to increase our public visibility as advocates for quality public services, we will need community partners!

According to Article VII, Section 3 of the SEIU Local 517M By-Laws:

Section 3: Standing Committee Members shall serve until discharged by the President, or until the conclusion of the President's term. Special Committee Members shall serve for the term of the committee as established upon committee assignment. Any Committee Member may resign upon written notice to the President.

To be appointed to one of the above committees, you need to contact President Joey Combs at jcombs@seiu517m.org and let her know who you are, which unit you are in, and which committees you are interested in serving on.

Calling All Stewards!

The annual SEIU Local 517M Steward training will be held on Saturday, February 29th and Sunday, March 1st at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Lansing.



More information will be available from your individual staff labor representative when it is available. This is a “Save the Date” notification.

The agenda is currently being developed and will be sent out when available.

Drug Testing Under Legal and Medical Marijuana



With the passage of Proposal 1 allowing the use of recreational marijuana by adults, we thought it would be good to review a few points.

Members have asked about whether it would affect workplace drug testing provisions for public employees. The provisions of Proposal 1 do not (1) require an employer to permit or accommodate conduct otherwise allowed by the act or (2) prohibit an employer from disciplining an employee for violating a workplace drug policy.

The workplace random testing programs authorized under collective bargaining agreements are conducted under federal standards. Under these standards, neither recreational nor medical marijuana provide a valid basis to excuse a positive drug test. Therefore, under current procedures and contract language, Proposal 1 does not affect the operation of public employee drug testing programs. This also includes random testing for federal law covered positions such as CDL holders.

If you have any further questions about these provisions, you can contact your appropriate SEIU labor representative.

Calendar of Upcoming Events - January, 2020

January 6: School and Local Government Region 2 Board Meeting

January 20: SEIU and State Offices Closed for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 25: 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/>